



# Daily Reflections

**August 22, 2016**

---

## Scripture

### **Matthew 23:13-22**

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.

You lock the Kingdom of heaven before men.

You do not enter yourselves,

nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.

You traverse sea and land to make one convert,

and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna

twice as much as yourselves.

“Woe to you, blind guides, who say,

‘If one swears by the temple, it means nothing,

but if one swears by the gold of the temple, one is obligated.’

Blind fools, which is greater, the gold,

or the temple that made the gold sacred?

And you say, ‘If one swears by the altar, it means nothing,

but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.'  
You blind ones, which is greater, the gift,  
or the altar that makes the gift sacred?  
One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it;  
one who swears by the temple swears by it  
and by him who dwells in it;  
one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God  
and by him who is seated on it."

---

## **Our Scripture Reflection**

What a racket the scribes and Pharisees had going on! Not only were they able to read and write, which the average man could not do, but they wrote most of the rules. They had extracted 613 Commandments from the first five books of the Old Testament and added other Commandments to most of the 613. As Jesus said, "you do not allow entrance (to Heaven) to those who try." Even worse, these religious leaders do not lead by example. They are hypocrites, actors on the stage of life. Jesus spares no harsh words in judging them for the way they abuse His people.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

Deceive the cleverest and most penetrating man, but the least wide-awake of children recognizes it, and is revolted by it, however ingeniously it may be disguised.

- Leo Tolstoy

---

## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, please help me to become humble and kind so that I may imitate You completely. Amen.