

August 23, 2015: The XII Sunday after Pentecost

(The parable of the rich man)

Epistle: I Cor. 15:1-11:

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16:26:



And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou

wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is

easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

The gospel reading of this Sunday teaches us about the way we should use the material possessions we acquire in this world. If we use them with the understanding that we are their temporary administrators and share them with the poor, then they become an instrument through which we acquire **treasure in heaven.**

The important thing is to make sure that we control them and that we don't lose our discernment, allowing ourselves to be controlled by them.

The young rich man from today's gospel was obsessed with his possessions to the point where they became his personal god, committing thus spiritual adultery: **Thou shalt not commit adultery.**

When our Lord gave him the chance to liberate himself and use his possessions as an entry into God's kingdom he chose to serve his own god: **Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.**

Let this be a lesson to all of us!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:

Gheorghe Eugen & Floarea

Luca Liviu & Carmen

Mocanu Vasile & Ștefana

Thank you all very much!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish,
asking them **to pay their membership as soon as possible.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial
obligations for the rest of the year.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!