

Christ as a priority

This is the path of true holiness in our Church. And the message of this dialogue is addressed to our age, which has “many possessions”. Rights and goods. Enjoyments and false senses which make the world be attached to the present world, where everything is measured based on what we have the right to have, and we are not eager either to do prayer for others, or to forgive, or to share. And the saying of Christ is not a utopia. Let us examine where our being is attached, and again see what position Christ takes in it. And there where everything seems “impossible for men”, for God, they are possible. That He help us to produce a spirit of sacrifice, of offering and dedication to His love.

Here lies the deeper change of mindset which we need as a society. Let the center not be the rights, but the sacrifice, the offering, the priority of life, and love for Christ. In the way that each one is able, mainly however, with a humble feeling that we need God’s help.

Fr. T. M

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 2020, 12TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Apodosis of the Feast of the Forerunner, Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople, Phantinos the Righteous of Calabria,. 16 Monk-martyrs of Thebes , 6 Martyrs of Melitene, The Synaxis of the Holy Hierarchs of Serbia, The Holy New Martyrs of Serbia, Fiacre the Hermit of Meaux.

-tone of the week : Third Tone

EOTHINON : First Eothinon

EPISTLE READING : St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 15 : 1 - 11

GOSPEL READING : Matthew 19 : 16 - 26

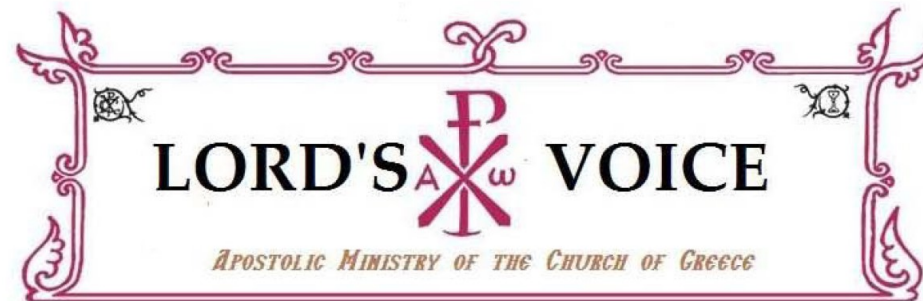
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 2020, 13TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

The Commemoration of the Miracle Wrought by Archangel Michael in Colossae (Chonae, Holy Martyr Calodote.

EPISTLE READING : St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24

GOSPEL READING : Matthew 21:33-42

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THE SPIRITUAL ESTATE

A young man asks Christ how he can become perfect and obtain eternal life. And after Christ ascertains that he is keeping the commandments of the Mosaic law, He will clearly tell him: “if you wish to become perfect, go sell your belongings and give the money to the poor and you will have treasure near God and come follow me”. The rich young man will not speak and will depart saddened, because he had a large estate: “for he had great possessions” (Mt. 19:22).

The rich young man was not senseless as regards the law of God. His interest for eternity near God was not fake. His wealth however, comprised in the end, a much greater obstacle than that which probably he himself could suppose. For this reason also, Christ reveals the secrets of his heart. That He saw his goods as possessions which belong to him. He considered them a necessary addition to his being and his life, without being able to think that these things are separating him from the Kingdom of God.

The steps and the rights

And Christ will be showing this to him with three movements, which He calls him to make. To sell the things that he considers that belong to him. To not keep anything for his own self, from all that he will

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 19: 16 - 26*

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

obtain from the sale, but to distribute them to the poor and to store up treasure in heaven. And to follow Christ on the path of love, of proclaiming the gospel, of the relationship with Him. The rich young man, however, was not only not ready for these three steps, but neither could he examine them as a possibility. The three steps were an abdication from three rights. The first was that he have the goods as his own. The second was that he keep them exclusively for his own self or to distribute them to whoever he wanted and if he wanted. The third was to be seeing his relationship with God as a mechanical relationship of obedience to commandments, traditions, and assurances of recompense.

Christ, on the contrary, shows him that, if he wants to obtain eternal life he needs to abdicate from the three rights. To prove that his greatest priority is not the present life and its goods, but his relationship with God and for the sake of this relationship, to be ready to sacrifice his goods, to abdicate from the rights of having them, not furthermore, to a certain degree, but completely. There is, however, a continuation also. That he distribute whatever goods they offer him, to the poor. The sacrifice does not suffice. The offering is also needed. It does not suffice that he abdicated from the possession and domination over the goods. He also needs to give them, in other words, to show that for him, they do not have any value. And the last step is the complete devotion and dedication to the love of God. That everything in his life become Christ. A love that becomes a journey of life. To follow Christ and to speak, behave, co-suffer, that he exist like Him.

Our own path

This path, if it be limited to the material goods and to the wealth, seems long for most of us. Most of us are not rich, consequently the words of Christ are addressed to others. If however, instead of money, we think of the wealth that each one of us has, as regards the gifts, and the knowledge, every type of one's own thing, family, work, viewpoints, position in society, time, the word of Christ becomes timely for all of us. How ready are we to accept that Christ is the priority of our life and being? To abdicate from every type of goods being our support? That we not lock ourselves into our boasting for these things and in the self-sufficiency that they give, but that we be open in heart to distributing to each one, that which he truly needs? To follow Christ on the path of the gospel? In our own life to show and be living that we want to turn to Him and resemble Him?