

# **Eucharistic Homily**

**Mark 9:42-50**

2/25/18

Jesus calls us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. Jesus calls to live sacrificially in our relationships with others. Jesus calls us to abandon everything that would prevent us from following Him and living at peace with one another.

It may be tempting to consider this call to radical discipleship and think of how short we fall. In fact, if that's not the first thought that crosses our minds, then the sin of pride might be deeper in our hearts than we realize.

But if we do have an awareness of our sin, if we do realize just how short we fall of the holiness to which God's calls us, we can easily become discouraged and dwell on our unworthiness. In fact, there are many people who do not participate in Communion because they do not think themselves good enough.

But that would be huge mistake. That would be missing the entire point. John Calvin said that abstaining from Communion because you don't feel worthy is like not taking medicine because you feel sick. Calvin said that if we never struggled with sin and doubt, it would have been unnecessary for Jesus us to give us the Supper to strengthen us and to increase our faith. It's when we realize our sickness that we most need the medicine. It's when we recognize our need for God's grace, that we most need the benefits of Jesus' broken body and shed blood. If you recognize your weakness, your faithlessness, and your sin, then the Lord's Supper is just what the doctor ordered.

All who have been baptized into Christ and seeking to live faithfully and obediently for Him are welcome to partake of this banquet Christ has prepared for us.

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