

St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church
 11308 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1K9

Daily Meditations • June 14, 2020

THE ROCK

THE LORD IS MY ROCK.
 - PSALM 18:2

Daily Meditation

ASK. SEEK. KNOCK.
 it will be given. you will find. the door will open to you.

For everyone who asks receives; who seeks finds;
 who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luke 11:9-10





Reflection on today's reading:

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?" - Luke 11: 9-11

In today's liturgical readings of the first Sunday of Paone (June 14, 2020 or Paone 7, 1736), the Holy Spirit through the presentation of Jesus's words for the day, has delivered a lovely message from the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The gospel today takes place in the Sermon on the Mount, which is considered by many to be where some of the most important of Jesus's teachings took place, including those of the beatitudes, which are the basis of true morality and humility that Jesus explained to us in His ministry.



In the Catholic epistle today from the epistle of St. Peter, it is written:

1 Peter 1: 3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

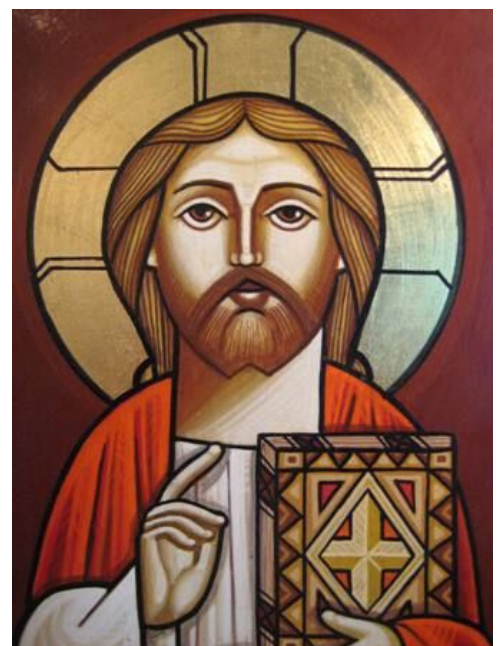
When Jesus came to us to teach us of the truth, it is written here in Peter, that this truth is "reserved in heaven for you". This means that regardless of what we or others think of the importance of these teachings, they are outside of us. These are eternal truths that exist beyond what we think. They are encoded into the universe, and into every living being to a certain extent, and most prominently into us, who were created in the image of God as stated in Genesis, and regardless if what some may think is the ideal way to act, true fulfillment will, and always will only be begotten when we truly become and act in how we were meant to





act by the nature in which we were made, which is to constantly pursue an internal make-up as that of Jesus Christ, which include His teachings of love, humility, self-sacrifice, compassion, kindness, real honesty, and true good-will. These are truths that no culture can take away from you regardless of how strong it thinks it is, as the fulfillment that these provide is unlike any other you will ever have anywhere. On top of this, there is no end. As evidenced in the lives of the saints, pursuing the teachings of living like Christ knows no bounds. A single virtue can take a whole lifetime to get to a level so high, and there is still so much more. It is the constant fullness of being able to do more that drives many to pursue such a beautiful life.

Later in the Acts, Paul confronts a sorcerer named Elymas. The encounter is stated as follows:





Acts 13: 8-10 - But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

Elymas here is a representation of those who try and take away the good word from the hearts of those who love God. They are subtle. They try and say that these earthly fleeting pleasures which are meaningless and void and end as quick as they started will fulfill you, they tell you that things like judgement, pride, hate, jealousy, and the lack of all the teachings of Jesus will in some way fulfill you. These things leave you feeling emptier than before, and not just empty, but bring doom and dread and overall terror and fear with them. It spins a terrible world around you and you may even become the Elymas to all your friends.



Paul confronts Elymas as to why he insists on ruining the lives of those around him. For love, humility, honesty, and servitude are the only ways.

Once the psalm and Gospel are reached, the psalm portrays King David who here, understands these facts, and loves and hungers for the righteousness, the good, and the teachings of Jesus:



Psalm 143:10 - Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

He loves being a Good individual for God is Good and he wants to be as close to God as he can by being better and better in what the teachings of Jesus were. It is evidenced again here that there is in fact no cap to the heights that can be achieved from these teachings of Jesus Christ.



Finally we move on to the Gospel. A crucial Gospel where the disciples want Jesus to teach them how to develop a better relationship with all that is Love, Good, Humility, and Care -- which is God. He then moves on to tell them the truths:

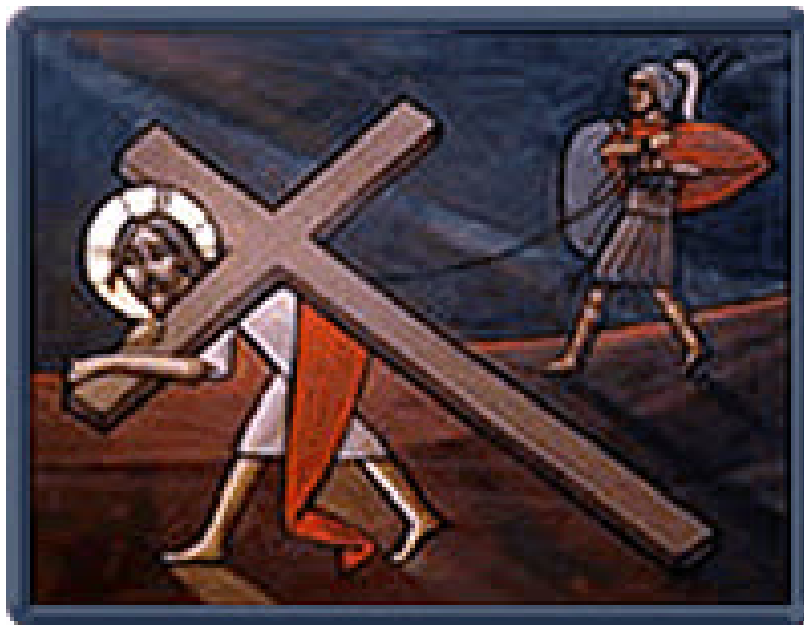
"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?" - Luke 11: 9-11

What this means is that the teachings of Jesus Christ are indeed the truths of how a human should be both inside and outside. One must constantly strive for these, and if you are actually making an effort to be as Christ like as possible all over, it will be revealed to you. This is one of the bases of prayer, how we ask for more virtues like Christ, and begin to chase it in our lives wherever we





can so that He can grant it to us, and it is no coincidence that it follows the Lord's prayer.



It is important to try and not only ask, but to seek the Good through reading bible, reading early church fathers, finding out about the lives of the saints in detail in books to seek God, and to knock and look for opportunity where we can serve others, where we can show love to others, where we can love our enemies, for their persecutions only strengthen your bond with God. God knows what we want in our hearts, and what we truly want He will give us as evidenced by the bread : stone and fish : serpent analogies.



If what we truly want is to be evil like Elymas and lead others into the feeling of dread and anxiety and fear and evil, and unwell, we will have it, as it shall be given to us. But if we truly want to seek God through Jesus and how He was and how He acted, we will get it. God can see a genuine effort. For Jesus is the best there ever was, and the best bet we have always. As it's written since some of the earliest calls of humanity, in Genesis:



"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." - Genesis 4:7

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