



# Daily Reflections

## January 21, 2021

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### Scripture

#### **Mark 3:7-12**

But Jesus retired with his disciples to the sea; and a great multitude followed him from Galilee and Judea, And from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and from beyond the Jordan. And they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, hearing the things which he did, came to him. And he spoke to his disciples that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him. For he healed many, so that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had evils. And the unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him: and they cried, saying: Thou art the Son of God. And he strictly charged them that they should not make him known.

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### Our Scripture Reflection

You can sense the power coming from Our Lord's hands. And what's amazing still is the fact that Gentiles from Tyre and Sidon are coming out in droves! Stunning! Jew and Gentile alike are being drawn to His proclamation of the Kingdom.

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### Food for your Journey

God means to do something with us and means to do it in community. We are in on what God is doing, in on it together. ... We bring ourselves to the Eucharistic table, entering into that grand fourfold shape of the liturgy that shapes us: taking, blessing, breaking, giving — the life of Jesus taken and blessed, broken

and distributed; and that Eucharistic life now shapes our lives as we give ourselves, Christ in us, to be taken, blessed, broken and distributed in lives of witness and service, justice and healing. But this is not the American way. The major American innovation in the congregation is to turn it into a consumer enterprise. Americans have developed a culture of acquisition, an economy that is dependent on wanting and requiring more. We have a huge advertising industry designed to stir up appetites we didn't even know we had. We are insatiable. It didn't take long for some of our colleagues to develop consumer congregations. If we have a nation of consumers, obviously the quickest and most effective way to get them into our churches is to identify what they want and offer it to them. Satisfy their fantasies, promise them the moon, recast the gospel into consumer terms — entertainment, satisfaction, excitement and adventure, problem-solving, whatever. We are the world's champion consumers, so why shouldn't we have state-of-the-art consumer churches?

There's only one thing wrong. This is not the way that God brings us into conformity with the life of Christ. This is not the way that we become less and Jesus becomes more. This is not the way in which our lives become available to others in justice and service. The cultivation of consumer spirituality is the antithesis of a sacrificial, "denying yourself" congregation. A consumer church is an anti-Christ church. It's doing the right thing — gathering a congregation — but doing it in the wrong way.

—Eugene Peterson, "Transparent lives: The slow but urgent work of contemplation," *The Christian Century*, November 29, 2003. [christiancentury.org](http://christiancentury.org). Retrieved January 29, 2019.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Large crowds of people, Jew and Gentile alike, could not get enough of You so hungry were they. But what happened to our day? Where are the crowds now? Could it be, Lord, that so many have become so full of stuff that they have lost their sense of longing for You? Lord, wake 'em up and shake 'em up. Only YOU can truly satisfy a hungry heart. May all people wake up and realize this and turn to You. Amen