



Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Celebration of the Holy Mysteries

RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY AND CONFESSIONS: ½ HR BEFORE DIVINE LITURGY

BAPTISM & CHRISMATION / ANNOINTING OF THE SICK / COMMUNION CALLS & VISITATIONS:
CONTACT FR. IHOR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:
CONTACT FR. IHOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO SETTING THE ACTUAL WEDDING DATE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:
CONTACT MRS. CHRISTINA VOGEL AT (603) 686-2092 TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE LITURGIES:
SUNDAYS: 10 AM (September thru May) MON THRU SAT: AS NOTED IN WEEKLY BULLETIN
 9 AM (June thru August) HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: 7 PM

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2023

Sunday, January 15th – Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentcost

Divine Liturgy: 10 AM

Propers: Tone 7

Vestments: Bright

Epistle: 1Timothy 1: 15-17

Gospel: St. Matthew 15: 21-28

Intention: For all Parishioners

Saturday, January 21st (10 AM): For good health and God's blessings upon **Luba** Dyky, offered by Luba Dyky

Saturday, January 21st (7 PM): Vespers Service

Divine Liturgy and Vespers Services Schedule and Intentions for January and February

Sunday, January 22nd (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, January 28th (10 AM): For the blessed repose of the soul of **+Walter** Horangic with Panakhyda, offered by the Horangic Family

Saturday, January 28th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, January 29th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, February 4th (10 AM): For the blessed repose of the souls of **+Larissa and +Josef** Jerrold with Panakhyda, offered by the Maksymowych Family

Saturday, February 4th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, February 5th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, February 11th (10 AM): For the blessed repose of the soul of **+Helen** Horangic with Panakhyda, offered by the Horangic Family

Saturday, February 11th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, February 12th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, February 18th (10 AM): For the blessed repose of the soul of **+Basil** Horangic with Panakhyda, offered by the Horangic Family

Saturday, February 18th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, February 19th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, February 25th (10 AM): For the blessed repose of the souls of **+Peter** Connor with Panakhyda, offered by the Maksymowych Family

Saturday, February 25th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, February 26th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday Services

Fr. Ihor is celebrating Vesper services every Saturday at 7 PM. All parishioners are invited to attend this beautiful service. Those who wish to have a Divine Liturgy celebrated for a loved one whether living or deceased or for a private intention are still able to do so. Please request your Divine Liturgy by contacting Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357 or cantor Jaroslaw Maksymowych at (603) 627-2042. Please note that Saturday Divine Liturgies will now be celebrated only at 10 AM whenever they are requested. If no Divine Liturgy has been requested for a particular Saturday, then none will be celebrated on that day. The Divine Liturgy schedule in the bulletin will only show 10 AM Divine Liturgies on Saturdays when they have been requested. If the bulletin does not show a 10 AM Divine Liturgy for a given Saturday, then this means that particular Saturday is available for your request.

Суботні Богослужіння

Отець Ігор святкує Вечірню кожної суботи у 7-мі годині вечером. Ласкаво просимо усіх парафіян до участі. Парафіяни які бажають замовити Божественну Літургію в суботу для померших або на особисті інтенції можуть дзвонити до о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357 або до дяка п. Ярослава Максимовича на номер (603) 627-2042. Суботні Божественні Літургії будуть відслужені тільки о годині 10-тій ранком коли замовлені. Якщо Літургія в певну суботу не буде замовлена, то в цей день не буде жодна відправлена. Порядок Богослужінь в бюлетені покаже тільки ті суботні Служби Божі які є замовлені. Якщо в бюлетені не відображається Божественна Літургія на дану суботу, то це означає, що ця субота доступна на Ваше замовлення.

Liturgical Propers, Readings and Sermon for Sunday

Liturgical Propers for the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Resurrectional Tropar: Tone 7 – By Your cross You destroyed death; You opened Paradise to the thief. The tears of the myrrh-bearing women You wiped away; then You commanded them to tell the apostles the news that You have risen, O Christ God, and have shown the world great mercy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amen.

Resurrectional Kondak: Tone 7 – No longer can the power of death hold man, for Christ descended and destroyed its might. Now hell finds itself in chains. The prophets join in voicing their joy. The Savior stands before those who believe and says: “Come forth, you faithful, and live!”

Prokimen: Tone 7 – May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace.
VERSE: Give glory and praise to the Lord, You children of God.

Prokimen: Tone 7 – May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace.

32-а НЕДІЛЯ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВ. ДУХА

Апостол: До Тимотея послання св. апостола Павла читання (1Тим 1: 15-17)

Сину Тимотею, вірне це слово й повного довір'я гідне, що Христос прийшов у світ, щоб спасти грішних, з яких я - перший. Але я був на те помилуваний, щоб Ісус Христос на мені першим показав усю свою довготерпеливість, на приклад тим, що мають увірувати в нього на вічне життя. Цареві ж віків, нетлінному, невидимому, єдиному Богу честь і слава на віки вічні! Амінь.

Epistle Reading for the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost (1Timothy 1: 15-17)

Timothy, my son: You can depend on this as worthy of full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I myself am the worst. But on that very account I was dealt with mercifully, so that in me, as an extreme case, Jesus Christ might display all His patience, and that I might become an example to those who would later have faith in Him and gain everlasting life. To the King of ages, the immortal, the invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen.

Alleluia: Tone 7

VERSE: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to Your name, O Most High.

Alleluia: Tone 7

VERSE: To proclaim Your love in the morning and Your truth in the watches of the night.

Alleluia: Tone 7

VERSE: Добре воно - прославляти Господа, і співати Твоєму імені, Всевишній.

Alleluia: Tone 7

VERSE: Звіщати вранці Твою милість, а ночами Твою вірність.

Alleluia: Tone 7

Євангелія: (Мт 15: 21-28)

У той час, Ісус вийшов звідти й пішов в околиці тирську та сидонську. Коли це жінка ханаанянка вийшла з цих околиць і почала кричати: “Змилуйся надо мною, Господи, сину Давида! Біс мучить мою дочку страшенно.” Він же не озвався до неї ні словом. Тут приступили його учні й почали його просити: “Відпусти її, бо вона кричить за нами.” А він у відповідь промовив: “Я післаний лише до загиблих овець

дому Ізраїля.” Та ж підійшла, і вклонившись йому в ноги каже: “Господи допоможи мені!” Він відповів їй: “Не личить брати хліб у дітей і кидати щенятам.” А вона каже: “Так, Господи! Але й щенята їдять кришки, що падають зо столу в панів їхніх.” Тоді відповів їй Ісус: “О жінко, велика твоя віра! Хай тобі буде, як бажаєш.” І видужала дочка її від тієї години.

Gospel Reading for the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost (St. Matthew 15: 21-28)

At that time, Jesus left that place and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. It happened that a Canaanite woman living in that locality presented herself, crying out to Him, “Lord, Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is terribly troubled by a demon. He gave her no word of response. His disciples came up and began to entreat Him, “Get rid of her. She keeps shouting after us.” “My mission is only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,” Jesus replied. She came forward then and did Him homage with the plea, “Help me, Lord!” But He answered, “It is not right to take the food of sons and daughters and throw it to the dogs.” “Please, Lord,” she insisted, “even the dogs eat the leavings that fall from their masters’ tables.” Jesus then said in reply, “Woman, you have great faith! Your wish will come to pass.” That very moment her daughter got better.

Sermon for the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him! My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Gospel of today is the story of a miracle. Like all miracle stories, it is there to remind us that Christ is not only the Judge but also the Physician of our souls and bodies. It is there also to increase our faith, both by giving us a glimpse of the glory to come and by helping us to trust in God. The Gospel passage begins by indicating the district to which Jesus was going: Tyre and Sidon, to the northwest of Galilee, a pagan land. And it was here that He met a Canaanite woman who spoke to Him, asking Him to heal her daughter who was possessed by a demon.

The woman was not afraid to cry to Jesus “Have mercy on me”, an expression that recurs in the Psalms. She calls him “Lord” and “Son of David” (Mt 15:22), thus showing a firm hope of being heard. What was the Lord’s attitude to this cry of anguish from a pagan woman? In her supplication we can already discern the beginning of a journey of faith, which in her conversation with the divine Teacher grows and becomes stronger.

Jesus’ silence may seem disconcerting, to the point that it prompted the disciples to intervene, but it was not a question of insensitivity to this woman’s sorrow. St Augustine rightly commented: “Christ showed Himself indifferent to her, not in order to refuse her His mercy but rather to inflame her desire for it”.

The apparent aloofness of Jesus who said: “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (v. 24), did not discourage the Canaanite woman who persisted: “Lord, help me” (v. 25). And she did not even desist when she received an answer that would seem to have extinguished any hope: “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs” (v. 26). She had no wish to take anything from anyone; in her simplicity and humility a little was enough for her, crumbs sufficed, no more than a look, a kind word from the Son of God. And Jesus was struck with admiration by an answer of such great faith and said to her: “Be it done for you as you desire” (v. 28).

Look at the story of this Canaanite woman. Christ does not look for faith from her daughter; in the same way, he does not look for faith from the daughter of the centurion (Mt 9:18-26) nor for faith from the daughter of the servant (Mt 8:6-13). He looks only for the faith of the one who intercedes. Christ answers when He is satisfied with the faith of those who approach Him on the behalf of those who need healing. As you see, a great mystery is revealed here about the prayer of intercession. At times we pray for various people and for specific needs and requests, as long as they correspond to the will of God. There are people like monks, whose ministry is specifically the prayer of intercession. From of all of us who are asked to pray for others, only one thing is required, namely faith.

You will find confirmation of this in the Gospel text which follows immediately the lesson of the Canaanite woman. The crowds bring sick people to Christ for healing. This is the faith of the crowds, which is offered to Christ so that the blind may study the Word, the dumb may praise with their voices and the paralyzed may follow Christ. Therefore, all prayer starts with your faith. If you make that free choice and if it is founded in humility, then your faith will be your shield and your weapon leading you to victory over the evil one.

Dear friends, we too are called to grow in faith, to open ourselves in order to welcome God's gift of faith freely, to have trust and also to cry to Jesus "give us faith, help us to find the way!". This is the way that Jesus made his disciples take, as well as the Canaanite woman along with men and women of every epoch and nation including each one of us. For this reason, our heart must undergo the experience of conversion every day, every day it must see us changing from people withdrawn into themselves to people who are open to God's action, to spiritual people who let themselves be called in faith to the Lord's word and to open our life to his Love. Amen!

ПРОПОВІДЬ НА 32-у НЕДІЛЮ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВ. ДУХА

Христос Народився! Славім Його! Дорогі в Христі браття і сестри!

Сьогодні наш духовний погляд спрямований на важливу євангельську подію, яку описав Святий Євангеліст Матей. Христос, на прохання жінки хананейки, звільнив її дочку від злого духа. Текст Євангелія цієї неділі містить досить складні теми, серед котрих, принаймні, дві є доволі промовистими: тема пріоритетів місії Ісуса серед власного народу та готовність язичників до зустрічі з Ісусом, яка перевершує наші уявлення та сподівання. Смуток і страждання матері та дочки перемінилися на невимовну радість.

Звернення цієї жінки до Ісуса має одну особливість. Мати просить наполегливо Спасителя не за себе, а про оздоровлення своєї дочки від злого духа. Проблема дочки стала її особистою проблемою, болем її душі. Вона старається з усіх сил допомогти їй, тому наполегливо просить Ісуса Христа про поміч, доки не отримає від Нього конкретної допомоги. Мати властиво нічого не просить для себе, тільки представляє свій біль з твердою вірою і повною надією, покладаючись на доброту і владу Ісуса. Її прохання було настільки сильне, що й самі апостоли почали заступатися за неї в Ісуса.

Хананейка жили на північ від Ізраїлю і не були євреями. Беззаконня мешканців цього краю належали до числа найбільш мерзенних і принизливих для людини. Книга Левіт 18:1–25, перелічивши кровозмішання, перелюб, людські жертвоприношення, гомосексуалізм та скотолозтво, додає: «Не скверніться нічим цим, бо тим усім осквернилися народи, що оце виганяю з-перед вас». Жінка-ханаанянка, на противагу до вельми мерзенної поведінки своїх предків, виявляє подиву гідну віру, ревність і наполегливість у доброму. Ця язичниця, випереджуючи визнання Ісуса учнями (так само як Самарянка в Йо 4), тричі називає Його Господом, а також звертається до Нього месіанським титулом – називаючи Сином Давида. Вона смиренно визнає пріоритет Ізраїлю у Божих планах (Він відповів їй: «Не личить брати хліб у дітей і кидати щеняткам.» 27. А вона каже: «Так, Господи! Але й щенята їдять кришки, що падають зо столу в панів їхніх.») й в той сам час так наполегливо просить Ісуса про зцілення дочки, що Він напевно зі захопленням говорить: «О жінко, велика твоя віра! Хай тобі буде, як бажаєш».

Окрім того, реакція Ісуса на несподіваний вияв віри жінки-язичниці часто викликає критичні запитання. Основні можна звести до наступного: «Чому Ісус виглядає як жорсткий, зверхній та навіть нечутливий?». На ці й подібні запитання існують різні пояснення. На сам перед, не можна ігнорувати факт, що сам Ісус, посилаючи Своїх учнів на проповідь, наказував їм: «У дорогу до поган не пускайтесь і в самарійські міста не заходьте. А йдіть радше до загиблих овець дому Ізраїля» (Мт 10:5–6). В цьому наказі не йшлося про якісь етнічні мотиви, але радше про сповнення місії Ісуса – спочатку пробудити власний народ. Ізраїль, котрий Господь вибрав для того, щоб розв'язати проблему гріха, сам - в усякому разі, у своїй великій частині - став частиною проблеми. Його «світло» замість світити усім народам правду про Бога, було сховане і світило саме для себе, а «сіль» котра мала зберігати світ від зіпсуття, як би парадоксально це не

звучало, втратила свою властивість, – саме так слід розуміти значення слів Ісуса про світло та сіль у Нагірній проповіді (Мт 5:13–14).

Історія хананейки зустрічається і в нашому житті. Коли ми молимося за навернення наших ближніх чи вирішення їхніх справ з Божою допомогою, бачимо, що Господь не завжди зразу відповідає на наші звернення, ситуація не змінюється зразу, але це не означає, що Бог нас не чує. Певне мовчання Бога на нашу молитву, як подібно в ситуації хананейки, насправді несе для нас велике добро. Перш ніж допомогти нашим ближнім, Господь хоче зміцнити духовно нас самих, загартовуючи нашу віру і надію на Божу всемогутність і доброту, щоб таким чином нам було легше нести тягар проблем наших ближніх. Щоб ми могли когось навернути, привести до Бога, Бог хоче найперше зблизити до себе нас самих, зміцнити наш зв'язок віри і надії з Ним.

Зустріч жінки хананейки з Ісусом показує також, як молитва може змінювати людину і її життя, коли вона щира і витривала, повна віри, як казав Христос: „По вашій вірі нехай буде вам” (Мт. 9, 29). Іншими словами Христос запевняє нас, що наша молитва завжди буде вислухана: „І все, чого проситимете в молитві з вірою, отримаєте” (Мт. 21,22). Молитовна праця не завжди є легкою. Перше ніж прийде успіх, людині доводиться перебороти багато різних спокус, людських немочей, сумнівів. Але хто всю надію покладає на Бога, того Бог чинить кращим, міцнішим особисто, захищає від знеохоти, а також помагає у земних потребах. Сьогодні ми є свідками того, як Господь нагороджує жінку хананейку за її щире, покірне, витривале молитву. Нехай і наша молитва буде подібною до її. У всьому покладаючи надію на волю Божу, вірмо, що Господь робить все для нашого добра тут, на землі, і особливо бажає нашого духовного добра, спасіння також у вічності. Амінь.

Communion Verse: Хвалить Господа з небес, хвалить Його на висотах. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Parish Announcements

We Welcome You!

If you are visiting our church today, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Thank you and God bless you for visiting with us today! We welcome all our visitors and guests who worship at our parish. We invite families and individuals who wish to become members to register by calling Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357.

Вітаємо Вас!

Якщо Ви відвідуєте нашу церкву сьогодні, наша парафіяльна громада рада вітати Вас тут! Щире спасибі Вам, і нехай Бог благословить Вас за Ваші відвідини з нами сьогодні! Ми запрошуємо сім'ї та осіб, які бажають стати членами, зареєструватися у нас по телефоні о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357.

Please Pray for our Sick and Homebound Parishioners

Fr. Ihor Papka, Fr. Zbigniew Brzezicki, Oleh and Valentina Babski, Michaelle Baker, Marylou Blaisdell, Luba Dyky, Carmel Horangic, Christine Kolagji, John Koromaus, Helen Kucman, Martha and Ray Majkut, Karen and Jaroslaw Maksymowych, Jean Mandych, Sherri Martel, Katherine Masso, Jennifer McMillan, Katharine McNaughton, Jackie Morales, Lauren Morales, Jonathan Morales, Tanya and Ronald Morales, Alice Morris, Elizabeth Mozina, Olympia Pasicznyk, Billie Sheesley, Derek Stanley, Pauline Stanley, John Terninko, Elisha Wallace, Cindy Wilson, Dr. Mark Windt, Lauren Zelenski. Please contact Fr. Ihor if you would like to add a friend or loved one to this prayer list.

January Birthdays

The following parishioners are celebrating a birthday this month:

Jan. 1 – Father Ihor and Andrew B.

Jan. 2 – Nicole H.

Jan. 6 – Tanya M. and Nick H.

Jan. 8 – James V.

Jan. 17 – Anya V.

Jan. 19 – Isa B., Lauren M. and Garrett H.

Jan. 30 – Violetta P.

Our parish community wishes this month's birthday celebrants peace, joy, love and good health on their special day as well as throughout the year. May our dear Lord grant all of you many more healthy, happy and blessed years. Happy Birthday and На Многая літа! (На Мнoгaя Лita!).

Ukrainian Traditional Vertep

Our parish community extends its sincerest thanks to the members of the Ukrainian Cultural Center of New England who visited us last Sunday and performed a traditional Ukrainian Vertep at our church. The Vertep performance raised \$398 that was given by Mr. Anton Popov to Trustee Doug Vogel for our church in support of Ukrainian war refugees. Thank you to the Vertep members for their performance, which preserves Ukrainian traditions in New Hampshire and to all those who donated to this worthwhile cause.

Yordan Home Blessings

Beginning on Sunday, January 8th, Fr. Ihor will be available to travel to parishioners' homes to bless them during the season of Yordan (Theophany). Father Ihor will be blessing homes on Saturdays and Sundays during the month of January. Please see Fr. Ihor if you would like to sign up to have your home blessed. Kindly have at least three dates and time slots in mind when you sign up so that we can accommodate everyone. Thank you.

Йорданське Благословення домів

Починаючи у неділю, 8-го січня, о. Ігор зможе їздити по домах парафіян, щоб благословляти їх у період Йордану (Богоявління). Отець Ігор освячуватиме доми по суботах і неділях протягом місяця січня. Будь ласка, говоріть з о. Ігорем, якщо Ви бажаєте записатися на освячення Вашого дому. Під час реєстрації будь ласка, майте на увазі принаймні три дати та часові проміжки, щоб о. Ігор міг помістити всіх парафіян.

Parish Services Cancellation Announcements on WMUR-TV

In the event of inclement weather, any cancellations of parish church services will be announced on WMUR television. Cancellations will also be posted on the parish Facebook page, which can be accessed directly via the Internet. Please check these resources when winter storms approach to see if services have been canceled. Even if parish services have not been canceled, but weather or road conditions are poor, please remember to use caution and good judgment before deciding whether or not to travel to church, keeping your safety and that of your family as the most important priority. Thank you and please stay safe.

Christmas Yalynka Dinner

Today the Ladies' Sodality is hosting the annual Christmas Yalynka dinner in the church hall after Divine Liturgy. This is a potluck dinner where all are invited to attend and there is no charge for this dinner. A raffle will also be held at the dinner.

The Sower

The Eparchial newspaper, *The Sower*, is available for home delivery to all parishioners on a monthly basis at no cost. If you would like to receive a copy of *The Sower* each month, please speak with one of the Trustees who will contact the Stamford Eparchy on your behalf to arrange home delivery for you.

Weekly Reflection:

Learning about our Catholic Faith – The Tea Cup

There was a couple who often went to England to shop at a beautiful antique store. This particular trip was to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. They both liked antiques and pottery, and especially teacups. Spotting an exceptional cup, they asked the clerk, "May we see that one? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful." As the lady handed the cup to them, the teacup suddenly spoke, "You don't understand," the cup said, "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was just a lump of red clay. My master took me and rolled me, pounded and patted me over and over. I yelled out, 'Don't do that. I don't like it! Leave me alone', but he only smiled and gently said, 'Not yet!'

"Then WHAM! I was thrown on a spinning wheel and I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting so dizzy! I'm going to be sick!' I screamed. But the master only nodded and said quietly, 'Not yet.' He spun me and poked and prodded and bent me all out of shape to suit himself. Then he put me into an oven. I never felt such heat. I pounded at the door and screamed, 'Help! Get me out of here!' I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head from side to side, 'Not yet!'

"When I thought I couldn't bear it another minute, the door opened. He carefully took me out and put me on a shelf, and I began to cool. Oh, that felt so good! 'Ah, this is much better,' I thought. But, after I cooled he picked me up and with a brush, he painted something all over me. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Oh, please stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only shook his head and said, 'Not yet!' Then suddenly he put me back into the oven. Only it was not like the first one. This one was twice as hot and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. I was convinced I would never make it and just when I was ready to give up, the door opened and he took me out and again placed me on the shelf, where I cooled and waited, and waited, wondering, 'What's he going to do to me next?'

"An hour later he handed me a mirror and said, 'Look at yourself.' 'That's not me,' I said, 'That couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful!' Quietly he spoke, 'I want you to remember this' he said, 'I know it hurt to be rolled and pounded and patted, but had I just left you alone, you would have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around and around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know being in the oven was hot and disagreeable, and it hurt, but if I hadn't put you in there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life. If I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you.'"

This story has a moral and the moral is this: God knows what He is doing with each of us. God is the potter, and we are His clay. God will mold us and shape us; expose us to just enough pressures of the kind that will transform us into a flawless masterpiece. So when life seems hard, and you are being pounded and patted and pushed almost beyond endurance; when your world seems to be spinning out of control; when you feel like you are in a fiery furnace of trials; when life seems to "stink", try this – brew a cup of your favorite drink in your prettiest teacup; sit down and reflect on this story; and then, have a little talk with the Potter. Sit down and speak to the Potter. Tell Him all about your difficulties; ask Him to be there with you in those difficulties, to remind you that He is in control; and then, take time to listen and to look, as the Potter speaks to you and shows you the flawless masterpiece that you are becoming as He holds you in His loving hands.