

October 3, 2018

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

Glory to Jesus Christ!

This week's Gospel is Luke 7:11-16. In order to help situate this passage in context, here are some seed thoughts for you to ponder.

In last Sunday's reading (Luke 6:31-36) we were taught to "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (v.36). Then in Luke 7:1-10 we see Jesus having mercy on a centurion's son, whom he heals, and again in Luke 7:11-16 we see mercy being extended to a widow whose son has died. In the case of the healing of the centurion's son and the raising of the widow's son, we are taught about the power of Jesus' *word*.

The centurion, recognizing Jesus's authority, said, "For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it" (Luke 7:8). By analogy, Jesus's word also brings about the healing of the servant. Then in the case of the widow's son we read "And he [Jesus] said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise'" (Luke 7:14). In both cases we see Jesus' teaching about prophecy as well as the power of that word being exercised through God's messenger who carries this 'word' (Luke 7:24-28). This is true of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Luke 7:31-35). The main point for us is to put our trust in the teaching of God as found in the Scriptures. If one does not believe and obey the Scripture, one will not believe even if someone is raised from the dead, as we read later in Luke: "'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead'" (Luke 16:31). At the end of our Gospel reading we learn that "God visits his people" when "a prophet arises among us" (Luke 7:16) and a prophet is someone who repeats God's words as they are presented in the Scriptures (Luke 7:22-23).

Don't forget, starting this Thursday, October 4, at 3 pm, we will be meeting at the Church for the "prayer of the 9th hour" (approximately 15 to 20 minutes) followed immediately by a Bible study on the subject of prayer. I look forward to seeing you there as we grow in our Orthodox Faith together!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Herman