

## Let us rejoice with the simple things

This is our culture today. It has transferred the feeling of almightiness not only to the rich people, but also to each person who is attracted by the material goods. It makes man spend day and night in the stores in order to obtain the superfluous things. It does not allow him to understand the big truth: that only love for God and his fellow man gives meaning to our life and makes us defeat death. That our hope has a name: it is our relationship with God and trusting in His will. It is our own path in Church. And despite the fact that we are proven false by materialism, we insist on it. For the existential "whys?" to remain unanswered.

Let us struggle to reverse the path of the impossible. To find the truth that Christ is, and for us to cease being sad for all the material things we do not have. And knowing our boundaries, to find in the end, the hope that through repentance and giving, will make us not inherit, but to give ourselves to the joy of the Kingdom! For us to admire thus, those simple things of life: the beauty of each person, the warmth of giving, the abdication from whatever makes us use the others, not however for us to be truly bound with them. Otherwise, for us to understand and to live what the Church is!

Fr.T. M

### **Sunday, November 29, 2020, 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE,**

*Archippus the Apostle, Philemon the Apostle & his wife, Apphia, Onesimos the Disciple of Paul, Holy Martyr Cecilia and those with her Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple, Kallistos Xanthopoulos, Patriarch of Constantinople Anthimos, President of Crete*

**-tone of the week :** *Plagal Fourth Tone*

**EOTHINON :** *Third Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7*

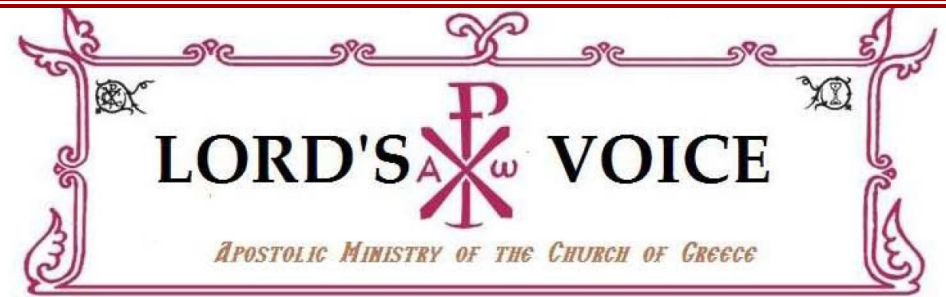
**GOSPEL READING :** *Luke 18:18-27*

### **Sunday, December 06 2020, 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE ,**

*Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra, Nicholas the New Martyr of Asia Minor*

**EPISTLE READING :** *St. Paul's Letter to Hebrews 13:17-21*

**GOSPEL READING :** *Luke 13:10-17*



**68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR NOVEMBER 29 2020 PAMPHLET # 48 (3522)**

## THE RICH MAN AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

It is not frequent for a rich man to have existential worries. To want to have a relationship with God. To be certain that his goods do not suffice for him to see life in the perspective of eternity. To realize the vanity of estates and of money, from the moment when corruption and death will touch him also. To not be defeated by the ease of "let us eat, drink, for tomorrow we die". To love, aside from using. To truly care for the others, from his heart, to believe that his wealth exists in order for him to offer to those who do not have.

### The different wealth

In the Gospel we encounter, aside from the rich people to avoid, also such a rich man. He seeks to inherit eternal life. He has kept the commandments of the Mosaic law. He has, in other words, chosen to keep the word of God, so as to be able to claim the right of communion with Him. He preserved the sense that in a certain manner he must reconcile himself with God. So that his way of life not become an obstacle to eternity. However, it is not certain. And he seeks from Christ the truth about his spiritual condition. How can he inherit, to add to his goods, in other words, the Kingdom of God. The answer that he receives from Christ will sadden him.

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (LUKE 18:18-27)

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For 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." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

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The Lord asks him to abandon all his goods. To sell them and give the money to the poor and to follow him. The rich man could not imagine his life without the goods. And Christ will tell His disciples, for the rich man to also hear Him: "How difficult it is for those who have money to enter the Kingdom of God" (Luke 18:24).

### The characteristics of the materialist

The rich man is the expressor of the materialistic spirit of every age. The materialist feels almighty. With his money and goods as a compass, he proceeds in life with his sole fear being that maybe he will lose his goods. So, for this reason, his main concern is to preserve and increase them. Charity is not in his priorities. He probably has a

difficulty to understand why they don't love him, but he doesn't care. Furthermore, he transports the thought of death to the distant future. His entire life is in the today, because he has whatever he wants.

The materialist has a difficulty discerning and accepting the truth about the meaning of his life. Furthermore, even when he is interested in what God is seeking from him, he lowers God to his own measures. He wants Him to verify that his life is alright. And for this reason, he keeps the commandments of faith, usually superficially. He is not, however, in a position to accept that faith means God should be the priority of life, and not the goods. That the will of God is above our own convictions. From the way even of culture. And the will of God is comprised in the giving of our own self to Him. This truth is harsh for the materialist. It entails a new orientation of his life. The abdication with his will from his almightiness, the exit from the "ego" as the center of his life, the distribution of goods and the following of Christ. The materialist however, is not able to accept this path. And he is sad.

Because the materialist hopes in himself and in his goods, he is not able to hope in God. For him, life is white-black. God, however, gives opportunities to man until the end of his life, and will continue giving also to the materialist, in order to make the impossible possible. The materialist, however, prefers to continue his life as he has oriented it, leaving God aside. Thus, the boundary of repentance becomes smaller. Nothing, however, can be prejudged. The love of God does not lessen. Only that time flows to the detriment of the materialist. And the dependency on the goods, the way of the world, the ego, deprive the opportunity both of the change, as well as of the joy of the new life. From the enlistment on the path that Christ is seeking. That of love, of proclaiming the salvation that is related to Christ in Church, of the orientation to eternity.