

And when He receives the firm answer, He immediately responds: "See again, your faith has saved you". He doesn't do just one more miracle, He simultaneously teaches that this miracle which divine Almighty worked, was caused by the pure and unreserved faith of the former blind man! The divine almighty is always ready to work the whatsoever miracles, however faith, the heart, the love of man for God is not always ready for Him to cause it!

What happened after the miracle? One more proof of the guileless faith of the former blind man towards his Benefactor. He doesn't hasten to return to his family, to his people, for them to rejoice with his joy. He hastens to follow Christ: "he was following Him glorifying God"! The creature had met his creator. Faith had found its reference! The soul is enjoying the certainty of salvation and the body the deliverance of the cure. Why should he depart from Him?

Faith essentially forges the essential relationship of God and man, so for this reason also, in its very pure, genuine and loving form, it signals the unity of God and man, salvation, sanctification, and theosis.

Archimandrite I. N

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016 14TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, Xenia,
Deaconess of Rome, Vavylas the Holy Martyr, Xenia of St. Petersburg,
Fool-for-Christ**

TONE OF THE WEEK: Tone One

EOTHINON First Eothinon

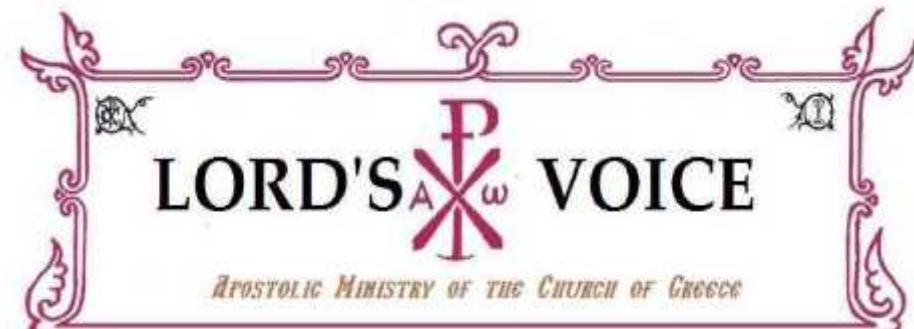
EPISTLE: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

GOSPEL: Luke 18:35-43

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, Cyrus &
John the Unmercenary, Holy Women Martyrs Theodote,
Theoktiste and Eudoxia, Our Righteous Father Arsenius of Parus.**

EPISTLE: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10



64TH YEAR JANUARY 24, 2016 PAMPHLET # 4 (3269)

PURE FAITH

As a continuation of the Gospel Reading of the previous Sunday, today's is presented. Not because it is written successively in the Gospel of Luke, as it is quite a few verses after the other one, but because they essentially are dealing with the same thing. Faith, as an attitude of life, as a decisive journey towards Holy God! And if, on the one hand, the previous Sunday we ascertained the failure of the nine lepers to respond to the miracle they were benefitted by, without expecting it too much, facing the whatsoever faith they had in them for their advantage, today the Gospel hastens to present to us embossed, the simple and guileless faith of a person from among the people and furthermore of one also greatly troubled by a many year long physical illness.

Faith and temptation

A fellow tried by afflictions, was sitting at an edge of the road of Jericho and was begging. He was begging not because being lazy himself, he wanted to take advantage of the good emotions of the others, but because as one blind, he couldn't work and take care of himself. While it seems that not only the condition of blindness, but also his inability to work bothered

14TH SUNDAY OF LUKE,
The Gospel according to Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

him, a proof of the honorableness and the good emotions which his heart was hiding. Hearing a lot of noise, he realized that a lot of people were passing before him and he hastened to ask what's going on. When they told him that Jesus the Nazarene is going by, the famous teacher with the many miracles, he immediately began shouting: "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me". How does the "passing crowd" react to the blind man's begging cries? Whoever was going before our Christ, was scolding him and was shouting to him to become silent, considering that propriety demanded this. How does the blind man behave? "He cried out even more", in other words, he shouted more, so that his voice would cover their own and he could be heard by Christ.

If the blind man were wicked, he would be hastening to grab the unique opportunity which was being presented to him from the so many people who were coming towards him. And instead of shouting to Christ, he would be shouting to each one of the passersby, to give him charity so that he could get a great

monetary gain. His faith, his ethos, his honorableness, guide him to do something else. He begins shouting to Christ and furthermore calling Him not "Nazarene", as those who had informed him earlier about whatever was going on had introduced Him, but expressing a deep respect, "Son of David", that is descendent of the royal tribe, worthy of higher honor and higher than every other one in the people! In a few words, he confesses his faith that Christ is something unique, unrelated to if he cannot sufficiently define it.

And there where this pure and genuine faith is expressed, people hasten to choke it. With excuses of proper behavior and courteousness, or caring supposedly for the teacher, they try to avert the meeting of God and man! While doesn't this always happen with faith? When it is about to be cultivated in the soul, when it is about to be unfolded and shone dominating in someone's life, don't the others hasten to wither it, to fight it, to make fun of it? Faith bothers! It overturns sly plans and proves the vanity and problematic of the present world! So for this reason also, the servants of the darkness of this age, methodically and directed strike at it.

The deliverance of faith

And while the creature on his own, is fighting against all the others, what does our Christ do? He behaves as if all the other don't exist, except only the blind man who was looking at Him! He gives the command, that they bring him before Him and then asks him "what do you want me to do for you", in order to receive the firm and literal answer: "Lord, I want to obtain my light again, to see again"! Not half phrases which contain in them doubt or even disputing! Not a haggling of the type "you, what can you offer me"! The blind man believes that Christ is able to heal him and he asks it of Him without mincing words! This faith, Christ wants to show forth, and that's why He also instigates the above dialogue.