

+ St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

كنيسة القديس نيقولاوس الانطاكية الأرثوذكسية

SUNDAY BULLETIN - JUNE 28, 2015 A.D.



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WE ARE A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA,  
WHICH IS AN ARCHDIOCESE OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST.

لُغتنا انطاكيّة، لُغتنا واحدة

“Our language is Antiochian, our language is One” - H.B. Patriarch John X

## THE HOLY EPISTLE (Romans 6:18-23)

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِذْ أُعْتَقْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ صِرْتُمْ عِبِيداً لِلْبِرِّ. أَتَكَلَّمُ إِنْسَانِيًّا مِنْ أَجْلِ ضَعْفِ جَسَدِكُمْ. لِأَنَّهُ كَمَا قَدَّمْتُمْ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عِبِيداً لِلنَّجَاسَةِ وَالْإِثْمِ لِلرَّبِّ هَكَذَا الْآنَ قَدِّمُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عِبِيداً لِلْبِرِّ لِلْقِدَاسَةِ. لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمَّا كُنْتُمْ عِبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ كُنْتُمْ أَحْرَاراً مِنَ الْبِرِّ. فَأَيُّ ثَمَرٍ كَانَ لَكُمْ حِينَئِذٍ مِنَ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي تَسْتَحُونَ بِهَا الْآنَ؟ لِأَنَّ نَهَائِيَةَ تِلْكَ الْأُمُورِ هِيَ الْمَوْتُ. وَأَمَّا الْآنَ إِذْ أُعْتَقْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ وَصِرْتُمْ عِبِيداً لِلَّهِ فَلَكُمْ ثَمَرُكُمْ لِلْقِدَاسَةِ وَالنَّهَائِيَةَ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً. لِأَنَّ أَجْرَةَ الْخَطِيئَةِ هِيَ مَوْتُ وَأَمَّا هِبَةُ اللَّهِ فَهِيَ حَيَاةً أَبَدِيَّةً بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Matthew 8:5-13)

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man 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." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَفَرْنَاحُومَ ، جَاءَ إِلَيْهِ قَائِدُ مِئَةِ يَطْلُبُ إِلَيْهِ وَيَقُولُ : (( يَا سَيِّدُ ، غُلَامِي مَطْرُوحٌ فِي الْبَيْتِ مَفْلُوجاً مُتَعَذِّباً جِداً )) . فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ : (( أَنَا آتِي وَأَشْفِيهِ )) . فَاجَابَ قَائِدُ الْمِئَةِ وَقَالَ : (( يَا سَيِّدُ ، لَسْتُ مُسْتَحَقًّا أَنْ تَدْخُلَ تَحْتَ سَقْفِي ، لَكِنْ قُلْ كَلِمَةً فَقَطْ فَيَبْرَأَ غُلَامِي . لِأَنِّي أَنَا أَيْضاً إِنْسَانٌ تَحْتَ سُلْطَانِ لِي جُنْدٌ تَحْتَ يَدِي . أَقُولُ لِهَذَا : اذْهَبْ ! فَيَذْهَبُ ، وَآخِرُ : آيَةُ ! فَيَأْتِي ، وَلِعَبْدِي : افْعَلْ هَذَا ! فَيَفْعَلْ )) . فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ يَسُوعُ تَعَجَّبَ ، وَقَالَ لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ : (( الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ : لَمْ أَجِدْ وَلَا فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِيمَاناً بِمِقْدَارِ هَذَا ! وَأَقُولُ لَكُمْ : إِنَّ كَثِيرِينَ سَيَأْتُونَ مِنَ الْمَشَارِقِ وَالْمَغَارِبِ وَيَتَكُونُونَ مَعَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ ، وَأَمَّا بَنُو الْمَلَكُوتِ فَيُطْرَحُونَ إِلَى الظُّلْمَةِ الْخَارِجِيَّةِ . هُنَاكَ يَكُونُ الْبُكَاءُ وَصْرِيرُ الْأَسْنَانِ )) . ثُمَّ قَالَ يَسُوعُ لِقَائِدِ الْمِئَةِ : (( اذْهَبْ ، وَكَمَا أَمَنْتَ لِي كُنْ لَكَ )) . فَبَرَأَ غُلَامَهُ فِي تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ .

"Increasingly Christians have been talking about the coming of the Anti-Christ. Events around the world have created a sense of doom among many believers, seeing in the economic downswing, rise of Islam, extreme climate change, and breakdown of societal norms, as precursors to the coming of the End Times. It is important that we remember Christians in the first century were prepared for the end of times and the second coming of Christ. Christians have always been prepared, as we should. We are struggling against the principalities of darkness, just as God's people have been struggling since the fall of human kind. This life is full of spiritual warfare. The hour for the return of Christ is not to be revealed, for only the Father knows the time and the hour, as Christ Himself told us. What is important is that we be prepared for our own death, for none of us knows when our own end will come. At sixty-nine, I am more aware of my own ultimate end than ever before. I've had increasing numbers of friends depart this life, some after illnesses, some without warning. All of us must be prepared to give account for our lives before the Lord at any given moment. We can not expect time to repent, for most of us will die without warning. Whether these are the End Times or not, we must live our lives in preparation for that final moment when we will stand before the Throne of God, and be held accountable for how we have lived our life. In the end, Christ will triumph over evil, and His Kingdom will last forever. For now, we must fight the battle, so that we, too, will triumph over evil. Come, Lord Jesus Christ." **(ABBOT TRYPHON)**

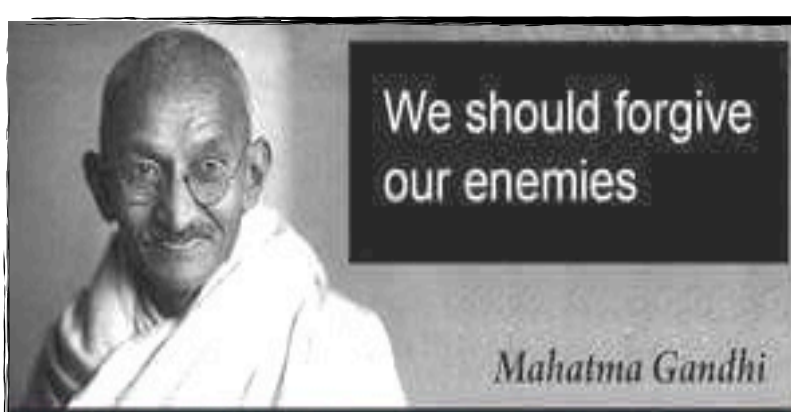
# \*\*\* TOO MUCH TO DO! \*\*\*

By: Fr. Barnabas Powell

Have you ever looked at your schedule and thought "Wow, how am I ever going to finish all this?" Yea, me too! I sometimes wonder about all our "busyness." Is mere abundance of activity really necessary, or are we doing so much to "hide" from something? Just looking at my own children's schedule of dance practice, play dates, and social engagements makes me want to run and hide from all the deadlines, appointments, and "obligations." Then my next question to myself is "Is all this activity really accomplishing anything of value?" That's when I am so tempted to run and hide! The key to all this "work" and activity in our lives is a regular "check up" on motives and vision and direction. Are the priorities of my actions properly determined to achieve my true goals in life? Do I even know what those life goals are? In our Gospel Lesson today our Lord Jesus chooses 12 men to be His disciples. In His instructions to His disciples about their own purpose and direction for their lives He reveals the steps we are to take to keep our own priorities and vision for our lives in the proper order for maximum focus and clear direction. Instead of groping in the "darkness" of our fears and anxieties, we can clearly see which steps to take to become who we really are. Look at Matthew 9:36-38; 10:1-8. Here the Lord reveals His priorities and how we can do the same.

*At that time, when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."*

Our first, necessary characteristic if we are ever going to see beyond our own "busyness" is compassion; that ability to see beyond ourselves and our own feelings and desires to consider others and their needs. A constant inward focus makes me blind to the ordering of my priorities based on love rather than selfish desires. Next, the Lord's compassion allowed Him to see others as they really are and not just from the standpoint of how they make "me" feel. No wonder those around me act as they do. They are "harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd." It is amazing that, when I act from compassion instead of expectations of others; instead of judging others and their actions on how they make "me" feel; I am liberated to forget about myself and see clearly what drives and motivates those around me. No wonder the old saying is "Walk a mile in my shoes" then you'll understand why I act as I do. Finally, this insight and compassion motivates action. The Lord tells His disciples that "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38) There are so many around us today who are so very ready for actions motivated by compassion and understanding; so much to be done; such a "plentiful" harvest of people longing to be transformed by love and truth, that this realization alone should drive us to not only get to work, but to petition the Lord for more workers to get this "harvest" in before the "crop" dies in the field. Today, do you have the spiritual maturity to govern and access your priorities and your busy schedule? Are you accomplishing eternally valuable goals or merely investing in things and actions that are here today and gone tomorrow? Are you using this precious and ever dwindling gift of time to become who you really are? Stop, today, and look at your priorities, your schedule, your investments of time and treasure, and allow the insights of Compassion, Reality, and Action to shape your choices and your behavior. Allow the faith you say you believe to actually shape your life. When you do, you'll be Orthodox on Purpose!

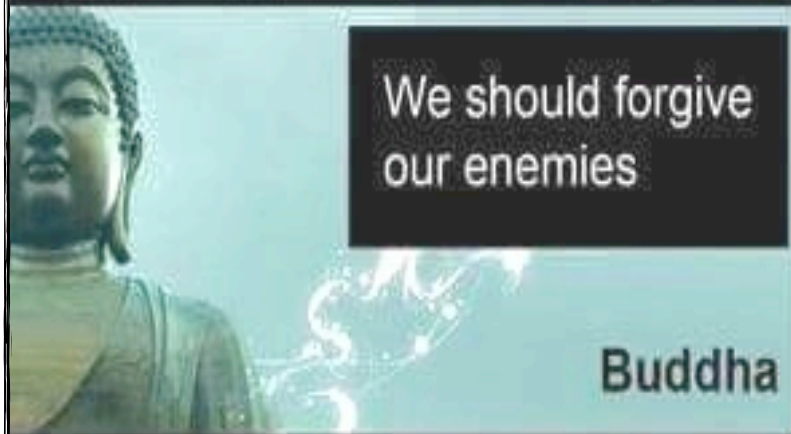


We should forgive our enemies

Mahatma Gandhi

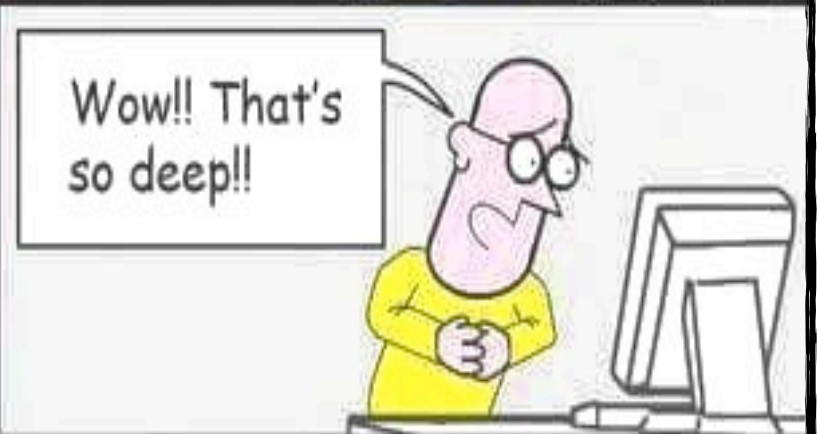


Oh!! That's beautiful !!



We should forgive our enemies

Buddha



Wow!! That's so deep!!



We should forgive our enemies

Jesus



Oh no!!! Religion!!

**CHURCH RAFFLE**  
\*\* AUGUST 25 2015 \*\*  
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**SATURDAY: VESPERS (7:00PM)**  
CONFESSION BY APPOINTMENT  
**SUNDAY:**  
**ORTHROS AT 9:00AM**  
**DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:30AM**  
**(NO VESPERS ON JULY 4)**



**MET. BOULOS YAZIGI**  
& **MET. YOUHANNA IBRAHIM**  
ABDUCTED BY TERRORISTS IN SYRIA  
ON APRIL 22, 2013  
THE INTERNATIONAL SILENCE CONTINUES  
DURING THE GENOCIDE OF THE  
CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST.  
WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THEM ALL!