

more gifts we have, the greater our agony and our responsibility to serve our brothers.

We received the gifts for free from the Creator, and we must offer them freely to people. Then they are multiplied a hundredfold by God and become an inexhaustible source of offering and love towards man. The greatest talent is our offering to God and to people. To God we offer worship and prayer, and to people, practical love. Attention, diligence, industriousness and activity are needed from us, so that the blessing of Christ will come, which will fill our lives with joy, advancement and happiness.

Archim. E. L

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 , 2024. 16TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW *Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia Theodora the Empress , Finding of the relics of Zachariah the Prophet, Father of the Holy Forerunner , George the Serbian*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 25:14-30*

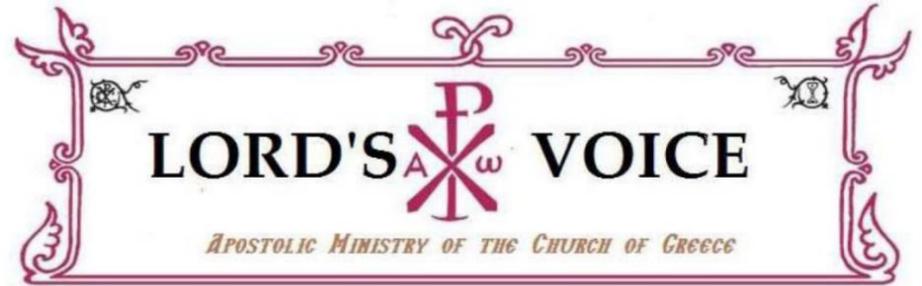
STONE OF THE WEEK : *Third Tone*

ETHNON : *Third Eothinon*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 , 2024. SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE, *Leo the Great, Pope of Rome, Agapetus the Confessor, Bishop of Sinai, Flavian the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople.*

EPISTLE READING : *St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18*

GOSPEL READING : *Matthew 15:21-28*



72ST YEAR FEBRUARY 11 2024 PAMPHLET # 6 (3689)

TALENT, THE WEALTH OF CHRISTIANS

Talants or talents are words that we are all interested in order to acquire them. As Christ assures us in today's gospel passage, talents are not the acquisition of only privileged people or saints, but they were given and are given to all people in proportion with the powers, the abilities that everyone has to utilize and multiply them. The Lord is generous to all of us, however, He awaits our own participation and response.

However, immediately after reading the parable, a question is born in us: What purpose do the talents and abilities that God gives us, serve? We see how some people are cultivated by them spiritually, and others are harmed by them.

The value of talents

Today we live in a society where the talants or talents that God gives, lead most people to the acquisition of wealth, power and publicity. This multiplication of talents - leads them to spiritual death through arrogance and conceit. Without Christ, the talents, that is, the possibilities and abilities we possess, result in vanity and an existential void. As soon as these are lost, in the first test, everyone departs, and the talented egotists are left alone

and live in the misery of insecurity. Of course, it does not mean that we will not accept God's gift and we will not strive to

GOSPEL READING : (MATTHEW 25:14-30))

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who

has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep

and gnash their teeth." As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

multiply the gifts He gave us. This will be ingratitude and rashness. Let's think about the possibility of if the Holy Three Hierarchs had not cultivated their talents. If the great ascetics had remained indolent, such as Saints Anthony and Savvas. If Saints Damascene and Gregory Palamas had not written hymns and theological texts. If the great martyr Saints Demetrius and George had not endured the martyrdoms.

Talent management

However, there is a difference in the management and exercise of the talents -

The Christian uses God's gifts and multiplies them only to glorify God's name. He knows that everything is given by Him and without Christ, he can lose everything from one moment to the next. Everything belongs to God and to Him they must return. The person who believes that the talents are the gifts that were given by God, and he must manage them properly, does not seek publicity or wealth. He does not fight people in order to rise. He does not want hollow praise and applause. He cultivates the talents, to be freed from the passions, to find a solution to life's impasses, in order to glorify God and serve people.

More talent, more responsibility

If we do not give our talents to the ministry of our brothers, who need us, then we will be like the servant who buried the talent, in order to hand it over to his Master. We will have his course, that is, we will live in the darkness of misery. The