



72nd Year

October 27, 2024

Pamphlet #43 (3726)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 8:41-56)

Faith as a prerequisite for our encounter with Christ

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she

is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

MAN'S COMFORT

Christ has always been and remains the constant comfort of every person. He dispels all sorrow and transforms every human pain. No one has loved man as deeply as Christ or freed him from the fear of his mortal limits as Christ has.

On His way to Jairus' house, as the Gospel reading of the 7th Sunday of Luke recounts, the miracle of the hemorrhaging woman's healing took place. For twelve years, she suffered from a continuous flow of blood. Due to her illness, she was excluded from social and religious life as unclean. In her despair, she approached Christ, touched the hem of His garment, and she immediately became well.

Our encounter with Christ

We must underline many things here. To begin with, we must admire the woman's hope and daring. She overcame all the social and religious norms and grabbed Christ's garment. At a time when she was barred from entering the synagogue, she approached the true Life, Christ, and there she found her healing. The Lord accepts this daring because He sees beyond appearances and into the depths of man's heart. He knows the spirit of the Law and breaks the barrier of ritualism. Thus, He showed us that for man to meet Christ requires bravery and boldness, something we see in the lives of the saints. When we rest on the sterile and dry execution of certain religious duties

and feel self-sufficient, we cannot enjoy the sober intoxication of communion with God.

The Priority of Sincerity

Faith is an event that shakes human existence and is not limited to discovering and accepting God. It is primarily built on the redemptive dialogue between man and the foundation of our existence, which is God. The restriction of faith to certain formal provisions and the disregard of true religious experience were the dominant spiritual phenomena that intensely prevailed among the Israelites during the time of Christ. Today, the Lord breaks this spiritual deviation of formalistic and superficial religiosity and emphasizes with His behavior the priority of sincere faith and true experience.

The Essence of the Gospel Message

In Christian faith, the focus of spiritual life is placed on the essence of the gospel message. When the essence of faith is ignored and only the form is preserved, faith becomes meaningless, leading us to formalism, which ultimately results in idolatry, giving priority and authority to secondary elements and overlooking the essential imperatives of faith.

Often, people lean towards superficial religiosity, satisfied with merely performing external and formal acts, and thus remain detached from the experience of Christian life. However, when the essence of faith is preserved in its genuine and complete form, then the form helps maintain this essence and is not dismissed.

In short, Christians must be sincere and authentic in their faith and discerning in expressing their inner experience. The more one delves deeper into spiritual life, the more he becomes capable of evaluating and prioritizing the essence and core of his faith.

October 27, 2024: 7th Sunday of Luke

Nestor the Martyr († 326). Procla, the wife of Pontius Pilate

1st Tone – Eothinon: 7 – Epistle: 2 Cor. 9:6-11 – Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

NEXT SUNDAY: November 3, 5th Sunday of Luke
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 – Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

SEMINAR FOR THE TRAINING OF CATECHISTS

The Apostolic Ministry, aiming to better prepare those who assist in the catechetical and parish work of our Church, continues offering 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
 - The Apostoliki Diakonia Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>
 - The website 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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