

to the hunchbacked woman, covering furthermore in a legalistic mechanical way, this sick expression of his emotions.

It often happens, and furthermore in the ecclesiastical area that we see wondrous conversions of many people with an ugly previous life. We see them literally changed by the grace of God and instead of rejoicing that quite some wounded sheep of Christ, found the way to the Church, we become altered into contemporary leaders of the synagogue, into grave wolves and we exercise-unfortunately-the most improper critiques about these brethren of ours. Instead of admiring God's work, glorifying His Name, making a welcome area of warmth and loving care in our heart, we react unnaturally, probably also with some subconscious jealousy. Precisely this, proves the fake character of our spiritual life, a fact which urges us to criticize, to slander, to speak against and in generally to make their life difficult.

So it is a great necessity that we return to our own self, that we make a strict introspection, so that we feel that we are "the least of all". Then we won't have a reason to suffer from this type of harmful thought. On the contrary, the Lord will grant us the sense of healing in our hunchbacked soul and will raise us up.

Archim. E. T.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014, 10th Sunday of Luke, *Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Athenodoros the Martyr of Mesopotamia, Righteous Father Gerasimus, Ascetic of Euboia, Holy Father John of Kronstadt.*

TONE OF THE WEEK: Tone One, Eothinon 4th Eothinon

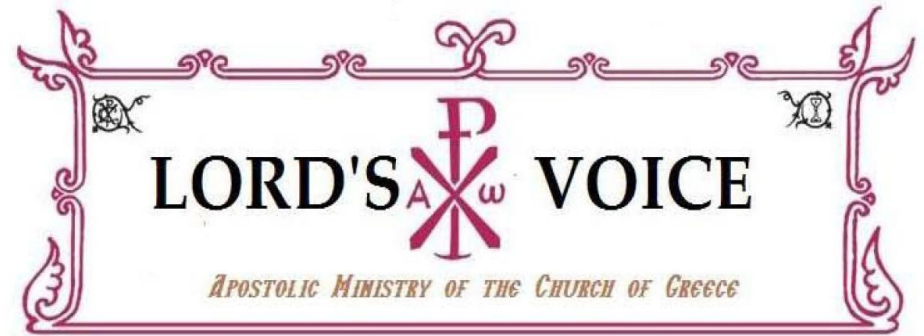
EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19

GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014, 11th Sunday of Luke, *The Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Callinicus of Asia Minor, and Philemon, Apollonius, and Arian of Alexandria*

EPISTLE St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

GOSPEL Luke 14:19-24



62nd Year

December 7, 2014

Pamphlet #49 (3210)

CHRIST HEALS HUMAN NATURE

Today's gospel passage speaks to us, beloved brethren about a woman hunchbacked pathologically for eighteen years, whom Christ met at the Synagogue and He healed her. Christ, seeing her, listening to the word of God, "loosened" her from this pathological binding. He healed her right away. With the covering of envy for the miracle which took place on the Sabbath, the leader of the Synagogue insisted on the Sabbath holiday, in a way which would not allow the benefaction on the Sabbath day. Christ, however, very beautifully as well as in a silencing way, answered him that on the Sabbath day someone takes his donkey from the manger and takes it to water it, without this being considered a transgression of the law. With what logic would the healing of a person, and furthermore a child of Abraham be considered unlawful? "Not only is it not unlawful, but you ought to rejoice furthermore", it was as if Christ were saying to the leader of the synagogue, bringing his hypocrisy to the surface.

The hunchbacked person

Anthropos a person means "ano throsko" I look up, I look high. This woman, due to her many year long illness, which had a

10th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel of Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

demonic origin according to what Christ Himself said, had with the years, lost this sense.

Interpreting deeper the specific passage, we would say that each person with the way of his life is able to lose his reference to God, bowing to the pressures and the demands of the passions and the demons. He departs from God and according to the familiar patristic saying the mind which will depart from God "becomes either beastly or demonic" according to Saint Gregory Palamas. Whereas it was made in order to rule over the soul and body, it ends up worse than the reptiles and the four legged animals. It becomes truly hunchbacked, forgetting its divine descent.

Martyrally forbearing her illness, the hunchbacked woman, in the end, is healed by Christ in the Synagogue. Eighteen years of patience in the gathering of the Synagogue, conclude favorably with the finding of her very longed for health by Christ. So for this reason, no matter which our transgressions are, our falls, let us never forget the worship gathering. The Divine Liturgy, as the experience of the ecclesiastical body heals the crushings of our souls and bodies. God will always have mercy on us, overlooking the multitude of our iniquities. Despair is the worst advisor. Patience and insistence in prayer and worshipping God, is how we should correctly face whatsoever trial.

The healing of the hunchbacked woman expresses the fall and the restoration of man

The event of the healing of the hunchbacked woman recapitulates the man's spiritual adventure. It literally comprises a summary of the Holy Scripture. In the Old Testament the fall of man and its results is expressed and described, whereas deeply and implicitly from the whole world before Christ, the "amen, come o Lord Jesus", is exclaimed, an event which is realized and described in the New Testament, where through the crucifixion, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ, human nature is raised up and restored.

These events, become a part of each person's personal history who lives the mystery of Christ in the Church. He is crucified, buried and raised up and adopted with Christ in the Divine Liturgy partaking appropriately prepared, the Body and Blood of Christ. Man's fall and raising up is a constant mystery, a constant event which concludes in man's transfiguration by Christ.

Envy, a problem of the people "of the church"

We observe in today's Gospel with how much envy and hate, the leader of the synagogue reacted toward Christ, consequently also