

October 26, 2018

Greetings to all the Faithful of St. Andrew's,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Here are some thoughts to ponder regarding this week's Gospel reading.

This Sunday's Gospel reading is Luke 8:41-56, which comes at the end of a section that started in 8:22 where the wind and the sea are calmed by Christ's word (8:22-25) after which he heals the Gentile Gerasene demoniac (8:26-39). The reading for this Sunday (8:41-56) follows immediately on the heels of these two stories. Here we have the healing of the woman with a flow of blood and the raising of the daughter of a ruler of the synagogue. These works of power (calming the wind, healing the demoniac, purifying the woman with the flow of blood and raising the girl) demonstrate Christ's power and authority to the disciples as well as the larger group of both Jews and Gentiles. The idea of faith or trust holds these stories together as a thread that unites them.

After having preached the gospel of mercy to the Gentiles in Luke 8:26-39, Jesus preaches this same gospel to the Jews: The fact that the number twelve is associated with the older woman and the girl, as well as the fact that we learn Jairus is a ruler of the synagogue, underscores the Jewishness of the hearers. This gospel of mercy is for all and through it comes purification (the healing of the old woman) and life (the raising of the young girl). Notice that Peter, James, and John, who will later have difficulties with the Gospel to the Gentiles as preached later by the Apostle Paul (Galatians 2:1-14), are singled out to be instructed that the Gospel is received by faith or trust no matter whether one is a Jew or Gentile. God makes no distinctions; all are called to place their trust in the Lord. One Gospel for all!

Upcoming events:

This Sunday (Oct.28) is Stewardship Sunday. This is a time to renew, strengthen and recommit ourselves to the ministries of St. Andrew the Apostle Orthodox Church in Lewes Delaware. We seek to be a blessing to our community which, by God's grace, we will continue to serve as we worship Him and serve His people.

The Fall Festival is on Nov. 2 & 3. Let's make this Fall Festival the best yet. There are still openings for volunteers to help set up, serve our visitors as they arrive, and to clean up afterward. Please sign up to help during coffee hour this weekend. Thank you in advance for your time spent lending a hand!

God's Blessings,
Fr. Herman