

LORD'S VOICE

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JESUS WALKS ON THE WATERS

The training of the people

The Lord satiating thousands of people with just two fish and five breads teaches them practically that if they are attached to Him and keep His word, they will never hunger. They will both inherit eternal life and in this temporal life they will never be deprived of the necessities. Unfortunately however most of the people interpreted the miracle differently. Because they were sweetened by the earthly bread, they desired to make Christ an earthly king, so that they would never lack the daily food. Their heart, instead of turning with love towards the Lord, was drawn by the foods of the body. So for this reason the Lord immediately dissolved the multitudes, in order to turn them away from such an aimless action.

So for this reason also, only twice in His earthly activity did He do the miracle of multiplying the breads, in order to train people to not be slaves of the belly, but to constantly long for the spiritual things. Likewise, immediately after the miracle He ascended to the mountain to pray, not only in order to prove that He truly is a human, but also to teach the people with His example that the purpose and meaning of life is ceaseless memory of God, divine eros, the "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart". From here springs true love for one's neighbor, peace, happiness and all goods, spiritual and material.

The training of the disciples

The twelve Apostles however, were not like the majority of people. Their heart was aflame with love for the Lord, while their faith in his person was constantly increasing and maturing. So for this reason Jesus led them to constantly greater heights of faith and love.

He forced them to enter into the boat and to go to the opposite shore. He needed to force them, because they did not want to depart from Him even for a moment. His divine grace like noetic myrrh made the senses of their mind and heart completely fragrant, so that they are attached to Him, just like

iron to a very strong magnet. This deep spiritual love Peter also revealed, when he saw Jesus walking on the waters of the lake. Then Peter did not ask Him to grant him to also walk on the waters, but to command him to come towards Him. He was not moved so much by the miracle, as to end up as soon as possible next to Jesus. So Jesus, cultivating and increasing this love, temporarily took the apostles away from Himself, so that remaining for a certain period of time far from Him and being troubled by the storm, their longing to be with Him would be made firm forever in them.

Simultaneously, He was widening and deepening their faith. After He gave each one of them one basket full of the breads which were left over, He made them depart, so that they could realize on their own, the magnitude and the meaning of the miracle which was performed. He allows them to be troubled for a long time far from Him, in order to teach them to be forbearing in dangers, having trust in His almighty protection. He walks upon the waters, fulfilling in Himself the prophetic word which Job had said about God: "he walks upon the waters as upon dry land", in other words, God walks on the sea, just as if on firm ground. With one command of His He grants Peter also to walk on the waters, in order to show that He came to Earth, to offer people as a gift, whatever He has by nature.

The apostles were very benefited by this training of Jesus. Their faith in the person of Jesus was now reaching the sought for point. So, whereas in the beginning, when the Lord had done a similar miracle in the same lake, calming down the wind and the sea, they were asking what type of man is this, now henceforth they are not asking, but as soon as the Lord ascended the boat, they fell and worshiped Him saying: "Truly you are the Son of God"!

Faith and trial

The way in which the Lord helped the apostle Peter, when he began sinking, is very didactic. The apostle seeing the very strong wind cowered and began sinking. Christ, however showing that the wind was not the cause that Peter began sinking, but the weak faith of Peter, did not scold the wind but Peter. So for this reason, after He grabbed him by the hand, He allowed the wind to blow, revealing that it can do no evil, when man's faith in the Lord is unshakable. So let's put before us, our unshakable trust in the person of Christ, as an invincible weapon against the temptations of life, so that we can walk wondrously upon the waves of the sea of our life and safely reach our very longed for destination, the Lord Jesus Christ, the only true God. Amen.

Archim. P. K.