



Father Joseph's Outline for the Sunday of Orthodoxy

John 1:43-51 - Sunday 03/08/2009

“We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (John 1:45)

Why was this reading chosen for today?

- Today marks the first Sunday after the start of the Great Fast.
- During the divine services of Great Lent, a large number of passages from the Old Testament are read.
- This process aims to help Christians discover and understand the connection between the prophecies about the “Christ” and how Jesus fits in this equation as the one who fulfills the prophecies.

Anthology of Old Testament Prophecies about the Christ

The Old Testament is full of prophecies about the Christ and were written many centuries before the birth of Jesus, yet all the prophecies fit Him 100%.

- **A prophecy about His mother (750 years earlier):** “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)
- **A prophecy about His place of birth (700 years earlier):** “But you, Bethlehem Ephratha, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)
- **A prophecy about the price of His betrayal (487 years earlier):** “I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.’ So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.” (Zechariah 11:12)
- **A prophecy about the behavior of Judas (487 years earlier):** “And the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’ - the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter.” (Zechariah 11:13)
- **A prophecy about His orchestrated trial (750 years earlier):** “By oppression and judgment he was taken away...For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.” (Isaiah 53:8)
- **Prophecies about His crucifixion (1,000 years earlier):**

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1. "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint." (Psalm 22:14) (this is the result of the way of His death)
 2. "They have pierced my hands and my feet." (Psalm 22:16) (crucifixion as a punishment had not become known until the Roman age)
- **A prophecy about dividing His garments (1,000 years earlier):** "They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." (Psalm 22:18)
 - **A prophecy about His grave (750 years earlier)** "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence." (Isaiah 53:9)
 - **A prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem (600 years earlier):** "It (Jerusalem) will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble... the people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." (Daniel 9:25-26)
 - **A prophecy about the sealing of the eastern gate of Jerusalem (572 years earlier):** "Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut. The Lord said to me, 'This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered through it.'" (Ezekiel 44:1-2)

How does today's Gospel reading relate to my life?

- I am bombarded and confused by many different and contradictory philosophies and teachings. I need help to discover the true teaching about the true God. Religious founders do not seem to be helpful. Who but Christ can assure me of the truth?
- When I come to Jesus Christ, I am coming to the source of true and eternal life. When I come to Christ, I find the boat that carries me from the land of the eternal dead to eternal life!
- The best method to counteract the propaganda of the devil is to be thoughtful about my own death, regardless the scariness of this thought.
- Is there are surer way than Him who said:
 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."
 "Εγώ ειμι ή ανάστασις και ή ζωή. Ο πιστεύων εις έμė, κ̄ αν̄ αποθάνη, ζήσεται και π̄ ας ό ζών και πιστεύων εις έμė οὐ μη̄ αποθάνη εις τόν αιώνα."
 (John 11:25-26)

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, I know that I am trapped by the devil in the net of eternal death. I believe that You are the Resurrection and the source of all life. You have come to the land of the shadow of death and died for me, to open a passage for all human beings to cross into eternal life. I beseech You not to leave me abandoned, but stretch Your powerful hand and grab me into Your loving arms and save me. Amen.

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