



72<sup>nd</sup> Year

October 13, 2024

Pamphlet #41 (3724)

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## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 8:5-15)**

### **The spreading of the word of God**

*The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

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## **THE SOWING OF THE WORD OF GOD**

The Parable of the Sower deals with the mystery of the Kingdom of God and proclaims the word of God.

The seed is the word of God. From the moment of sowing until the time of the harvest, a considerable amount of time passes. This time is very significant as it shows, on the one hand, that God gives everyone time to cultivate the word of God in their hearts and make it fruitful, and on the other hand, the eschatological dimension of the parable, as the harvest is the image of the final judgment and the eternal kingdom of God. Additionally, the fact that the seed is sown in the ground and gives the impression of being lost, symbolizes the Resurrection of the Lord, leading to the common Resurrection at the time of the eschatological harvest.

### **The word of God**

The word of God, in other words, the preaching of the Church, is not just a teaching, but it is the active intervention of God in human affairs. Therefore, it is "living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword." It is the word of life, the word of salvation, the word of reconciliation, and the word of grace. Therefore, it is always relevant.

### **The "weakness" of the divine word**

However, the word of the Church, due to the sin of the world, appears in weakness, emptied of its divine brilliance, handed over to sinners and the crucified. The daily concerns of this age, as the sacred Chrysostom characteristically says, the untimely despondencies and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the spiritual seed, making it unfruitful. So let us heed the word of the Lord who said: "Whoever loves me will keep my commandments; my Father will love him, and I too will love him and reveal myself to him." (John 14:21) Do we see, Saint Mark

the Ascetic observes, "how Christ has hidden His revelation within His commandments? Of all the virtues, the one that encompasses all is love for God and neighbor, which stems from detachment from material things and the tranquility of thoughts."

## **The study of the divine word**

All of us must study the Holy Scriptures daily. The study of the divine word is not a mere exercise, but an integral part of spiritual life that transforms our daily life into a living study of the Son and Word of God. The study of the Holy Scriptures guides the battle and the progress of the soul and makes our soul... "ecclesiastical and God-taught." (Saint Clement of Alexandria) According to Saint Nilus, the hunger for the Scriptures is the measure of our spiritual being and is the light of the soul. The Fathers teach us how we should be nourished by the seeds of life contained in the Holy Scripture, just as we do by partaking in the Divine Eucharist. This is why Saint Gregory the Theologian likens the reading of the Scriptures to the eating of the Paschal Lamb.

## **Word and ethos**

How charming are the words of Saint John of Carpathia, who combines word with ethos, faith with deeds: "Prayer, psalms, vigilance, humility, service to one's neighbor and mercy, thanksgiving and listening to the divine words become an ambush, a trap, a pit, a scourge, a noose, and nets for the devil."

Let us pray to become "doers of the word and not hearers only." (James 1:22) If this happens, then God will bless, and the adoption of grace will come, radiating sanctification in daily life, so that our lives may become blessed; a life with a loving relationship with God.

October 13, 2024: 4th Sunday of Luke

The God-bearing Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council in Nicaea (787),  
Carpus, Papyrus, Agathodorus, & Agathonica, the Martyrs of Pergamus  
(†251), Chryssi the New Martyr of Molgeni (†1795),  
Meletios of Pegas, Patriarch of Alexandria

Grave Tone – Eothinon: 5 – Epist: Titus 3:8-15 – Gosp: Luke 8:5-15

NEXT SUNDAY: October 20, 6th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2 – Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

## SEMINAR FOR THE TRAINING OF CATECHISTS

The Apostolic Ministry, aiming to better equip those who assist in the catechetical and parish work of our Church, continues the operation of the Catechist Training Seminar.

- For more information, those interested can address:
  - The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry tel. 210-727-2347-348 (Mon-Fri 8am-2pm)
  - E-Mail: [katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr)
  - The Apostoliki Diakonia Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>
  - The website [www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr](http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr), in the section “ΠΟΙΟΙ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ” and the subsection “ΤΟΜΕΑΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΣΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑΣ”, in which the educational-catechetical activities of the Office of Catechism are described.

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*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 Phanariou, Agathangelos. Editorial office, tel. 210.7272.331. Processing, tel. 210.7272.388. Through the holy churches, it is distributed free of charge. From the Printing Office of the Apostolic Ministry.

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