



Sept. 30, 2018 Mark 9:38-50 & Nu. 11: 25-29

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Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [The Transforming Fire](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Our Inability to Cast Out Demons](#)

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

John Pilch remind us that “Groups gather around a leader, and group members pledge and display their loyalty to that leader. The disciples of Jesus want to safeguard the distinct identity and prerogatives of their group. Thus, they do not deny that a nonmember of their group can cast out demons, but if he uses Jesus’ name he should join the group and pledge loyalty to its leader. If not, he ought to stop using Jesus’ name. That is the normative perspective in a group-centered society.” Jesus is including anyone that is apparently enabled by God to do good.

. [The Cultural World of Jesus](#). The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 1996. Page142.

Mark 9: 38-50

38 Teacher," said John, "we saw a man **driving out demons** in your **name** and we told him to stop, because he was not **one of us.**" 39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my **name** can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not **against** us is **for** us. 41 I tell you the truth; anyone who gives you a **cup of water** in my **name** because you **belong** to **Christ** will certainly not **lose** his **reward.** 42

And if anyone causes one of these **little ones** who **believe** in me to **sin**, it would be better for him to be **thrown into the sea** with a large **millstone** tied around his **neck.** 43 If your **hand** causes you to **sin**, **cut it off.** It is better for you to enter life **maimed** than with two **hands** to go into **Gehenna**, where the **fire** never goes out. 45 And if your **foot** causes you to **sin**, **cut it off.** It is better for you to enter life **crippled** than to have two **feet** and be thrown into **Gehenna.** 47 And if your **eye** causes you to **sin**, **pluck it out.** It is better for you to enter the **kingdom of God** with one **eye** than to have two **eyes** and be thrown into **Gehenna**, 48 where “their **worm** does not die, and the **fire** is not **quenched.** 49 *Everyone will be **salted** with **fire.** 50 “**Salt** is good, but if it loses its **saltiness**, how can you make it **salty** again? Have **salt** among yourselves, and **be at peace** with each other.”*

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus teaches us to identify things that cause us to sin and get rid of it. What helps me do this best?

PRAYER: Teacher Jesus, you once again use the moment to reveal God’s action in anyone who is open to aiding a suffering person regardless of whether they are “certified” to do so. Then you ask us to be brutally honest with ourselves about our motives for what we do. It has been said that “We are punished by our sins more than for our sins.” by Fr. Richard Rohr. Help me as I take inventory of all the ways I fail to love and see God’s power anything I witness compassion. Amen.