



LORD'S VOICE

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΚΚΕΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

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THE CURE OF THE POSSESSED MEN

Jesus the Son of God

One of the God-befitting miracles which Jesus performed after the Sermon on the Mount is also the curing of the possessed men in the land of the Gergesenes. Before this miracle, with one command of His, He calmed the stormy sea and the winds, showing that He is lord of all irrational creation. Now He proves that even the supernatural beings submit to Him and they can't do anything, if He previously does not allow them to.

Because most people considered Christ to be a simple human, the demons come and confess Him as Son of God. Because His disciples also could not yet understand the voice of the sea and of the winds, which proclaim Him as their God and Lord, now they were clearly hearing the demons calling Him Son of God through the mouths of the possessed men. Paul clearly stresses that no one can call Jesus Lord, except only through the Holy Spirit. The sacred Chrysostom observes that at that time the demons were being invisibly whipped by the Lord's divine presence, so for this reason they were forced to proclaim Jesus as Son of God.

The bold cowardly demons

The demons were speaking with much audacity and wildness towards the Lord. They were telling Him: "What is their between us and you, Jesus Son of God." In other words, what business do You have with us Jesus Son of God? Simultaneously, however they had been overcome with indescribable fear, because they thought that the Lord would immediately send them to hell, without waiting for the time of judgment. Because they, of course, believe in God, but they don't entrust their life to His will, for this reason they also continually live this contrary condition of audacity and of cowardice. Every person who doesn't have correct faith in God lives a similar condition, or who believes on the one hand, but does not keep His commandments. Being deprived of the peacemaking grace of God he lives in disturbance, hate and rudeness. Simultaneously because he constantly lives in

the fear of death, he is a slave of cowardice and fears the slightest noise. Even if he presents a superficial character of a fearless man, this is due, as Saint Nicholas Cabasilas observes, to ignorance of the true danger: he doesn't know and doesn't perceive what eternal hell means.

On the contrary, whoever believes in God, is delivered of every type of fear, because truly death is abolished for him. Also, because this person also feels his nothingness and sinfulness, the grace of God covers him and offers him the consolation of spiritual mourning. So for this reason, he becomes meek and calm and peaceful. He respects God, honors priests, parents, those older and reveres every person as an image of God.

The voice of the Lord and the wickedness of the demons

The two possessed men dwelt in the tombs. The demons who had overcome them led them there. The purpose of the demons was to sew false beliefs in people. Specifically they were striving to give the impression that the souls of those who die, become demons. The Lord however, coming to those areas very clearly revealed their deception and freed people from their tyrannical authority.

Christ, the true God frees man from this fearful darkness and slavery. He came to the world as Light who enlightens every person and makes him a son of Light. So long as man with his free disposition approaches the Light. When we believe in Christ, we keep His commandments and study the Scriptures, then our eyes open up and we see. We obtain discretion. We distinguish the divine from the demonic, the holy from the deceptive, the good from the evil, the truth from the falsehood. The grace of God comes and delivers us from every demonic passion and sin, makes us in our right minds and clothed, returns us to the lifestyle of God and makes us preachers of His majesties. So let us have Christ as the light of our eyes, in order to always correctly see and to reach our destination, the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Archim. P. K