



# Daily Reflections

**October 2, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 17:5-10**

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

The Lord replied,

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,  
you would say to this mulberry tree,

'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant

who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field,

'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?

Would he not rather say to him,

'Prepare something for me to eat.

Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink.

You may eat and drink when I am finished'?

Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?

So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have been commanded,

say, 'We are unprofitable servants;  
we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Talk about an ego-deflating statement by Jesus! Today's text will cause many to scratch their head and for some to get angry. Why? Because our society has been polluted by the influence of the self-esteem movement. False accolades, mediocre performance, and super-sized egos appear everywhere these days. What's the cure? HUMILITY. Jesus tells His disciples that when you do all you are expected to do simply and humbly say, "We are unprofitable servants, we have done what we were obliged to do." For the true disciple who lives the Gospel, trophies are neither required nor expected.

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## **Food for your Journey**

We have no more Jesus Christ symbols, we have no more Gandhi symbols. The only symbols left are the movie stars ... who play the heroes in the movies. It has come to that.

--Ateneo de Manila, a sociology professor, on the plethora of movie stars and media celebrities running for public office in the Philippines.

In other words, we don't have servants anymore. No more servant mentality, just star mentality.

Sometimes, our thirst to applaud and give recognition becomes bizarre. Catherine Walsh, writing about the Jonesboro, Arkansas, school shootings, reports: "When shooting started in the schoolyard of Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, on March 24, some students thought the popping sound was just noise from nearby construction, reported the New York Times (3/29). 'And even as people fell, others thought it was a drama group acting out a play and eerily, began applauding,' the newspaper said."

--America, "Perspectives," April 18, 1998, 5.

Ann Willner, a political scientist who just returned to teaching at Kansas after a lengthy absence, captured what I've been hearing in her statement in a recent *Washington Post* article. What do students now expect? Written summaries of lectures; course packets in place of trips to the library; the syllabus as "ironclad contract," with no allowance for adaptation or detour; right-answer exams, amply presaged; and grades of A and B only. In return for this customer responsiveness, a faculty can expect favorable student evaluations. To Willner's astonishment, absentee rates in her own and other classes ranged from 30 to 50 percent.

--Ted Marchese, "Disengaged Students," *Change*, March/April 1998, 4.

In other words, students don't want to do what students do.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, You gave everything so that I might one day experience Paradise with You. Please help me to become humbled by and grateful for Your tremendous sacrifice. Amen.