

appear worthy of grace. They are exams which you must pass in order to be shown capable. It is a trial which allows faith to be developed and bear fruit.

When Christ tells His own people to have courage, He does not do it in order to promise them a special, distinct handling of them. Historically, even people of faith, live the same difficulties with the rest of the social whole, many times to a worst degree, as the battle of the hater of good intensifies their plots, to their detriment. They become ill from the same sicknesses, they are in danger from the same dangers as everyone. The difference lies in the manner with which they face all the above. The inexhaustible power of faith, a calm, peaceful and joyous strength, is the expectation, which grants them the conviction that the divine almightiness is able to allow the trial, but it does not cease, however, protecting and helping. And even if a myriad of dangers are realized in our life and if a thousand evils occur, we have the safety of the embrace of God, the sense that all these things are external, epidermal and passing, and finally the assurance that no matter what happens, in the end, our Christ is always shown forth the victor, the Lord of life and of death, and we, together with Him as well!

Archimandrite I. N

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2016 6TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, *Forefeast of the Precious Cross, Joseph the Righteous of Arimathea, Eudocimus the Righteous of Cappadocia, Dionysios the Righteous Martyr of Vatopaidi*

TONE OF THE WEEK: Plagal of the First

EOTHINON : Sixth Eothinon

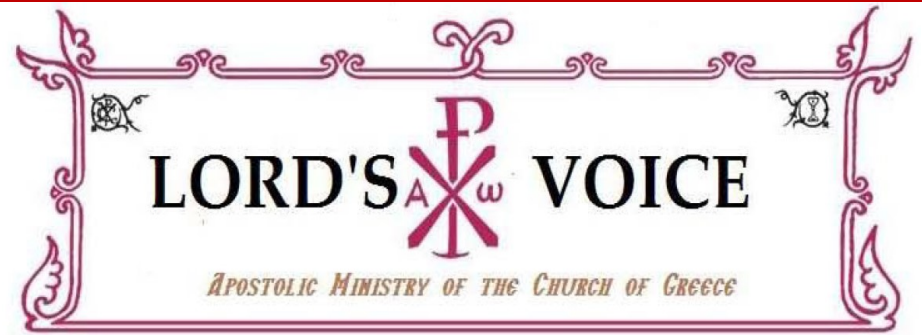
EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to Romans 12:6-14*

GOSPEL: *Matthew 9:1-8*

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016 7TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW, *Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, The Holy Righteous Martyr Dometius, Our Holy Father Nicanorus the Wonderworker, Theodosius the New, Sozon of Nicomedeia , The Holy Ten Thousand Ascetics of Thebes, Narcissus the Hieromartyr of Jerusalem, Joseph Gerontogiannis of Lithines Sitia.*

EPISTLE: *St. Paul's Letter to Romans 15:1-7*

GOSPEL: *Matthew 9:27-35*



64TH YEAR

JULY 31, 2016

PAMPHLET # 31 (3296)

TAKE COURAGE, CHILD!

Science may have managed to defeat illnesses which in the past caused pandemics and were responsible for the extinction of whole populations, however it has not managed yet to wipe out the phenomenon of epidemics. Not only because together with medicine, biology, pharmaceuticals, the various types of germs develop which are responsible for the epidemics, but also because many of these, even though they are considered, are not characterized as such due to a different methodology and approach. Thus, it is difficult with scientific terms and criteria, for the documented by statistics, increase of illnesses of soul, to be considered as an epidemic. The truth, however is, that in proportion the illnesses of soul, especially in the form of various phobias, tend to overtake percentages of population, greater than those of the fatal plague diseases.

And this documented increase—combined with the lawful scientific ascertainment that the Orthodox ethos and Church, have the capability of consoling man, but also in view of the definition of the asceticism of Orthodoxy as psychotherapeutic – leads to a psychiatric, psychological and pastoral care approach, which, even though it is warmly welcomed, it must be applied with some presuppositions kept. And the primary presupposition is respect for the Church and her goal, so that the Deliverer of the human race, the doctor of souls and our bodies, not be considered as yet one more introducer of a psychotherapeutic method, nor should the comforting consolation of our Church besought cut off from the truth of faith

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

The state that the superman ended up in

Even though it is not the only cause, it is distinguished among the first reasons why contemporary man is experiencing insecurity and allowing phobias to develop in him. Even though it is underlying in the thought of many people, it is admitted with hesitation. Even though the experience of daily life, in conclusion ends up there, contemporary man does not want to admit it. The reason why many people reach the point of despair, and from there to depression or even suicide, is that they don't have where to support themselves on. When values, faith, and ideals are methodically fought, undermined, and slandered. When the various ideologies promise the perfection of Paradise, in order to subsequently mock man, falsifying his expectations. When in the name of contemporary beliefs and prevailing social economical systems, the abuse of man by man is justified and instituted, where can the soul support itself and from where can it draw strength!

The greatest harm which was caused, by whoever fought the Church and the Orthodox faith in whatsoever manner, caused, is the fact that completely dogmatically, violently and irrationally, they convinced many people to abstain from an essential relationship with Christ. They

were not able to deconstruct the truths of faith, they were not able to prove Christ, lying as Savior and Deliverer of the human race, they were not able to refute the divine teaching, as the revelation of God in his world. They were, however, able to deprive all the above, from whoever blindly was swayed by the lesser or greater anticlerical rage of many contemporary "teachers," fans of the autonomizing and idolizing of man far from God and his love.

In the end, we realized how fragile we are, how much we cannot endure, how easily we fall apart with the slightest thing, despite our so many achievements, despite the fact that we don't have the experience of the difficult historical happenstances of the past, despite the fact that we admire ourselves, as better than the previous generations. And this because we are deprived of what the previous generations had as a boast and safe refuge, faith in God. With this they endured, to this they took refuge, from this they were inspired, to this they proceeded and for this reason, they behaved humanely.

The exhortation of Christ

In today's gospel, we see Christ giving strength and courage to the paralytic, who after a little while, He will make well. It is one of the few cases where, in the New Testament, the exhortation is documented: "Take courage, child!" Why did the Lord say this in the specific moment to that person? The paralytic had friends, who, for his sake, surpass all the obstacles, the natural and human ones, in order to bring him before Christ. Christ has proven His power. Everything is favorable and in favor of him receiving that which he is seeking. Why should he also have courage? Because despite all the assurances, the paralytic also as a human, and before the great moment of his life, feels the agony, the cowardice, the doubt climbing in his soul, in order to weaken it and to paralyze it, as it is seeking the mercy of God.

And the saying is addressed, in order to preannounce the action which will follow, to assure and to support, so that the soul can believe in the majesty of God's love, to not doubt it, so that it can completely depend on this. So have courage, my child! Neither your sins, nor your illness are able to impose themselves on you, to put you down, and to defeat you. They are simply contests which you must defeat, in order to