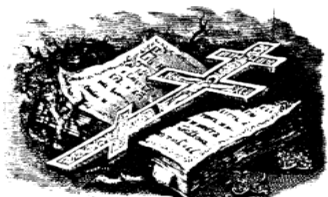


ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Living Water: Thoughts on the Sunday Gospels



January 15th, 2006
This Week's Lesson:

+12th Sunday of
Luke
Luke 17:12-19

5th Tone—8th Eothinon

Feasts Commemorated:

+ St. Paul of Thebes
+ St. John the
Calabyte

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On St. Anthony the Great: Fighting Evil

From the moment of baptism, every Christian is called to fight temptation. We fight the Evil One himself when we do this, because “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12) We see this passage come to life with the life of St. Anthony the Great.

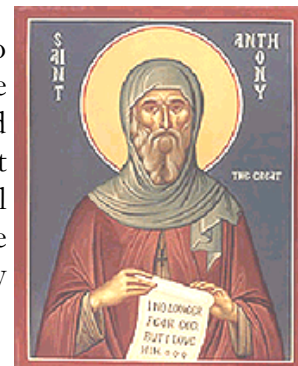
St. Anthony the Great was born in Egypt, and lived throughout the 3rd and 4th centuries. As a child, he heard one Sunday at Church (as he regularly went with his parents) the words of the Lord: “If you will be perfect, go and sell what you have, and give it to the poor” (Matthew 19:21). Upon hearing this, he sold all he had and went to the desert to live as a monk.

He was a person that helped Christians in need. During the persecutions of Maximinus in 312, he went to be with Christians that were being martyred for the Faith (we must remember that, before the Edict of Milan, if the Roman Authorities caught you being a Christian, they’d give you a chance to renounce your faith – and if you didn’t, they’d kill you).

During the Arian heresy (which said that Jesus was not God, but only “the first-born of all creation”), he supported the true belief that *Jesus Christ is the God-Man, yesterday, today and forever!* He turned many unbelievers to Orthodoxy, and kept the believers *believing in the Truth.*

Throughout all this, he is said to have been in physical confrontations in demons. They “beat him up”, as St. Athanasios (his biographer) says; yet, he never gave up his faith and had patience. Not at one moment did he step aside and let the demons win. He kept his faith, and now is glorified by Christ in His Holy Church.

St. Anthony the Great fell asleep in the Lord on January 17th, 356, living for about 105 years. So, we ask the question: how is his life relevant to us, especially



(Continued on page 2)

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Today's Gospel Reading in Greek and English

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσερχομένου τοῦ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τινα κώμην ἀπήντησαν αὐτῷ δέκα λεπροὶ ἄνδρες, οἱ ἔστησαν πόρρωθεν,καὶ αὐτοὶ ἤραν φωνὴν λέγοντες, Ἰησοῦ ἐπιστάτα, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Καὶ ἰδὼν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε ἑαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσιν. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς ἐκαθαρίσθησαν. Εἷς δὲ ἐξ αὐτῶν, ἰδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη, ὑπέστρεψεν μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν θεόν,καὶ ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ εὐχαριστῶν αὐτῷ· καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν Σαμαρίτης. Αποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν, Οὐχὶ οἱ δέκα ἐκαθαρίσθησαν; οἱ δὲ ἑννέα ποῦ;οὐχ εὐρέθησαν ὑποστρέψαντες δοῦναι δόξαν τῷ θεῷ εἰ μὴ ὁ ἄλλογενὴς οὗτος;καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Ἄναστὰς πορεύου· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέν σε.

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Hymn of the Month:

Σώσον ημάς, Υιέ Θεού, ο αναστάς εκ νεκρών, ψάλλοντάς Σοι, Αλληλούια!
Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead, to You we sing: Alleluia!



Next Week's Lesson:

+14th Sunday of Luke

Luke 18:35-43

6th Tone — 9th Eothinon

Feasts Commemorated:

+ St. Timothy the
Apostle

+ St. Anastasios of
Persia

for us? How can he be someone that we can relate to, serving as a *role model* for them?

As we saw above, St. Anthony was a person that hated evil, because evil is defined as "the absence of good, and hence the absence of God". He embraced love, truth, and righteousness. He was against evil in all its forms: be it persecution, heresy, or the Evil One himself. Our Youth today face that same struggle — either at home, at school, at work, or anywhere else they might find themselves.

When St. Anthony faced tribulations, he remembered Christ's words: "In this world you will have tribulations, but be of good cheer! I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33) Our Youth should see their Patron Saint, St. Anthony the Great, and see how he conquered the devil with the Power of Christ.

Temptations are always hard to fight, no one is denying that. Every person that stepped on this earth *sinned*, **except One (the One, Jesus Christ)**. Yet, our Saints show us that, although they sinned, they **repented** and decided to not embrace evil, to be righteous and loving to God and their neighbors.

God has given us a choice to be with Him. We can accept this invitation and truly *live!* There will be tribulations, just like St. Anthony had. Yet, our Lord will be there to help us through our difficulties, and will glorify us as His beloved children.

Χρόνια Πολλά! God bless!