



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

Κυριακή 13η Οκτωβρίου 2019

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Ζ' ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ

Αποσ: Τίτον 3:8-15

Ευαγγ: Λουκα 8: 5-15

Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Today's Readings

Epistle: Titus 3: 8-15

Gospel: Luke 8: 5-15

JESUS SOWS THE SEEDS

It is said that to sow a thought, is to reap an act; sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny. In the natural world, seeds are so powerful that they can push through thick black asphalt and sprout a new life. But what if our daily thoughts and actions cause our hearts to sow seeds of hate, greed, or envy? Through the most vulnerable parts of ourselves, through those cracks in our hearts, is where God's light shines and makes prosper through us His compassion, empathy, and kindness. We should never doubt the power of a seed to push through any part of our lives where there is a tiny wedge to enter, just as we should never doubt the goodness of God's word.

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus compares the truth, which is His word, to a seed. The seed is scattered everywhere: on the beaten path, among rocks and thorns, as well as on good ground. It falls everywhere with the same possibility and promise of life and growth. Every word in the Gospels is a seed, which is potentially the beginning of an endless process of development.

The emphasis in this parable is not on the seed or the sower, but on the soil, which is the final determining factor as to whether or not the seed bears fruit. The seed falls on four types of soil, says Jesus. Three out of four reject it. Three out of four receive no lasting good, and three out of four will miss the point completely because their mind is on some other matter or on no matter at all. If Christianity has experienced a form of crop failure, it is because God's truth was preached, but not accepted, listened to with open ears, but not received with open hearts. The fault is not in the truth, or the seed, but in the soil. These are the hearts of those who received the message, but never allowed the truth to take root.

Examining the four types of soil, as Jesus described them, allows us to fully understand the proportions that are asserted. We have heard of hardening of the arteries, but a far more deadly disease is hardening of the heart toward God. One stops the flow of blood causing physical death; the other prevents us from receiving the Bread of life causing the death of the soul.

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Nothing stops the word of God but a closed heart: it stops it completely; it doesn't penetrate at all.

The second group are the people who admire the word of God and that's the end of it. They "receive it with joy" and that's as far as it goes. These recipients hear the truth — they may even admire it — but do not accept it in their hearts. So life continues with hatreds, prejudices, pride and envy.

The third group is probably the saddest part of this parable. The soil that has the potential to produce greatness produces a jungle. A soil that produces weeds does have great potential. It must be good soil; otherwise weeds would not grow there. But, as Jesus said, the thorns grow quick and fast, and they soon choke the good seed. The people in this group receive the word of God and they truly want to serve Him, but they become involved in so many other interests that God is gradually choked out.

Finally, we are now brought to the group that is the good soil, which Jesus tells us, "They are those who hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." The fertile ground represents those who receive the word of God without hesitation, and makes it become a part of themselves. We keep it in our heart and through God bring forth fruit with patience. It grows and slowly takes possession of our desires, our emotions, our thoughts and our actions. Little by little, our lives become spiritually productive and God-like.

We must admit that there are times when we are any one of the three poor types of soil or we are a strange combination of all of them. There is a beaten path in each one of us, rocky soil, and thorny ground. But the point Jesus makes is that soil can be improved. Hard soil can be plowed; rocks and thorns can be removed. By tender care and devoted cultivation, our hearts and spirits can become fertile and productive, like "the good soil" that produces a hundredfold, and lets God's goodness shine.

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Let us all do our Best for Our Church...

The needs of our Parish are many!
Please make your commitment now
to our Stewardship 2019 Campaign.

**You may do so in person,
by mail or online at:
www.stconstantinehelen.org**

Please call the Church Office at
(708) 974-3400

With any address, phone number
Or e-mail changes
so that we can keep you informed of
Church Services and other events.

DOES YOUR COMPANY OFFER MATCHING GIFTS?

Many companies offer matching gifts to their employee's donations, if your business does, please contact Fr. Tom for more information or to prepare any paperwork that is required.

Parents with Young Adults in College

In our ongoing mission to keep in touch and continue building a relationship with our Young Adults, we are asking for some information. If you have a son or daughter who is going away to college, please let us know the school they are attending, their school mailing address and email address. If your son or daughter may be commuting or staying local, please let us know this as well. Please email Fr. Chris at cpavro@aol.com or contact the main office at (708) 974-3400 with the information.



Η παραβολή του καλού Σπορέα
Λουκά κεφ. η' στίχοι 5-15



Σήμερα διαβάζεται η ευαγγελική περικοπή του σπορέα από το κατά Λουκά Ευαγγέλιο. Είναι η μοναδική παραβολή την οποία ο Κύριος ερμηνεύει αναλυτικά. Την Κυριακή αυτή αρχίζει επίσημα στην Εκκλησία της Ελλάδας η κατηχητική περίοδος.

Συχνά ο Κύριος μιλούσε στους μαθητές και στον κόσμο που τον ακολουθούσε με παραβολές. Χρησιμοποιούσε δηλαδή απλές ιστορίες με εικόνες από την καθημερινή ζωή των ανθρώπων εκείνης της εποχής, για να περάσει μηνύματα πολύ σοβαρά και σωτήρια. Να τι λέει στην παραβολή του σπορέα

Κάποτε βγήκε στο χωράφι του ένας γεωργός (σπορέας) για να σπείρει σιτάρι. Καθώς πετούσε τον σπόρο, ένα μικρό μέρος έπεσε κοντά στο δρόμο και καταπατήθηκε απ' τους διαβάτες ή τον έφαγαν τα πουλιά. Κι άλλοι σπόροι έπεσαν πάνω σε έδαφος πετρώδες, που δεν είχε οργωθεί καλά κι αφού φύτρωσαν λίγο, ύστερα ξεράθηκαν, γιατί οι ρίζες τους δεν βρήκαν λίγη υγρή και μαλακή γη. Κι ένα άλλο μέρος από τον σπόρο έπεσε σε γη καλή και μαλακή, όπου όμως είχε πέσει και σπόρος από άγρια χόρτα. Και φύτρωσε ο σπόρος και ψήλωσε, αλλά ψήλωσαν και τα αγριόχορτα κι έπνιξαν τα βλαστάρια του σιταριού.

Ο πιο πολὺς σπόρος όμως έπεσε σε αφράτη και καλοοργανωμένη γη και φύτρωσε και ψήλωσε και καρποφόρησε κι έδωσε καρπό εκατό φορές περισσότερο από τον αρχικό σπόρο. «Όποιος έχει αυτιά ας ακούσει αυτά που λέω» («Ό έχων ὄτα ἀκούειν, ἀκουέτω»). Μ' αυτά τα λόγια τέλειωσε ο Κύριος αυτή την παραβολή.

Ας δούμε τώρα ποιο σωτήριο μήνυμα κρύβει αυτή η απλή ιστορία. Ο ίδιος ο Χριστός την εξήγησε στους μαθητές του: Ο σπόρος είναι ο λόγος του Θεού, το Ευαγγέλιο. Η γη που είναι κοντά στο δρόμο είναι οι άνθρωποι που ακούν τον λόγο του Θεού, αλλά δεν δείχνουν κανένα ενδιαφέρον. Τον προσπερνούν και τον ξεχνούν. Με το πετρώδες έδαφος μοιάζουν οι άνθρωποι που δέχονται με ενθουσιασμό τον λόγο του Θεού, αλλά δεν καταβάλλουν καμιά προσπάθεια να τον τηρήσουν. Όταν έρχεται ο πειρασμός, αμέσως ξεχνούν ό,τι έχουν ακούσει και πέφτουν στην αμαρτία.

Έπειτα είναι εκείνοι που μοιάζουν με τη γη που έχει πολλά αγκάθια. Αυτοί ακούν τα θεϊκά λόγια και προσπαθούν να συμμορφώσουν μ' αυτά τη ζωή τους. Όμως οι καθημερινές φροντίδες και οι υλικές επιθυμίες τούς πνίγουν και σιγά-σιγά ξεχνιέται ο λόγος του Θεού.

Τέλος, η γη η καλή είναι οι άνθρωποι που άκουσαν με αγνή και καθαρή καρδιά το Ευαγγέλιο και το δέχτηκαν και το ακολούθησαν και ωφελήθηκαν. Αυτοί το εφαρμόζουν και το μεταδίδουν και σε άλλους κι έτσι από έναν σπόρο θα γίνουν εκατό, δηλαδή από έναν άνθρωπο θα ωφεληθούν εκατό.

<http://www.pemptousia.gr>

Κυριακή 20η Οκτωβρίου - Του 'Αγίου Γερασίμου
"Ωρα 8:30 - 11:15 π.μ. - "Ορθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, October 14:

KORAES SCHOOL AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
NO G.O.Y.A.

Tuesday, October 15:

6:30-8:00 p.m. G.O.A.L. 3rd/4th; 5th/6th; 7th/8th
Grade Basketball Practices

6:30-8:00 p.m. G.O.A.L. Girls Basketball Practice

7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Meeting

8:00-9:30 p.m. G.O.A.L. High School Boys
Basketball Practice

Wednesday, October 16:

8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, October 18: Feastday of St. Luke

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

6:45 p.m. JOY Basketball 1st/2nd/3rd Grades

7:45 p.m. JOY Basketball 4th/5th Grades

8:45 p.m. JOY Basketball 6th/7th/8th Grades

Sunday, October 20: Feastday of St. Gerasimos

8:30-11:15 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

† MEMORIALS †

40 Days John C. Pappas

3 Months Constantine Kolovos

6 Years Konstantinos Drougas

Members of our Sr. Choir

†May their memory be eternal†

† FUNERAL †

The funeral of *Tessie Stavropoulos*
was held on *Thursday, October 10th*.

† May her memory be eternal †

ARTOCLASIA AND COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Artoelasia was offered for the health and well-being of the Director, President and Members of our Senior Choir.

Please join our *Sr. Choir* for Coffee Fellowship following the Divine Liturgy.

SACRAMENT

BAPTISM

We welcome the following into the Orthodox Faith and we pray that God grant her many, many years!

Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

Stamatia Alexia, daughter of

Pete and Kiriaki Stavrakis

Sponsor: John and Bessie Milionis

SAVE *the*
DATE

NOVEMBER 9, 2019

THE ODYSSEY VENUE
TINLEY PARK
6pm

Celebrating
110 Years

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Invitation to Follow



See you...

...Next Sunday