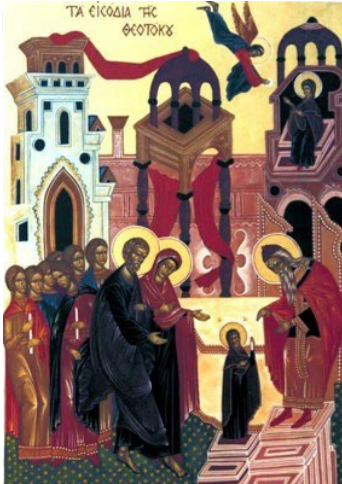


Ort



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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Do Not Be Afraid! Only Believe!
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Do not be afraid; only believe!

HUF: Hopeless, unexpected, forbidden.

- To my knowledge, this story is the only time there are two intertwined miracle stories in the New Testament, intertwined by context
- Today's lesson takes place right after the one we heard last week, the casting out of the legion of demons from the man in the region of the Gadarenes.
- The story of the raising of the daughter of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue and the cure of the woman with the uncurable hemorrhage are bound together by context, but not only context.
- The two stories have a common message
- In both cases, the situations that Jesus remedies are hopeless, his action unexpected and shocking; one might say, forbidden by the religious establishment of His time and place
- Jairus, the leader of the local synagogue, would surely have heard of our Lord's shocking sermon in His home town synagogue in Nazareth. How He had dared to read the prophecy of Isaiah and then astonishingly said, "Today this prophecy is fulfilled in your midst!" Jairus would undoubtedly have heard how the men in the Nazareth synagogue had even tried to

throw Him over a cliff, but how He had merely walked between them free; His time had not yet come!

- Undoubtedly having heard of all these things, Jairus nevertheless reaches out to Jesus, because his twelve year old daughter is sick and dying.
 - He is hopeless, you see.
- On His way to Jairus' house, Jesus is surrounded by a crowd of onlookers, curious people, some of course who opposed Him, others who did not
- Among them is a woman with a hemorrhage, a flow of blood, that no doctor could cure. She had spent all her resources trying to have it cured, but to no avail.
- She reaches out and touches the hem of His garment in the midst of the crowded turmoil and is instantly healed. Just by coming into contact with Him, but being united to Him, she is made whole again.
 - Every pious Jewish man would have worn the [tzitzit](#), the four tassels reminding them of God's commandments.
- She knows she is forbidden to draw near to anyone, particularly a Rabbi Who is teaching God's Word, but like Jairus, she is hopeless
- Both Jairus and she are hopeless, so they do what they must to be made whole
- But equally surprising is the Lord's willingness to comply
- No Rabbi would have allowed himself to come into contact with a corpse. Of course, He is warned. "Do not trouble the Master; your daughter is dead."
- But Jesus pressed on, knowing that He is not supposed to go near her
 - He says simply, "She is not dead, but sleeping." Both to minimize the shock, perhaps, and/or to give us a metaphor for death, which was frequently quoted in the epistles of St. Paul. To die, is to "fall asleep in the Lord."
- Likewise, to allow Himself to be drawn into the problems of a woman with a flow of blood was equally unexpected and forbidden by the religious establishment of that time. He alone notices it, for "power" or "virtue" flows to her and she is healed.
- Both miracles: the raising of a dead corpse and the cure of a woman with a hemorrhage, were brought about by the actions of people who were hopeless, and both miracles were accomplished by the Lord's actions that could only be described as unexpected and actually forbidden by the religious establishment of that time.
- Do not be afraid, only believe.
 - These are our Lord's ultimate words of comfort and hope
 - They have been conveyed by believers and leaders in His Church to countless individuals throughout the ages.
- Do not be afraid, only believe

- Whatever looks hopeless or impossible to make better can and will be rectified by the Lord
- Death and disease will be no more
- Those on the outside by virtue of their condition will be made whole and brought into community with others.
- Furthermore, those on the outside by virtue of their own actions against God's Will, as the result of their sin, will be forgiven.
 - Their forgiveness if a declaration of the Good News, to be met by their repentance.
 - Never forget that repentance is not so much a requirement, but a true grace of God's mercy
- Two miracle today bound by context and by a common message:
 - Do not be afraid, only believe.
 - God in His Divine Mercy forgives and makes whole again, even those for whom it seems there can be no hope.
 - This is the Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed and lived by our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Fr. Elias

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