

polyarchia of the passions we are led to the oligarchy of the passions (the passions lessen and weaken) and from there to the monarchy of the mind, which constantly praying, as overseer, oversees by the grace of God the vast expanses of the heart and the sinner furthermore tastes that which our Fathers call "hesychia [quietude] of the heart".

So for this reason, we all need, with whatsoever we are occupied, to repeat either orally, or in a whisper, or noetically, the almighty Name of Christ. We must bring back to our life our Tradition, in other words to all meet "in the same place", with this brief prayer. Saint Gregory Palamas suggests that this practice begin even from a child's school age. It comprises a summary of the Gospel, it is brief and easily understandable, it contains in it triadology, anthropology, Christology, it contains dogma and petition and in time unifies the whole person. Thus we are cleansed from the leprosy of sin and we become habitations of holy God, "precious vessels" of the ecclesiastical body suitable for whatsoever use God entrusts us with.

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY January 19, 2014 12th Sunday of Luke Macarius the Great of Egypt, Mark, Bishop of Ephesus, Arsenius of Corfu

Tone Plagal First, **Eothonon** Eighth, - **Epistle** St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11 **Gospel** Matthew 4:12-17

NEXT SUNDAY January 26, 2014 15th Sunday of Luke, Xenophon & his Companions, Symeon the Elder of Mount Sinai

Epistle St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15, **Gospel** Luke 19:1-10



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PRAYER AS A HEALING MEDICINE OF ALL ILLNESSES

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us", is the heartfelt cry of the ten lepers of today's gospel, beloved, brethren in Christ. It is the prayer which the blind men cried and they gained their sight, the possessed ones and they were delivered from the possession of the demon, the sick and they found their health.

SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 17:12-19

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Leprosy

Leprosy was a fearful illness, especially in the time of the Lord. With time the body is deformed so much, that the person ends up very disfigured, has unbearable pain and traverses towards death. Very frequent also are the amputations of the members of the body when there is danger of gangrene. Lepers in the years of Christ lived outside the cities, far ("at a distance") they wore belts on their necks and would shout "we are lepers" for the other people to hear them and not approach. To their cry, Christ approached them and urged them to show their body to the Priests. At that time the Priests, aside from their other duties, certified a person's physical health. The Lord keeping the law, since he is sending them to the Priests, is foretelling and simultaneously almost granting them their physical health: "And as they were going they were cleansed from the leprosy" (17:14).

The ungratefulness of those who were benefactored

It is however very important for us to subsequently pay attention behavior of the lepers after their cure, towards the great

Doctor: from the 10 that were benefactored, only one returned to thank his Benefactor, and he was a Samaritan. It seems that only he was overshadowed by the grace of faith in Christ and of repentance. Something like this doesn't show in the others. And they saw a miracle –furthermore in their own self –and again they did not believe. This event answers very triumphantly all those who demand miracles in order to believe. It would not be improper in the end for us to suppose that it probably was this grateful leper who had also urged the other nine to cry out to Christ: they followed him probably and were lucky, to become well also. Up to there. The Lord in the end makes the specific question: "Where are the other nine?" The conclusions and the answer he leaves to the Christians of all ages.

Spiritual leprosy and prayer

There is however my brethren also another type of leprosy more fearful than physical leprosy. It is the leprosy of sin and from this viewpoint we are all probably in a worse probably position than the 10 lepers of the gospel, because many of us don't even suspect it. Furthermore the bells don't exist most of time which make it externally perceivable, so that the sinner is humbled like the leper. When a sinner decides to go to the Spiritual Father in repentance, having a realization of his condition and he begins crying out the familiar phrase "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me" which the Lord himself handed down to us urging us to seek things in His Name and which our Fathers handed down to us, then "the landscape changes". The specific prayer in the beginning leads to a calmness of the mind. Later on it descends deeper in the heart revealing in all its expanse the mire, the chaos and the wildness of the passions. After in this way, hurting for his condition for a long time a person is humbled, this same prayer burns up the noetic dragon which is boss in the gardens of the heart and furthermore it cures the wounds which he opened. From the