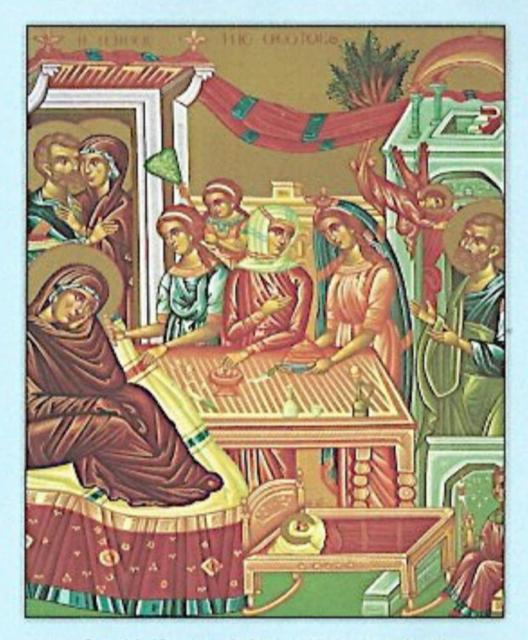


THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 4th, 2016 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Nativity of the Mother of God -- September 8th

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280 Web site: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org E-mail: info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

BRETHREN, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Πρός Κορινθίους α' 9:2-12

Προκείμενον. Ήχος β΄. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ίσγύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Αδέλφοί, ή σφραγίς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ. Ἡ ἐμὴ ἀπολογία τοῖς ἐμὲ ἀνακρίνουσιν αὕτη ἐστίν. Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν φαγεῖν καὶ πιεῖν; Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν ἀδελφὴν γυναῖκα περιάγειν, ὡς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἀπόστολοι, καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοῦ κυρίου, καὶ Κηφᾶς; Ἡ μόνος ἐγὼ καὶ Βαρνάβας οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ μὴ ἐργάζεσθαι; Τίς στρατεύεται ἰδίοις ὀψωνίοις ποτέ; Τίς φυτεύει ἀμπελῶνα, καὶ ἐκ τοῦ καρποῦ αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐσθίει; Ἡ τίς ποιμαίνει ποίμνην, καὶ ἐκ τοῦ γάλακτος τῆς ποίμνης οὐκ ἐσθίει; Μὴ κατὰ ἄνθρωπον ταῦτα λαλῶ; Ἡ οὐχὶ καὶ ὁ νόμος ταῦτα λέγει; Ἐν γὰρ τῷ Μωϋσέως νόμῳ γέγραπται, Οὐ φιμώσεις βοῦν ἀλοῶντα. Μὴ τῶν βοῶν μέλει τῷ θεῷ; Ἡ δι' ἡμᾶς πάντως λέγει; Δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγράφη, ὅτι ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ὀφείλει ὁ ἀροτριῶν ἀροτριᾶν, καὶ ὁ ἀλοῶν τῆς ἐλπίδος αὐτοῦ μετέχειν ἐπ' ἐλπίδι. Εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῖν τὰ πνευματικὰ ἐσπείραμεν, μέγα εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῶν τὰ σαρκικὰ θερίσομεν; Εὶ ἄλλοι τῆς ἐξουσίας ὑμῶν μετέχουσιν, οὺ μᾶλλον ἡμεῖς; Αλλ' οὐκ ἐχρησάμεθα τῆ ἐξουσία ταύτη, ἀλλὰ πάντα στέγομεν, ἵνα μὴ ἐγκοπήν τινα δῶμεν τῷ εὐαγγελίφ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

11th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel according to Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

11th Sunday of Matthew Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 18:23-35

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τήν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ώμοιώθη ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ, ος ἡθέλησε συνᾶραι λόγον μετὰ τῶν δούλων αὐτοῦ. ἀρξαμένου δὲ αὐτοῦ συναίρειν προσηνέχθη αὐτῷ εἶς ὀφειλέτης μυρίων ταλάντων. μὴ ἔχοντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἀποδοῦναι ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ πραθῆναι καὶ τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ τέκνα καὶ πάντα ὅσα εἶχε, καὶ ἀποδοθῆναι. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ δοῦλος προσεκύνει αὐτῷ λέγων· κύριε, μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοι ἀποδώσω. σπλαγχνισθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος τοῦ δούλου ἐκείνου ἀπέλυσεν αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ δάνειον ἀφῆκεν αὐτῷ. ἐξελθὼν δὲ ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος εὖρεν ἔνα τῶν συνδούλων αὐτοῦ, ος ἄφειλεν αὐτῷ ἐκατὸν δηνάρια, καὶ κρατήσας αὐτὸν ἔπνιγε λέγων· ἀπόδος μοι εἴ τι ὀφείλεις. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ σύνδουλος αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν λέγων· μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ ἀποδώσω σοι. ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἤθελεν, ἀλλὰ ἀπελθὼν ἔβαλεν αὐτὸν εἰς φυλακὴν ἕως οὖ ἀποδῷ τὸ ὀφειλόμενον. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ σύνδουλοι αὐτοῦ τὰ γενόμενα ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες διεσάφησαν τῷ κυρίῳ ἑαυτῶν πάντα τὰ γενόμενα. τότε προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ λέγει αὐτῷ· δοῦλε πονηρέ, πᾶσαν τὴν ὀφειλὴν ἐκείνην ἀφῆκά σοι, ἐπεὶ παρεκάλεσάς με. οὐκ ἔδει καὶ σὲ ἐλεῆσαι τὸν σύνδουλόν σου, ὡς καὶ ἐγώ σε ἡλέησα; καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν τοῖς βασανισταῖς ἔως οὖ ἀποδῷ πᾶν τὸ ὀφειλόμενον αὐτῷ. Οὕτω καὶ ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐπουράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν, ἐὰν μὴ ἀφῆτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ὑμῶν τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν.

THIS WEEK:

Today: September 04th, Divine Liturgy of the Prophet **MOSES** 10:30 A.M.

UP - COMING SPECIAL HOLY DAYS:

Thursday September 08th NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 9:30 A.M.

Divine Liturgy and Artoklasia

Tuesday September 13th, Great Vesper of **HOLY CROSS** Elevation 7:00 A.M.

Celebrated at our sister **BAY RIDGE** Parish Solemn Street Procession with the **HOLY CROSS**

Solemin Street Procession with the HOLY

commencing at 8:30 P.M.

Wednesday September 14th, DIVINE LITURGY of HOLY CROSS at THREE HIERARCHS

with the procession of the Sacred Relic of the

CROSS with veneration by all.

Artoklasies are most welcomed for those with special intentions.

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR: A delight of French croissants and chocolate pastry is being hosted today through the thoughtful generosity and thanksgiving of MS.MELINDA NAMATH, A relatively new member of the 'parish'. THANKYOU.

THIS WEEK-END is the National Observance of LABOR DAY, HERALDING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE SUMMER AND the harbinger of autumn. may we wish everyone a happy, healthful and most importantly a SAFE HOLIDAY experience from Thursday through Monday. Try and find an Orthodox church in the area where you may be vacationing during these days. Pay a visit on Sunday and inform the pastor priest where you come from and extend the greetings of THREE HIERARCHS PARISH to them! It's such a treat to visit other parishes and experience the fellowship of prayer. LET US KNOW WHERE YOU WENT AND WHO YOU MET..... it's a fun thing to do.

ASIA MINOR HOLOCAUST: Sunday – September 18th (see flyer) The Annual Memorial Tribute will be graced by Bishop Sebastian of the a Archdiocese with guest homilist" Constantine S. Sirigos (Hellenic American Institute).

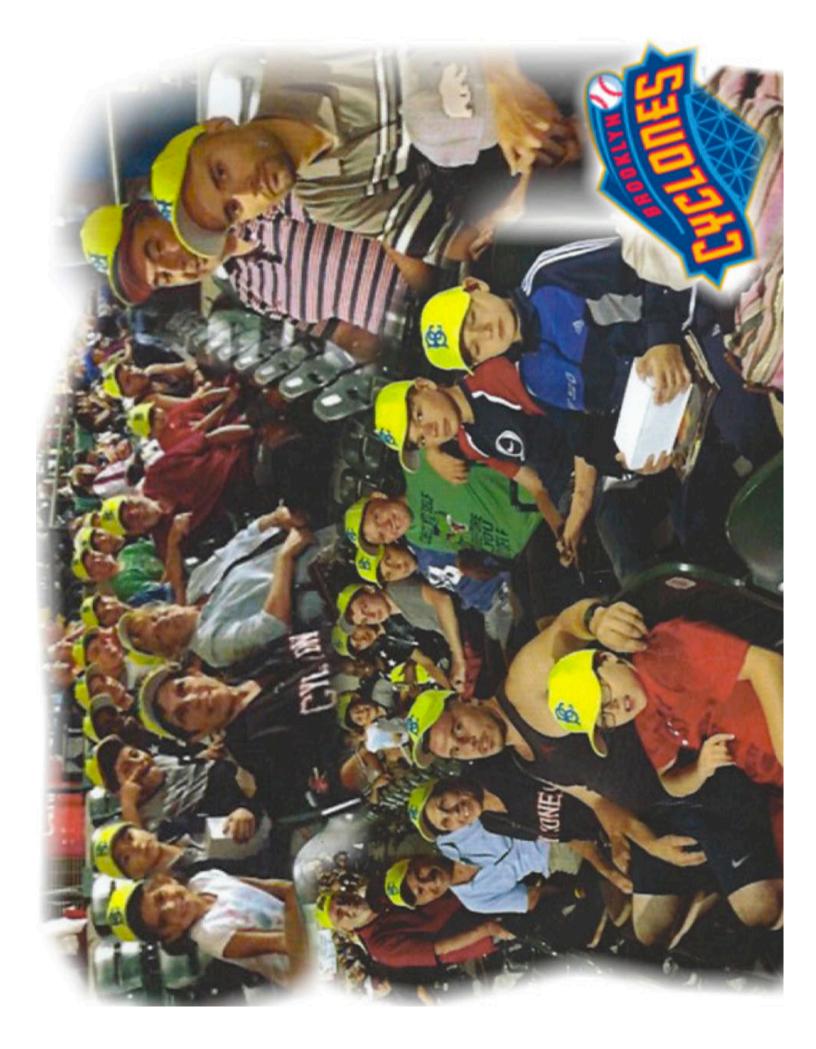
HOLY CROSS: Artoklasies are most welcome. Please inform the Church Office of your intentions, for proper instruction and direction for the 'feast'.

CENTERFOLD: CYCLONES' BASEBALL was a smashing victory up to the twelfth inning as the Brooklyn team won 2-1. Fireworks lighted up the sky at 10:15 P.M. heralding 'nike' for the 22 Three Hierarchs sports – lovers! The altar boys started the evening with hot dogs, fries and cold sodas at PAUL'S on the BOARDWALK. The **photos** tell the rest of the story. The Sunday birthday–pizza – party was 'finger–licking' good for everyone.

BASILIKO PLANTS: are most welcomed for the Feast of Holy Cross as sprigs of the sweet fragrant plant are distributed to the faithful on SEPTEMBER 14TH. Cuttings are also welcomed for distribution after the blessing and veneration of the Sacred Relic and Cross.

THREE HIERARCHS U.P.K. OBSERVATION REPORT from the City of New York earned ABOVE AVERAGE RATING in overall score to program structure. Hence we have ONE of the BEST U.P.K. PROGRAMS IN THE city. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR GRAND-CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE IN SEPTEMBER THAT CAN BE ENROLLED? This program 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. DAILY --- is TUITION FREE. There is no COST to the parents. It is a service offered by the city department of education. SIGN UP NOW! SEND US YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS: and we will send the weekly bulletin to your home. Going to Greece? Show the bulletin to your family in your old home town. What a treat.....and it's FREE! Call the office 718 339-0280 and speak to Effie.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 18TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER. The website address. W.W.W.gaepis.org (Click live audio)









«Έγενόμην έν Πνεύματι έν τῆ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρα καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ' - "Έτος ΑΓ' Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλλου 1966 Κυριακή ΙΑ΄ Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 18,23-35) 4 Σεπτεμβρίου 2016 Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἡ μακροθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ

«Κύριε, μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοι ἀποδώσω» (Ματθ. 18,26)

Παραβολή, άγαπητοί μου, ποὺ περιέχει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο τῆς σημερινῆς Κυριακῆς, εἶνε ἡ γνωστὴ παραβολὴ τοῦ ὀφειλέτου τῶν «μυρίων ταλάντων» (Μπε. 18,24). Στὴν παραβολὴ αὐτὴ ὁ Κύριος, ὡς ἄριστος ζωγράφος, ζωγραφίζει δύο εἰκόνες. Στὴν πρώτη εἰκόνα βλέπουμε τὴ φιλανθρωπία καὶ τὴ μακροθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἐνῷ στὴν ἄλλη βλέπουμε τὴν ἀσπλαχνία καὶ τὴν ἀμότητα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Διδακτικές, πολύ διδακτικές καὶ οἱ δύο εἰκόνες τῆς παραβολῆς. Ἀλλὰ ἐμεῖς, ἀφοῦ στὸ σύντομο αὐτὸ κήρυγμα δὲν μποροῦμε νὰ ἐξετάσουμε καὶ τὶς δύο, θὰ περιοριστοῦμε στὴ μία μόνο. Θὰ ἀρκεσθοῦμε νὰ ῥίξουμε γιὰ λίγο τὰ βλέμματά μας στὴν πρώτη εἰκόνα, γιὰ νὰ θαυμάσουμε σ' αὐτὴν τὴ μακροθυμία καὶ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Στὴν εἰκόνα αὐτὴ βλέπουμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἔνα δοῦλο κάποιου βασιλιᾶ – φαντασθῆτε πῶς ἦταν οἱ δοῦλοι τῆς ἀρχαίας ἐποχῆς.

Βρίσκεται στὰ γραφεῖα τῶν ἀνακτόρων τοῦ βασιλιᾶ. Ἐκεῖ ἀνοίγουν γιὰ τὸν κάθε χρεώστη τὰ λογιστικὰ βιβλία καὶ βλέπουν τὰ χρέη του. Ἔτσι καὶ γιὰ τὸν δοῦλο αὐτὸν οἱ γραμματεῖς σκύβουν στὰ κατάστιχα, ἐρευνοῦν τοὺς λογαριασμούς, ἀθροίζουν τὸ «δοῦναι» καὶ τὸ «λαβεῖν», γίνεται ἡ σύγκρισι, καὶ στὸ τέλος ἀκούγεται ξερὰ ἔνας ἀριθμός. Μόλις ἀκούγεται τὸ νούμερο, ὁ δοῦλος ἀρχίζει νὰ τρικλίζει. Πέφτει ἀμέσως κατὰ γῆς, προσκυνάει τὸ βασιλιᾶ, φιλάει τὰ πόδια του, κλαίει καὶ τὸν παρακαλεῖ ἐξουθενωμένος.

Τί συνέβη; ρωτάμε κ' έμεῖς μὲ ἀγωνία καθὼς βλέπουμε τὸ δοῦλο σὲ τέτοια ἐλεεινὴ κατάστασι. Καὶ τότε ἀπὸ τοὺς ὑπαλλήλους τοῦ λογιστηρίου μαθαίνουμε τὰ ἐξῆς.

Αὐτός, ποὺ βλέπετε σ' αὐτὴ τὴν κατάστασι, εἶνε χρεώστης. Έχει δανειστῆ ἀπὸ τὸ βασιλικὸ ταμεῖο σὲ διάφορες χρονικὲς περιόδους μεγάλα χρηματικά ποσά. Άλλα μέχρι τώρα δὲν ἐξώφλησε τίποτε: μόνο ἔπαιρνε, δὲν φιλοτιμήθηκε ποτέ νὰ δώση κάτι ἔναντι τοῦ ποσού τού δανείου του. Ό χρόνος περνούσε κι αύτὸς άδιαφοροῦσε. Τέλος πῆρε κλῆσι νὰ παρουσιαστή καὶ νὰ λογαριαστή μὲ τὸ βασιλιά· στρατιώτες τὸν ἔπιασαν καὶ τὸν ἔφεραν έδῶ στὰ γραφεῖα. Μετρήθηκε τὸ χρέος του μὲ λεπτομέρεια καὶ ἀκρίβεια. Καὶ δυστυχῶς βρέθηκε νὰ εἶνε «οφειλέτης μυρίων ταλάντων»(ξά): χρωστάει ένα ποσὸ πολλῶν έκατομμυρίων. Τὸν καλοῦν νὰ τὸ ἐξοφλήση, μὰ ποῦ νὰ βρῆ τὰ χρήματα; τὰ ἔχει σπαταλήσει ὅλα. Δηλώνει ἀδυναμία ν' ἀποπληρώση τὸ δάνειο. Καὶ ὁ βασιλιᾶς τώρα, ὅπως ἔχει δικαίωμα, διατάζει νὰ πουληθοῦν κι αὐτὸς ὁ ἴδιος καὶ ή γυναίκα καὶ τὰ παιδιά του καὶ κάθε τὶ ποὺ μπορεϊ νὰ ἔχη. Άλλὰ μόλις ὁ δύστυχος ἄκουσε τὴ λυπητερὴ ἀπόφασι, ἔπεσε καταγῆς μπροστά στό βασιλιά. Γι' αύτό τὸν βλέπετε τώρα σ' αὐτὴ τὴν κατάστασι.

Καὶ τώρα λοιπὸν τί θὰ γίνη; Θὰ ἐπιμείνη ὁ βασιλιᾶς νὰ ἐκτελεσθῆ ἡ ἀπόφασί του; Θὰ δοῦμε τὸ δοῦλο νὰ τὸν πουλοῦν στὰ σκλαβοπάζαρα, νὰ χάνη τὴ γυναῖκα του καὶ τὰ παιδιά του, νὰ περιέρχεται αὐτὸς καὶ ἡ οἰκογένειά του στὴν ἐξουσία ἄλλων κυρίων;... Παρακολουθώντας τὸ δρᾶμα του ζοῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς κοντὰ σ' αὐτὸν στιγμὲς ποὺ μᾶς κρατοῦν σὲ ἀγωνία.

Πλησιάζουμε καὶ ἀκοῦμε τώρα τὸ δοῦλο μὲ τρεμάμενη φωνή ν' ἀπευθύνη θερμή παράκλησι στὸ βασιλιᾶ. Τί ζητάει; Ζητάει προθεσμία. Ἐπικαλεῖται τὴ μακροθυμία τοῦ βασιλιᾶ καὶ λέει· «Κύριε, μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοι ἀποδώσω»· Κύριε, λυπήσου με! δός μου μιὰ παράτασι τῆς προθεσμίας κ' ἐγὰ σοῦ ὑπόσχομαι ὅτι θὰ φροντίσω νὰ ἐξοφλήσω ὅλο τὸ χρέος μου(ἐἰ Ἡ).

Άλλ' ἄραγε θὰ τὸν ἀκούση ὁ βασιλιᾶς; Θὰ καμφθῆ ἀπὸ τὰ δάκρυα: Θὰ στηριχθῆ στὶς ύποσχέσεις; Θὰ ὀρίση νέα προθεσμία, καὶ πόση, γιὰ τὴν ἔξόφλησι τοῦ ὑπέρογκου χρέους; Εἶνε ἔρωτήσεις, στὶς ὁποῖες δίνει ἀπάντησι ἡ παραβολή.

Ό βασιλιᾶς ἐκπλήσσει ὅλους μὲ τὴν ἀπόφασι ποὺ βγάζει. Τὸν λυπᾶται καὶ δίνει κάτι παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅ,τι ζητοῦσε ὁ δοῦλος: τοῦ χαρίζει ὅλο τὸ δάνειο! Καὶ ὁ δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος τώρα, βγαίνει ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνάκτορα. Ποιός μπορεῖ νὰ περιγράψη τὴ χαρά του;

Κ' έμεῖς, κατάπληκτοι μπροστά στή γενναιοδωρία αὐτή τοῦ βασιλιᾶ, ζητοῦμε νὰ πληροφορηθοῦμε, ποιός εἴνε ὁ μακρόθυμος καὶ φιλάνθρωπος αὐτὸς βασιλιᾶς. Καὶ παίρνουμε τὴν ἀπάντησι ἀπὸ τὸ στόμα τοῦ ἴδιου τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος δίδαξε τὴν παραβολή.

Βασιλεύς είνε ό Θεός, ό οὐράνιος Πατήρ. Δοῦλος, χρεώστης «μυρίων ταλάντων», είνε κάθε άμαρτωλός, κάθε ἄνθρωπος, ποὺ τὰ άμαρτήματά του είνε καταγεγραμμένα λεπτομερῶς στὰ βιβλία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἐπειδὴ τὰ άμαρτήματα είνε πολλά, ἀναρίθμητα, ἡ δὲ τιμωρία τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ τὸ καθένα ἀπὸ αὐτὰ είνε τρομερή, ὁ άμαρτωλὸς προσφεύγει στὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ μετανοημένος ἐπικαλεῖται μὲ συντριβὴ τὴ μακροθυμία τοῦ Κυρίου λέγοντας αὐτὸ ποὺ είπε καὶ ὁ δοῦλος τῆς παραβολῆς: «Κύριε, μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοι ἀποδώσω». Καὶ ὁ Κύριος μακροθυμεῖ καὶ ἐλεεῖ τὸν μετανοημένο άμαρτωλό.

"Ω ή μακροθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀγαπητοί μου, σ' έμᾶς τοὺς άμαρτωλούς! 'Ο Θεὸς μακροθυμεῖ. "Όπως ψάλλει ὁ Δαυίδ, ὁ Κύριος εἶνε «μακρόθυμος καὶ πολυέλεος· οὐκ εἰς τέλος ὀργισθήσεται, ούδὲ εἰς τὸ αἰῶνα μηνιεῖ» δὲν μένει ώργισμένος ὢς τὸ τέλος, δὲν κρατάει αίωνίως την όργη του (Ψώ), 1028-1. Άλλοίμονό μας αν δέν μακροθυμούσε: θά είχαμε καταστραφῆ οἱ ἀμαρτωλοὶ. Γιά φανταστῆτε τὸ Θεὸ νὰ χτυπάη τὸν άμαρτωλὸ άμέσως μόλις αὐτὸς διαπράξη ἄμάρτημα· νὰ μαρμαρώνη π.χ. τὸ χέρι ἐκείνου ποὺ ψευδορκεῖ ἢ σκοτώνει ἢ κλέβει, νὰ παραλύη τὰ πόδια τοῦ ἄλλου ποὺ τρέχει στούς δρόμους τῆς άμαρτίας, νὰ ξερριζώνη τὴ γλῶσσα τοῦ ψεύτη ἢ τοῦ συκοφάντη ἢ τοῦ βλασφήμου, νὰ τυφλώνη τὰ μάτια τοῦ φθονεροῦ, νὰ καίη τὰ σπαρτά ἢ νὰ έξολοθρεύη τὰ κοπάδια ἢ νὰ ξηραίνη τὶς πηγὲς ἢ νὰ γκρεμίζη τὰ σπίτια τῶν άμαρτωλῶν. Φοβερὴ θὰ ἦταν ἡ θέσι μας, πολύ πιὸ φοβερὴ ἀπὸ τὴ θέσι ποὺ βρέθηκε ὁ δοῦλος τῆς παραβολῆς.

Άλλὰ δόξα τῷ Θεῷ ὑπάρχει ἡ διέξοδος· καὶ ἡ διέξοδος αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ μακροθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὁ Θεὸς δὲν ἐπιφέρει ἀμέσως τὴν τιμωρία, ἀλλὰ μακροθυμεῖ· δίνει παράτασι, γιὰ νὰ μετανοήσουμε καὶ νὰ ἐπιστρέψουμε σ' αὐτόν. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ σκοπὸς γιὰ τὸ ὁποῖο μακροθυμεῖ ὁ Θεός, ἡ μετάνοιά μας. Ἄναβάλλει τὴν ἐκτέλεσι τῆς ἀποφάσεώς του κατὰ τοῦ άμαρτωλοῦ περιμένοντας ἀπὸ μέρα σὲ μέρα τὴ μετάνοιά του.

Πολλά παραδείγματα τῆς μακροθυμίας τοῦ Θεοῦ ἔχουμε στὴν ἀγία Γραφή. Άπ' ὅλα αὐτὰ έδω θὰ σᾶς θυμίσω μόνο ἐκεῖνο ποὺ ἀναφέρει ό ἀπόστολος Πέτρος, αὐτὸς ποὺ μὲ μία ἐρώτησί του (Ελ Μιπθ. 18,21) ἔδωσε ἀφορμή στὸν Κύριο νὰ διδάξη τὴ θαυμάσια αὐτὴ παραβολή. Ο ἀπόστολος Πέτρος θαυμάζει τὴ μακροθυμία ποὺ ἔδειξε ὁ Θεὸς «ἐν ἡμέραις Νῶε» ΙΚΠέτι.320. Οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἶχαν τότε ἀπομακρυνθῆ άπὸ τὸ Θεό· ζοῦσαν μιὰ ζωὴ γεμάτη ἄμαρτίες. καὶ ἴδίως σαρκικές. Τὸ κακὸ ἔπρεπε νὰ τιμωρηθή. Άλλὰ ὁ Θεὸς μακροθυμεῖ, δίνει παράτασι στοὺς άμαρτωλούς, προειδοποιεῖ ὅτι θὰ καταστρέψη τη γενεά τους αν δὲν μετανοήση, καὶ περιμένει ἐπὶ χρόνια πολλὰ τὴ μετάνοια καὶ ἐπιστροφή τους. Καὶ ὅταν πιὰ εἶδε ότι ή γενεά έκείνη δὲν μετανοεῖ, ἀλλὰ μὲ κεκτημένη ταχύτητα έξακολουθεῖ νὰ βαδίζη τὴν όδὸ τῆς ἀπωλείας, τότε μὲ τὸν φοβερὸ κατακλυσμό έξολοθρεύει τὴ γενεὰ ἐκείνη. ή μακροθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ εἶχε έξαντληθῆ!

Τὴν ἴδια μακρόθυμη στάσι, ἀγαπητοί μου, τηρεῖ ὁ Θεὸς ἀπέναντι καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς τοὺς σημερινοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Βλέπει τὰ άμαρτήματά μας. Καὶ μήπως αὐτὰ εἴνε λιγώτερα ἀπὸ τὰ ἀμαρτήματα τῆς γενεᾶς τοῦ Νῶε; Ζυγίζει τὴν ἐνοχή μας –ἡ ὁποία ἀσφαλῶς εἴνε μεγαλύτερη ἀπὸ τὴν ἐνοχὴ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐκείνων, ἀφοῦ ἐμεῖς τώρα ζοῦμε μέσα στὸ ἄπλετο φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ–, καὶ ἐν τούτοις μακροθυμεῖ περιμένει τὴ μετάνοιά μας. 'Άλλ' ἔως πότε;

"Ω ἀδελφοί μου συναμαρτωλοί! Τί θὰ γίνουμε, ἐὰν καὶ ἡ τελευταία παράτασι τοῦ Κυρίου περάση καὶ φύγη ἄκαρπη; Μετά, τὸ μόνο ποὺ μᾶς περιμένει εἶνε ἡ δικαία, ἡ ἀμετάκλητη, ἡ ἀδυσώπητη, ἡ αἰωνία τιμωρία τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὴν ὁποία ὁ Θεάνθρωπος Διδάσκαλός μας μᾶς τὴν παρέστησε τόσο φοβερὴ διὰ τῆς ὁργῆς τοῦ βασιλιᾶ πρὸς τὸν δοῦλο, τὸν καταχραστὴ τῆς μακροθυμίας καὶ τῆς ἀγαθότητός του, λέγοντας τὰ λόγια· «καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν τοῖς βασανισταῖς ἔως οὖ ἀποδῷ πᾶν τὸ ὀφειλόμενον αὐτῷ» [Μπὶ 1834].

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$275 PER YEAR SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$150 PER YEAR SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$200 PER YEAR WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE.** By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2016 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrives thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

Virgin Mary, All Nature is Blessed by You

Blessed Lady, sky and stars, earth and rivers, day and night - everything that is subject to the power or use of man - rejoice that through you they are in some sense restored to their lost beauty and are endowed with inexpressible new grace.

To Mary God gave His only-begotten Son, whom He loved as Himself. Through Mary God made Himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave Himself form through Mary, and thus He made His own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake His ruined creation without Mary.

God, then, is the Father of the created world and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to Him as the Savior of the world. Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed.

Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to Himself.

St. Anselm of Canterbury

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit www.ecpubs.com

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit <u>YOUR E-MAIL</u> address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See: Website: <u>www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org</u>