

or larger, it does not matter, and for us to start over from the beginning, we might juxtapose those “why to me’s?” and end up in despair. So, let’s find the path and the way of faith, the opportunity for constant renewal, the starting point for new beginnings in dedication to Christ. And this path is our attitude in every relationship with our neighbor, in our home, in work, in our dealings with people, as also in our relationship with our own self. And He who knows our hearts, will give us the opportunity for us to build again with the weapons of humility and trust, in our difficulties, a new journey within His Kingdom, within the Church.

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, JULY 5 2020, 4TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Athanasius of Mount Athos, Righteous Father Lampadus the Wonderworker, Kyprianos the New Martyr of Koutloumousiou Monastery, Uncovering of the Holy Relics of Our Righteous Father Sergius of Radonezh, Holy New Martyrs Elizabeth the Grand Duchess and the Novice Barbara.

-tone of the week : *Third Tone*

EOTHINON : *Fourth Eothinon*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s Letter to Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 8: 5-13*

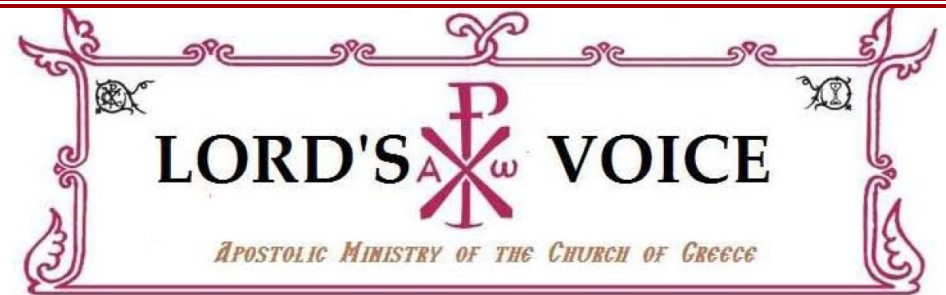
SUNDAY, JULY 12 2020, 5TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW *Proclus*

& Hilary the Martyrs of Ancyra , Our Holy Father Michael of Maleinus, Gerasimos of Byzantium and Akakios the young ascetic, Paisios the Athonite, Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood who was healed by Jesus, Andre the Commander & his Companion Martyrs.

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul’s Letter to Romans 10:1-10*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1*

VOICE OF THE LORD’, a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the “Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece”. Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher -Director . Metropolitan of Phanouriou Agathangelos, Composition, tel. 210.7272.331. Execution, tel. 210.7272.338. It is distributed for free by the sacred churches. From the Press of the Apostolic Ministry.



68TH YEAR JULY 5 2020 PAMPHLET #27 (3501)

WHO IS THE SON OF THE KINGDOM

In the Church, which is the Kingdom of God, man feels certain about the course of his life. When he keeps God’s commandments, he considers that he has it good with Him. He believes that because he is living the life of the Kingdom, mainly as regards in behavior, he has secured God’s help in every work and in every circumstance of life, even in the trials, but also salvation in the next life. No one denies the power of faith. Nevertheless, faith was not given to us for us to not have difficulties in our life, but in order for us to feel the paternal presence of God, which supports us, but does not take away the crosses of our life. Sometimes, furthermore, He allows them, for us to be able to wake up.

The danger of complacency

Security in our life always has two sides. On the one hand, it gives us certainty, joy and calmness, even in the difficult things. On the other hand, there is the danger that we will settle in compromising and in habit. The safe person, being calm, creates, utilizes his gifts, and adds to what he has. He may, however, also end up lethargic . To feel certain about what he is living, for what he has, and to not want to proceed further down. Safety resembles the influence that time exercises on human relationships. Some have anxiety to not get stuck

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 8:5-13*

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

in these, and they search to find ways to renew them. Others get so comfortable, that they organize their life, based on what they possess, as being self evident. The former ones feel like stewards and handlers. The latter ones, owners. The former ones toil to constantly make new beginnings in beauty and the joy of the relationship. The latter ones feel that they have fulfilled the obligation and that they ought to enjoy the results of their toils.

Faith gives security

The miracle of Christ curing the centurion's slave without going to the home of the one suffering (Mt. 8:8) shows us that faith is the true safety valve in the life of the Kingdom of God. For the Jews, the Kingdom of God was their own faith and tradition. So, for this reason also, the centurion's faith gives birth to questions. How did an

idolater address Christ, a compatriot of theirs? Why did Christ fulfill his request? However, the centurion had so much faith, something that shows that it is not correct for us to make a conclusion where we put some ticket on the person. The matter is not always as it appears.

The centurion's faith was not expressed only as trust in the person of Christ, but it became a cause of self-critique. So, for this reason, the centurion becomes an example for all of us, who as Christians are members of the Church, enlisted, in other words, in the Kingdom of God. Our faith makes us see our true face, passions and sinfulness, that we are not as God wants us, not for us to give up and mourn, but for us to trust Him who loves us more and to want to love also, and at the same time to have the motive to fight to end up closer to Him. He is not satiated with God and His presence. His love and paternity can't be satiated. And through faith in Him, we know our boundaries, not to be complacent, but for us to intensify the prayer, study, spiritual struggle, our participation in the sacraments, in the journey of love and the tradition "in trust" in His person, no matter how many the difficulties are.

Faith shows in the difficulties

Christ admires the centurion's faith. And He sees that the "sons of the Kingdom", they who belonged to His chosen people, did not have this faith, and they were in danger, absorbed by the certainty of their security, in the whatsoever trials, to deny God. But also in the greater trial that they went through, which was the calling for them to give an answer about who in reality the Lord was, they remained in their certainties and lost the path of true salvation, the path of truth, since they preferred to reject Him, crucifying Him!

Complacency gives birth to dangers of weak faith in us also. In the crosses of our life, instead of us leaving ourselves with patience, prayer, trust to the will of God, instead of us seeing our sins, smaller