

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another. (Mark 9:50)

This is one of those puzzling passages of Scripture that needs a lot of unpacking. How can salt keep us at peace with each other? Should we really cut off our hands? Let's do a short Bible study to try to understand what Jesus is saying. The best way to do this is by working our way up from the bottom of this passage.

First, by saying that everyone will be "salted" with fire, Jesus is pointing to the Jewish tradition of sprinkling a little bit of salt on all their burnt grain offerings (Leviticus 2:13). In other words, keep offering yourselves to the Lord as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). Keep letting his love burn away your sin.

Next, Jesus tells the disciples to lop off their own hands and feet and pluck out their eyes so that they don't end up in Gehenna. He is exaggerating, of course, but only because he wants to get across how serious the situation is.

So if we put all of this together, we can see Jesus telling his disciples, *Offer yourself to the Lord as a sacrifice; let him burn away your sin.* That way, your sin won't be able to hurt, or "burn," the people around you.

This little exercise shows us how hard it can be to understand some Scripture passages. It also shows how closely connected the New Testament is to the Old Testament. Finally, it shows how helpful it is to have a good study Bible or commentary available to us. The footnotes in our Bible and the entries in a commentary can shed light on important passages so that we don't stumble over them or miss out on some new insight the Holy Spirit wants to give us.

Isn't it wonderful that God chooses to speak to us through our study as well as our prayer? He has given us the beautiful gift of our intellect; let's use it to glorify him and to draw closer to him.

"Holy Spirit, open my mind and my heart together so that I can hear your voice in Scripture."

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Today's Announcements:

- ★ Happy Birthday to Drayden Baldwin, Beau Broussard, and Emilia Rosales today!
- ★ We will administer final exams in sixth and seventh periods today. Dismissal for today is at 12:30.
- ★ Be sure to turn in textbooks to the library and cafeteria balances to the front office. All textbooks must be submitted and cafeteria balances cleared before you leave.
- ★ The varsity cheerleaders will be hosting a bake sale in the concession stand during the break in between finals today. Items will range from 50 cents to 5 dollars. Please come out and support the cheerleaders on the last day of school.

- ★ The *Aisling* staff would like to thank everyone for working so hard on the final edition of the magazine. We have a free hard copy to give to you as our end of school year gift to you. Please stop by the table in the foyer before you leave school for the summer and get your limited edition copy.
- ★ Campus ministry applications are due today. If you completed one, see Mr. Creel to schedule your interview time for next Wednesday, May 30.
- ★ Girls varsity basketball practice will be tomorrow at 1:00.
- ★ Drama participants need to pick up their shirts and awards from Mrs. Trahan.
- ★ Ninth graders, your Chromebooks and chargers are due to your seventh period teacher today.