



# Daily Reflections

**February 23, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 9:41-50**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.  
Better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye  
than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna,  
where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.  
"Everyone will be salted with fire.  
Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid,  
with what will you restore its flavor?  
Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Jesus speaks some very harsh sounding words to His disciples in today's Gospel text.

First, a stern warning to leaders who would cause "little ones", that is, those who are new to or weak in the faith, to be scandalized. Those who do, face an unimaginable punishment for all eternity. For those who struggle with sinful behavior, radical measures are necessary. Please note, Jesus is not literally expecting self-mutilation as the remedy, but rather, serious measures must be taken to end such behavior. Disciples have been "salted" (equipped with Grace) because of their relationship to Jesus. They must remain salted so as to have an impact on others.

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## **Food for your Journey**

If you want to be happy for an hour, take a nap. If you want to be happy for a day, go fishing. If you want to be happy for a month, get married. If you want to be happy for a lifetime, inherit a fortune. If you want to be happy for eternity, help others. Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

—Carl F. Schultz Jr., "True greatness," September 21, 2003, The Old South Church in Boston Web Site, <http://world.std.com>.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You have entrusted me with the tremendous privilege and responsibility of being Your witness. Keep me holy and faithful, Lord, so that I may draw people to You. Amen.