

## A WEEKLY WORD

September 29<sup>th</sup> , 2024

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**READINGS:** [Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22](#) and [Psalm 124](#)

[James 5:13-20](#); [Mark 9:38-50](#)

**Mark 9. 38:** *John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone <sup>a</sup>casting out demons in your name,<sup>e</sup> and <sup>h</sup>we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”*  
**39** *But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. **40** <sup>i</sup>For the one who is not against us is for us. **41** For truly, I say to you, <sup>i</sup>whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.*

All of these readings have a lot to say, but I would like to focus on a couple of verses in the Gosepl reading from Mark. Verses 40 and 41.

It seems pretty simple to say if you are not for me you are against me or vice versa. But you might say, “What about the one who is indifferent?” I would ask that too, but as I go on to the next verse I see it differently. If someone were to give you a cup of water *in the name of Christ*, their reward is guaranteed.

Once you have accepted Christ into your life you cannot be indifferent. You feel impelled to give that cup of water, that sandwich, that ride to the doctor, etc. You can't help yourself, you love working as Christ's hands and feet.

There are a lot of people in this world who do great things. Philanthropists who give millions of dollars to various causes. As I write this the USA is being pummeled with hurricanes and disaster. Money will flow to bring aid to those displaced by these weather events. And that is a wonderful thing. I am not being critical, because this is what is necessary to suit the circumstances. The donors will be highly esteemed by their peers and it will be public knowledge. But God knows their hearts, and those who give even a cup of water, if their heart is in Christ, their action will bring about many heavenly rewards.

I do not have to talk about my charitable works, whatever they may or may not be, because the One who sees all knows what I do and what I don't do. *“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it” Hebrews 13.2.*

There will be a lot of good works done by people who are behind the scenes, who do not want to be seen and praised up. Their objective is that Christ will receive the praise and glory and that souls will be brought to him. Thank God for all the good works that are done, and praise Him for the ones done in His name.