

Healing of the Paralytic - M'Shario/Palsy Sunday

Dearly beloved:

Last Sunday, the Holy Gospel told the story of Jesus healing a leper. The Holy Gospel of 12 March of the Third Sunday in Great Lent talks of Jesus healing a paralytic. A large crowd was in the house in Capernaum, where Jesus was staying. Since, the house was full, there was no room left to bring in the paralyzed man, he was lowered in a mat by four people through an opening on the roof. When Jesus saw how strongly they believed, He said to the sick man "Son, your sins are forgiven". When the Jewish leaders heard Him say this to the sick man, they criticized Him, saying that only God can forgive sins. But Jesus wanted to let them know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. He further instructed the paralytic to "Stand up, and take your mat and go home". The man did exactly as he was told. They were all amazed and glorifying God, exclaimed, "We have never seen anything like this". A tormented man who had to be carried to Jesus walked away bearing his own stretcher. It would never have happened, if his faith-filled friends had not cared enough to bring him to Jesus. It is also evident that Jesus cured the paralytic not because of the faith shown by him, but on the contrary, by the staunch faith of those four people who brought him to the Lord.

This incident points out that the Lord will be compassionate to a person even through the prayers of others. One of the most distinctive things about Orthodox belief and teaching is that our sins can be forgiven. This is the lifeblood of the Christian message. This is the message that was presented by our Lord, Jesus Christ. And this is the message set forth in next Sunday's Holy Gospel.

Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.

Bible readings for Sunday, March 12th, 2006.(Healing of the Paralytic - M'Shario/Palsy Sunday)

Before Holy Qurbana:

Ezekiel - 33: 23-34
Exodus - 4: 10-17
II Kings - 2: 1-11
Isaiah - 5: 20-25

Holy Qurbana

General Epistles: Acts - 5: 12-16 & 19: 8-12
Epistles of St. Paul: Romans - 5: 1-11
Holy Gospel: St. Mark - 2: 1-12

Next Sunday, March 19th is Fourth Sunday of 50 Days Lent. (Healing the daughter of Canaanite Woman).

With prayers,
Thomas Alex