LORD'S VOICE
APOSTOLIC MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

74th Year November 8, 2026 Pamphlet #45 (3832)

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.

CHRIST, THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

As the Evangelist Luke relates, after the healing of the demoniac of the Gerasenes, the Lord returned to Galilee, where He was welcomed by crowds of people. Among them was a ruler of the synagogue, that is, the chief official of the synagogue, whose name was Jairus. With pain of soul, he fell at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, because his only daughter, about twelve years old, was at the point of death. And while they were on their way there, news came that she had died. The Lord then addressed her father and said to him: "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she shall be saved." Having arrived at the house, He restored life to Jairus' young daughter and raised her from the dead.

From fear to faith

The resurrection, a reality beyond human comprehension, the overcoming of death and of the fear of the unknown, are gifts bestowed upon humanity by the incarnate Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church accepts with simplicity, faith, and "singleness of heart" the Gospel accounts of the raising of the dead, which foreshadow the Resurrection of Christ Himself. Faith in Christ's Resurrection likewise grants us certainty concerning our own resurrection: our participation in eternal life, in the Kingdom of God, "whose kingdom shall have no end."

Christ urges the father in our Gospel passage not to be afraid, provided that he believes and entrusts everything to Him,

the Savior and Redeemer of mankind. The Lord's exhortation, "Do not be afraid," calls to mind those occasions in which God Himself, or His holy angels, appeared in the Old and New Testaments. For example, God says, "Do not be afraid," to the Patriarchs of the Old Testament when He reveals Himself to them in order to announce His promises (Genesis 15:1, 26:24). "Do not be afraid," Christ says to His disciples when, terrified, they saw Him walking upon the sea; and the Archangel Gabriel says, "Do not be afraid," to the Virgin Mary in Nazareth when he announces to her that she will give birth to the Son of God (Luke 1:30). Jairus experienced the fear of death, the mystery of faith, and the manifestation of God's power, for he saw his daughter return to life through the authority that Christ possesses over death. Therefore, the presence of Christ in his life was a Theophany; a revelation of the ultimate meaning of life and death, a meaning that is found in the Person of the Lord, in His word, and in His Divinity.

Faith as the self-surrender of man to divine love

The more a person entrusts himself to God, the more he acquires the experience that faith is life, growth, a journey, truth, a source of creativity, sanctification, grace, and illumination. Faith shapes the whole personality of man according to Christ. It forms the character of one who seeks to live in accordance with the holy commandments of the Gospel, regarding them as the highest criterion of his conscience.

For this reason, Saint John Chrysostom insists not only on acquiring and cultivating faith, but also on a right manner of life: "Faith is a great and saving good," he says, "and without it no one can ever be saved. Yet it is not able to accomplish this by itself, but also requires a right manner of life." In the case of Jairus, the righteousness of his life is expressed through his obedience to Christ's command, which transcends human reasoning, through his fearlessness and his trust in the Lord.

Existence as a gift of God

The person of God, enlightened by the light of faith and the teaching of the Gospel, comes to recognize that existence is a gift, a grace, and a benefaction from God. This realization floods his heart with gratitude and love toward the Lord of Glory. It springs from the awareness that the Holy Spirit of God liberates man from the fear of death, granting him the true life, hope, freedom, and love for all people, even for his enemies, a love which is a foretaste of immortality.

Archimandrite N. K.

November 8, 2026: 7th SUNDAY OF LUKE

Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel
and of the Other Bodiless Powers

Pl. 2nd Tone – Eothinon: 1 – Epistle: Hebrews 2:2-10
– Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

NEXT SUNDAY: November 15, 8th Sunday of Luke
Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 – Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

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