



# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

September 26, 2021

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 137

Gospel [Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48](#)

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. 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.'"

**Spiritual Reflection:** A lot of John's desire to call down fire upon those who were successful because of his own failings. Of course, letting go and letting God does not necessarily mean that I am suddenly perfect. My anger still flares at times when it shouldn't, and I still find myself feeling helpless in the face of my own faults... But I also trust that our souls rest in the care of One who is much bigger than I am. And that gives me peace not to be perfect, but mostly to be good enough.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How can being a failure at something make us want to point out others' faults?
2. How can trusting in God during times of failure bring us peace?
3. How can we avoid causing one of the "little ones" from sinning?
4. What do you need to cut out of your life in order to reduce the amount of times you sin?
5. Do you fear hell?