

**B44 Skit Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hurray! I Won't Go to Gehenna!**

Written by Joan Y. Edwards
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[Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48](#)

Characters:

Narrator

Jesus

Peter

John

Religious Ed students at Saint John Neumann church:

Christopher

Sarah Beth

Mr. Thomas, religious education teacher

John

Jesus, we saw someone driving out demons in your name.

Peter

We told him, "Stop. You are not a disciple of Jesus. You are not approved to do this.

John

We told him that he had not been following Jesus from place to place.

Jesus

Don't stop him. Let him continue. He is performing a mighty deed in my name. He is not talking bad things about me. Therefore, he is working for us, not against us.

John

I don't understand, Lord.

Jesus

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, will not lose his reward.

Peter

What if someone persuaded a child to sin against you?

Jesus

Anyone who causes a child who believes in me to sin will have great punishment.

John

How so, Lord?

Jesus

It would be better if he puts a huge rock, the size of a boulder around his neck and falls into the deep sea.

Peter

You mean his punishment would be worse than drowning in the ocean.

Jesus

Yes. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to go through life without any hands, than to be sent by my heavenly Father into Gehenna.

Peter

Do you mean I should cut off my hands, Lord?

Jesus

I mean that it would be better to get rid of anything that keeps you from doing God's will.

John

So if my foot causes me to sin, I should cut it off.

Jesus

It is better for you to go through life crippled than to have your feet take you to do evil things and be thrown into Gehenna.

Narrator

The disciples decided that it was very bad to sin or to cause someone else to sin. They found out if you keep someone away from sin that would be good. And if you get the evil spirits out of someone, that is good. Now let's go to St. John Neumann Catholic Church, where Christopher and Sarah Beth ask Mr. Thomas, their religious education teacher a question.

Christopher

Mr. Thomas, does Jesus really want us to cut off our hands or our feet if they get us in trouble?

Mr. Thomas

No, Christopher. Jesus just wants you to know how really painful it would be if you were thrown into the fires of Gehenna. He wants you to use your hands and feet to glorify his name.

Christopher

If we are baptized and stay on God's path, we won't be thrown into Gehenna.

Mr. Thomas

That's right.

Sarah Beth

If we love God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves, we will not be thrown into the fires of Gehenna.

Mr. Thomas

That's absolutely right. Mary Beth, you bring in shirts and shoes you have outgrown for the clothing drive. Christopher, you stop your brothers and sisters when they are calling each other names and hitting each other. Both of you are a good example to others. You are on the path to heaven.

Christopher

Thanks, Mr. Thomas. I feel so much better knowing God doesn't want me to cut off my hands. He just wants me to use my hands to glorify his name. He wants me to help myself and others stay on the path to heaven with my hands. I can do that. Hurray! No Gehenna for me.

Sarah Beth

I feel better knowing that he does not want me to cut off my feet. Jesus just wants me to keep my feet close to him and his ways. I can do that. Hurray! No Gehenna for me, either.

Mr. Thomas

Go in peace and serve on the side of the Lord, he will keep you away from Gehenna!

Narrator

Let us pray you and I use our hands and our feet to honor God the Almighty Father through Jesus Christ, his Son. Amen.

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