

THE ORTHODOX Faith

FOR TEENS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016 · SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 22

THE MESSAGE

Whatever goal we set in life, chances are that at some point we will encounter an obstacle. Perhaps it will be a difficult class, an injury or illness, a financial hardship, a rejection. If our goal is important, we try our best to overcome that difficulty. Perseverance is an essential ingredient to success, and it helps us value what we achieve. Today's Gospel gives us an example of perseverance in the spiritual life. It would have been easy for the Canaanite woman to give up when she did not receive an answer; or when the disciples suggested sending her away; most certainly when she was compared to a dog. She did not and for her faith "her daughter was healed instantly" (Matt. 15:28).

Let us follow her example and say with St. Paul that "[we] glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Rom. 5:3-5).

Reverend Doctor Peter Andronache

FATHER PETER SERVES THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

FROM THE FATHERS The faith which I was taught by the Holy Fathers which I taught at all times without adjusting according to the times, this faith I will never stop teaching; I was born with it and I live by it."

-St. Gregory the Theologian

THE TRUTH

Matthew
15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.



WHAT'S THE WORD?

HIERARCH

ΙΕΡΑΡΧΗΣ



The word comes from the word hieros 'sacred' and arkhein meaning 'to lead or rule.' The word Hierarch is used for the leaders and teachers of the Orthodox Church who are known as bishops. Literally the word "Hierarch" defines the great role of our Bishops have to lead us to what is holy and sacred through their teaching and example. For this reason, people like Saint Basil, Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Gregory were Hierarchs.

Hebrews
13:7-9

**BRETHREN
REMEMBER YOUR
LEADERS**

**THOSE WHO SPOKE
TO YOU THE WORD OF**

GOD

**CONSIDER THE
OUTCOME OF THEIR LIVES
AND IMITATE THEIR**

faith

**JESUS CHRIST
IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY**

AND TODAY

AND

FOREVER

**DO NOT BE LED AWAY
BY DIVERSE AND
STRANGE TEACHINGS.**



ILLUMINATING Saints

The Three Hierarchs

COMMEMORATED ON
JANUARY 30

The Icon of the Three Holy Hierarchs shows a meeting together – a synaxis – of three of the greatest theologians in the Church’s history: St Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, and Gregory the Theologian. Such “meeting” or “synaxis” icons are common, depicting Saints who share a common story, nationality, or even those who knew each other in life. The icon of the Holy Hierarchs, however, also depicts an actual miraculous appearance of these three Saints.

During the eleventh century, centuries after the death of all these celebrated bishops, disputes raged in Constantinople over which of the three were greatest. Some preferred St Basil, others honored St Gregory the Theologian, while a third group exalted St John Chrysostom. Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites.

By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to St John the Bishop of Euchaita in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. “There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another.” They ordered that the disputes should stop, and that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

The Icon itself shows the Three Hierarchs in unity. All vested as bishops, they can be identified by their facial features which are well-known and depicted faithfully in all icons of the Saints. Saint Basil has dark hair with a long, pointed beard; Saint John is recognizable by his high forehead and tuft of hair in the center of his head; Saint Gregory is bearded with white hair.

Source: *A Reader’s Guide to Orthodox Icons*

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