



74<sup>th</sup> Year

March 29, 2026

Pamphlet #13 (3800)

---

## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Mark 10:32-45)**

### **Do you know what you are asking?**

*At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among*

*you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

---

## **THE SANCTIFICATION OF MAN**

As we draw closer to the end of Holy Great Lent, the Church helps us ever more through divine worship, through her word, and through the sacred figures of the Saints whom she sets before us, so that we may be initiated into the immaculate Passion, the Cross, and the Resurrection of the Lord. One of these holy figures is Saint Mary of Egypt, whose feast we celebrate today. From her life we learn the transforming power of repentance. She fell into the dark abyss of licentiousness; yet, by the infinite love of God, through the power of the Precious Cross and the intercession of the Theotokos, she was deemed worthy to reach the highest degree of sanctification.

The Gospel passage that is read today in our churches teaches every believer the path, the way, by which one may approach the Lord and be filled with His sanctification, His life-giving Grace, His light, and His divine life.

### **Jesus Christ, "the Ruler of Life"**

In the prayer of the holy Anaphora during the Divine Liturgy, we confess that God is incomprehensible, invisible, and beyond understanding; equally incomprehensible are His love, His mercy, and His compassion. This very divine love is revealed in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His ministry to man. "The Son of Man," says the Lord, "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for all." Therefore, the more the believer accepts that God, through His incarnate Son in the Holy Spirit, calls man into communion and a relationship of life, the more deeply he experiences the offering, the ministry, and the sacrifice of Christ on behalf of the entire race of Adam, that is, of the whole of humanity. And when a person, to the extent of his abilities, becomes aware of the love of Christ, he is

flooded with the holiness of God, with the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit, and is taught to entrust himself to the Lord through faith and spiritual struggle, so that he too may contribute to the manifestation of the Glory of God and become a servant of his fellow men, “for whom Christ died” (cf. Romans 14:15), a servant of their salvation, of the fulfillment of the ultimate purpose of their life, that is, their deification.

### **Self-love as the dissolution of love**

In the passage before us, the Lord foretells to His disciples His saving Passion, His death on the Cross and His Resurrection on the third day. At that time, the disciples were unable to comprehend that through His Passion, Christ would offer redemption to the people of God, the new Israel of grace. For this reason, they ask Him for honors and positions, since they believed that as Christ went up to Jerusalem, He would expel the Roman occupiers and restore the kingdom of David. It is painful to speak to your disciples about the Cross and death, and for them to be unable to grasp the depth of what is being said, while their minds are set on worldly honors and kingdoms. Yet the love of Christ, being incomprehensible and beyond all comparison, surrounds them with understanding and gentleness and helps them to partake in the apparent weakness of His sacrifice, which is in fact the revelation of the power of God.

Self-love, rather than service, usually drives a person to seek positions of authority, not in order to serve, but to be served; not to sacrifice himself, but to sacrifice others on the altar of his ambitions and of the lust for power. Unfortunately, people today have deified individualism and egocentrism; they do not hesitate to use and exploit others, especially the weaker ones, in order to pursue their own aims. In this way, love is dismantled, “the Gospel is rendered inactive,” despised is the spirit of Christ, who calls us to transform self-love into love for God and love for man.

## The overturning of the human way of viewing things

Through His own example, Christ helps man to overcome his egotism and to transform it into modesty, meekness, service, sacrifice, and therefore true love. For this reason, He says: "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant; and whoever among you wishes to be first must be the servant of all." A person becomes truly great when he is a bearer of the great love of God and when he offers this love as sacrifice, service, forgiveness, and understanding to his fellow man. It is precisely this kind of greatness that our age has an absolute need for.

Archimandrite N. K.

---

March 29, 2026: 5th Sunday of Lent (Saint Mary of Egypt)

Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt. Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Cyril the Deacon, and those who were with them († 364).

1st Tone – Eothinon: 9 – Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14  
– Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

NEXT SUNDAY: April 5, Palm Sunday  
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 – Gospel: John 12:1-18

---

Follow the Program of the Radio Station of the Church of Greece:

**[www.ecclesia.gr](http://www.ecclesia.gr)**

---

*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.

---

The *VOICE OF THE LORD* worldwide via the Internet:

**[www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr](http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr)**

---