



# LORD'S VOICE

*ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΚΚΕΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ*

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## THE HEALING OF THE EPILEPTIC

### Divine blessedness and human drama

The Lord Jesus Christ being upon the earth and dealing with people, lived simultaneously both the divine blessedness and the human drama. He was both on the throne of His Father and in paradise. And in the divine light, but also in hades and in the ocean of afflictions of humanity. Vast divine joy and unbearable pain for the sins of men coexisted inside Him. Thus, He embraced and embraces the universe with His cosuffering divine love.

Upon Mt. Tabor He revealed a bit of His eternal divine glory to His three disciples, whereas when He descended from the mountain He faced human tragedy in all its majesty. He met a weak-faithed father, a young person possessed by a fearful demon and a multitude of people who with an accusation-loving disposition commented on the Apostles' inability to cast out the wicked spirit.

This double experience of joy and of pain comprises the essence and the main expression of genuine love. Thus God wants man to be upon the earth. Delivered of sin, delighting in the grace of the Holy Spirit and divine peace, and full of love for all people and all creation, pouring blood out daily for their salvation.

To this perfect love Jesus was leading and training His disciples. Lifting them up to the peak of the mountain, He made them viewers of the majesty of human nature in the light of God. Lowering them from Tabor, He showed them the tragicalness of humanity beneath the authority of the demons. Healing the youth with one word, He consoled them with God's compassion for people. Foretelling to them His dreadful passion and crucifactory death, He filled them with sadness for people's lack of compassion and ingratitude. Prophesying finally His resurrection, He secured their mind and heart with the certain hope in the merciful God. The peak of this training will be Pentecost. Then the disciples were filled completely with divine glory and eternity, but simultaneously they received the power of love, so as to proceed to all nations and participating in the various afflictions of men, to grab them away from deception, sin and the death, and to make them sons of God and inheritors of the eternal kingdom.

## **The unbelieving father**

The main reason the disciples were not able to heal the youth was the father's unbelief. Furthermore the fact that his son from a very young age was overtaken by a demon, shows that his parents did not have a careful life. Otherwise the fearful demon would not have been able to bother the child in an age, which is characterized by innocence and the lack of great sins. Despite all this, the father didn't have the sense of his responsibility and he publicly criticized the Apostles for the fact that they couldn't cast out the impure spirit. So for this reason Jesus scolds him, and together with him He also scolds all those present there, because quite a few of them had been scandalized and had made evil thoughts about the disciples. Specifically He characterized them as an unbelieving and perverse generation, revealing that they mainly were to blame, due to their unbelief and perverted train of thought. So leading the father to the sense of his guilt and making him confess publicly his little faith, he found a room within him, so that the divine grace could act, without transgressing his freedom. Subsequently with a simple word of his He healed the youth.

## **Faith as a mustard seed**

Because the disciples feared that they might lose the grace to work miracles, they asked Jesus for what reason they couldn't cast out the demon from the youth. The Lord answered them that this is due to their lack of faith. And He added that if they had as much faith, as is the size of a mustard seed, then they could do even the greatest miracles. With these words of His the Lord refers to the second level of faith. In other words to that firm spiritual condition, in which the believer, disposing inside him abundant presence of divine grace, has the notification from above that whatever he asks from God, will take place. Truly, the disciples, because they were not yet made firm in virtue and grace of the Holy Spirit, could not, like Jesus, alter the father's weak faith and heal his son. So for this reason also, the Lord stressed the need of fasting and prayer, and by extension the other virtues: in order to stress that we cannot move "from faith to faith", from the faith that God exists, to the faith that God is able to act directly when we ask Him, if we do not fill our being with the divine grace, keeping diligently His commandments. So let us work with much honorable zeal the commandments of the Lord, so that progressing in faith, even the demonic passions will submit to us and our names will be written in the heavens. Amen.

Archim. P. K.

## THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

The Church celebrates with spiritual gladness and worshipful brilliance the Dormition and the Translation of the Most Holy Theotokos. No woman was granted in the world the greatest honor of the holy Virgin of Nazareth, who became the mother of God on earth. The generations of people bless the Theotokos, who is "the spotless heirloom of virginity", as Saint Proclus praises her. The Church reserved the most beautiful hymns for the all holy Virgin Mary and every Christian's soul always turns with trust towards the mother of the Lord. She is precisely the mother, and in her all holy person each believer sees his own mother, the woman who nursed him in her womb, who breast-fed him with her milk, who held him in her hands, who protected him in her embrace. "... Having motherly strength towards God, and even those who excessively sin she achieves exceedingly the forgiveness"

From the book of Bishop Dionysius L. Psarianos (Metropolitan of Kozani),

The *Small Synaxaristes*, Apostolic Ministry Publication.