

self-surrender to material goods, because in this way, his personality is changed even more, because of his voluntary isolation from the rest of the world, and his existential one-way street that ends in a dead end.

A point of the parable that should not escape our attention, is that the rich man did not know when the Lord would call him, and so he found himself unprepared before Him. Jesus Christ had earlier said that "at a time when you do not think, the Son of Man comes". None of us is in a position to know at what point in time of his life, he will depart. So, we ought to prepare and work in the vigilance of our heart, feeling for our fellow man, our neighbor, so that, as the holy hymn writer exhorts, "that we not remain outside the bridegroom of Christ".

Archim. A. A

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE ,**

*The Forefeast of the Presentation of the Theotokos into te Temple.  
Gregory the Righteous of Decapolis, Proclus the Archbishop of Constantinople.*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 2: 4 - 10*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 12:16 - 21*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Plagal Second Tone*

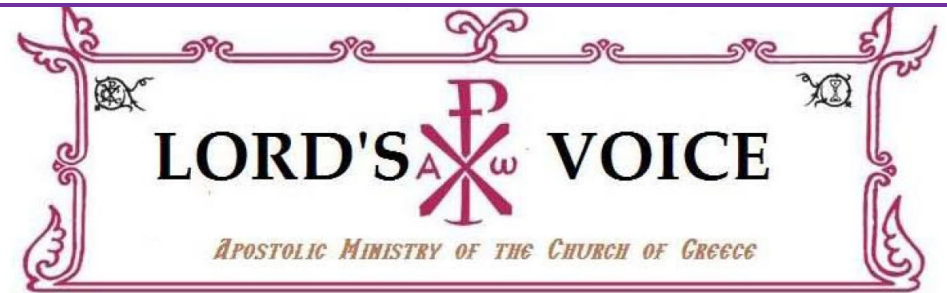
**EOTHINON** : *First Eothinon*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF**

**LUKE.** *James the Great Martyr of Persia, Nathaniel of Nitria & Pinouphrios of Egypt, the Righteous, Gregory of Sinai and his disciple Gerasimos, Arsenios of Rhaxos, James the Wonderworker, Bishop of Rostov .*

**EPISTLE READING:** *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22*

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 8:8 - 17*



70<sup>TH</sup> YEAR November 20 2022 PAMPHLET # 47 (3625)

### WEALTH AS AN OBSTACLE FOR THE KINGDOM

Jesus Christ, during the period of His teaching was strict with those people who had given themselves completely to increasing their wealth. He had, furthermore, referred to their difficulty to enter the Kingdom of God, because of their attachment to material goods and their dependence on luxury. "For it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" (Lk. 18,25).

Our Lord, however, never accused the people who had financial ease, He never opposed those who had wealth. After all, these can be acquired either through work, or from an inheritance, or in other legitimate ways. The subject matter of His teaching did not have a class character and content, as quite a few times, has been wrongly said by people coming from ideological positions, due to a misinterpretation of the Scriptures.

### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READING: LUKE 12:16-21, 8:8

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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### The individual economic rise

On the contrary, the Lord was quite critical of those who did not responsibly manage their wealth, were not interested in their neighbor, and were only concerned with their individual economic rise. In this particular parable, we meet the tragic figure of a man, who was already rich, and whose fields, that is, the wealth, increased greatly. His first and only thought, was to tear down the warehouses, where he collected his harvest, and build bigger ones. In other words, he found a way to store, deposit and save the new riches he acquired.

It would also be worth asking about the high financial cost that such a construction work would possibly have. However, this did not deter the rich man,

who after conceiving the plan for the storage of his new crop, rested his conscience, remaining completely satisfied with the solution he had worked out. However, God called him to the next life that same night, and everything that he had acquired on this earth, did not follow him there.

### Constant vigilance

It is clear that the Lord is once again aiming at the person's train of thought, who is trapped in material goods, and in the accumulation of wealth. In fact, it highlights the darkness that covers the human mind, which has allowed mammon to nest his heart, with the result that he makes decisions that lead him to more and more machinations, sky plots, confinement in his microcosm, and to unrestrained individualism. It is exactly this that we hear more and more often, in today's age: "That I be doing well". But the question that arises is: "At what cost?" And what is the benefit after all?".

Jesus, after teaching the Lord's Prayer, had said: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where you moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). Also, a short time before His sacrifice on the cross, He asked His disciples: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). No one is benefited by complete