

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 9:27-35

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto Him, Yea, Lord. Then touched He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad His fame in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (KJV)

God's Holy Church is where believers confidently enter seeking healing for the soul and body. Every soul requires healing, Every person sins. The nature of the sinfulness affects the healing required.

Bodily afflictions are directly intertwined with personal sinfulness. The sins of a person impact the health of the body. Persons repenting of sins and living a life pleasing to God face bodily ailments with strength.

The present Gospel illustrates Jesus' ability to heal physical ailments. Jesus' ability to heal is verified in many places in the Gospel. Two blind men had their sight restored by Jesus in the current Gospel.

In the present Gospel Jesus removed the influence of the devil from the mute man. Jesus gave him the ability to speak. The Gospel describes Jesus healing every sickness. Today's Gospel offers hope for every suffering person.

Believers blind to seeing the world through the eyes of the Church and mute in the face of worldly happenings benefit by turning to Jesus in hope. Jesus Christ offers the perspective to see the world as God's Creation.

Jesus Christ gives believers the words to speak when worldly ways conflict with the Lord's intentions. Travesties of justice, abuse of the environment, and greed need corrected in the present world.

Jesus Christ guides believers to address malignancies in the present world. Jesus Christ is the Healer for the world's ills. The Church puts daily life in perspective. The Church defines the worldview for believers to embrace.

Each Divine Liturgy offers healing. Each Divine Liturgy unites participating believers with the Lord Jesus Christ. The heart, mind and soul are nourished in the Divine Liturgy.

Believers are never alone. The Holy Apostle was clear about the constant presence of God. The Apostle said: "He be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts 17:27-28)

Jesus is within reach of every believer. Believers unite with Jesus Christ by exercising the power of their minds, the actions of their hearts and the readiness of their souls. Believers determine their access and unity with the Lord God.

God is always present. The person controls the degree of participation in the world as created by God. Too often believers seek to participate in an ungodly polluted world.

Blindness to the way of the Lord and muteness in the face of corruption occur when the person is overcome with sin. Abuse of the body, judging others and being unkind distorts the ability to see and speak.

The present Gospel is a challenge for believers to engage in careful self-examination. The Gospel challenges believers to personally assess their world view. Believers are to examine their actions toward the self and others.

Believers are responsible for care of the self. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit necessitating great care. (1 Cor. 6:19) The body is not to be abused or used in unhealthy ways.

Similarly, believers are to demonstrate love to others. When love does not characterize personal interactions, relationships are distorted and life unravels. Jesus Christ made clear love is paramount in relationships. (Mk. 12:31)

Growing in the Lord is a life-long process. From Baptism until departure from this life believers are expected to refine and develop their world view to conform to the ways of the Lord.

The believer's vision of life and the person's communications will be measured by the Lord at the Great and Second Coming. Each person will stand before the Lord for the Great and Final Judgment.

Personal daily actions grow out of personal thoughts. Thoughts and actions accrue and form the evidence Jesus will use at the time of judgment. Great care is needed for the believers not to travel the road leading to personal peril to the soul.

Repentance is always timely and proper for believers. Constant corrections on the path of life keep the believer on the narrow path to the Heavenly Kingdom and Eternal Life.

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Callinicus. Holy Martyr Seraphima. July 29/August 11, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

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