



72<sup>nd</sup> Year

November 24, 2024

Pamphlet #47 (3730)

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## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 18:18-27)**

### **Observance of God's commandments**

*At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."*

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## **THE INHERITANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

A certain Jewish ruler asked Christ, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" The Lord, knowing well what usually binds a person firmly to the earth, replied, "You lack one thing: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure near God; and afterwards, follow me."

After hearing this, he became very sad and left, unable to follow the Lord's direction. This man had made the attainment of eternal life the goal of his life. He was sure that he was walking the path leading to this life, because he was satisfied with his observance of certain basic commandments of the Mosaic Law. However, the Law of the Old Testament is fulfilled in Christ, who asks for the self-surrender of the person. Thus, when the moment came for him to choose between God and the material goods that hold him captive to the earth, he does not sacrifice anything for God.

### **Spiritual delusion**

Perhaps this man did not expect things to unfold this way. He was living in a state of spiritual delusion. His holy intentions to inherit eternal life were diametrically opposed to his egocentric pursuits. The ruler desired perfection but built it on his wealth. If he wanted eternal life, it was to enjoy what he had and possessed on earth. Therefore, his religiosity covered only a part of his life, the one that was visible externally, and not the whole of it. This is why at the critical moment of decision, created by the Lord, he abandons and leaves.

Our spiritual effort is not defined only by hearing God's word and following certain commandments. It is projected and clarified as a process of creating a new, renewed life. Thus, our problem is not merely to become better than we are at a given moment, but to overcome the illness of spiritual inadequacy, to experience the good transformation, and to become a new creation. Without a doubt, to the Gospel of Christ, we say "Yes!" However, we also say "yes" to the things we desire. This dichotomy results in a spiritual life to the point of delusion.

### **The power of God**

An authentic Christian should always be a person who is vigilant and concerned, living in a state of compunctionate uncertainty.

After all, who would dare claim that he is certain of a place in the Kingdom of God? What seems difficult and impossible for man, however, to be wholly dedicated to God, is possible by the Grace of God. So long as we desire it.

† F. A.

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## **WISE COUNSELS FOR PROPER CHILD-REARING**

Parents should live Christian lives and be mindful of their behavior, because their young children, even before they can speak, start recording everything they see and hear in their home, like little computers. If they constantly see their parents arguing, fighting, cursing one another, and saying ugly words, these young children, like blank tapes, will record it all inside them. When they grow older, having inherited, without intention, all the passionate states from their parents, they too will start to argue and curse with all the same words they heard from their parents.

So, in this way, they "inherit" all the passionate states, and later on, when they realize their mistake, it will take effort to uproot them. The greatest help and best legacy parents can give their children is to make them receivers of their natural goodness from an early age. This doesn't require much effort because young children, whose tapes are empty of any good or bad content, fill them with the images of the closest environment, which is the parents. So, if the young child sees their parents loving each other, speaking kindly, being sensible, joyful, praying humbly, etc., then like a "carbon copy" they will imprint these behaviors onto their own souls, filling them with the positive content of their parents. Children must be approached with kindness, as today's children have a lot of egotism and do not respond well at all to scolding. If they are scolded, their souls immediately fill with thoughts, and they cannot see that we are scolding them for their good, because we love them and are concerned. And he continued: We must "bind"

them to God and develop their conscience, that they need to do what is good.

(From the book of the Apostolic Ministry,  
*Anthology of Counsels of Saint Paisios the Haghiorite*)

November 24, 2024: 13th Sunday of Luke

Clement, Bishop of Rome († 101), Peter of Alexandria († 311),  
Hermogenes and Philomenos the Martyrs

Pl. 1st Tone – Eothinon: 11 – Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 –  
Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

NEXT SUNDAY: December 1, 14th Sunday of Luke  
Epistle: Ephesians 4:4-10 – Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

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