



# Daily Reflections

**July 13, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 10: 16-23**

Jesus said to his Apostles:

“Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves;  
so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves.

But beware of men,

for they will hand you over to courts

and scourge you in their synagogues,

and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake

as a witness before them and the pagans.

When they hand you over,

do not worry about how you are to speak

or what you are to say.

You will be given at that moment what you are to say.

For it will not be you who speak

but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will hand over brother to death,

and the father his child;

children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name,

but whoever endures to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to another.

Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel

before the Son of Man comes.”

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In our Gospel, Jesus describes the day when the early Church after His death and resurrection will face terrible persecution, and those days came to pass. Many were tortured and killed simply because they belonged to Jesus. How did they get through it all? Patient endurance. They remained faithful in their witness to Jesus, they prayed, they supported one another AND they loved their enemies. We are here today because of their faith.

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### **Food for your Journey**

A man fell into a ditch.

A doctor walked by and the man yelled out to him. The doctor walked on by and flipped a prescription into the ditch.

A priest walked by and the man yelled again for help. The priest stood over the man and offered a prayer.

Sometime later a man walked by; seeing the man in the ditch and hearing his call for help, the man jumped into the ditch.

The man in the ditch said, "How are we going to get out now that you are down here, too?"

The man said, "I have been in this ditch before and I will lead you out."

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### **A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious Lord, I will likely never face the hardship and persecution that my ancestors in the faith endured long ago. Rejection and ridicule do occur today to many who bear Your Name. When I am called upon to witness to You, keep me courageous and True. During those times may I give loving and joyful witness to You. Amen