

**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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