

Sts. Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

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September 12, 2021

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: LEAVETAKING OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Mon. 13	7:00pm	Vesperal Liturgy <i>Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross</i>
Wed. 15	7:15pm	Bible Study with GoogleMeet
Sun. 19	10:00am	Divine Liturgy

One must be baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian to receive Holy Communion. Guests are invited to receive a blessing at the chalice and partake of the post-Communion bread (Antidoron).

Fast Days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able. Wine and oil are allowed on Tuesday.)

Troparion – Tone 3 (*Ressurection*)

*Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength
with His arm.
He has trampled down death by
death.
He has become the first born of the
dead.
He has delivered us from the depths
of hell,
and has granted to the world
great mercy.*

Kontakion – Tone 4 (*Nativity of the Theotokos*)

*By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from
barrenness,
Adam and Eve — from the
corruption of death.
And we, thy people, freed from the
guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to
thee:
“The barren woman gives birth to
the Theotokos, the nourisher of our
Life.”*

Prayers for those in our Sts. Peter and Paul community (parishioners, family, friends) can be listed for remembrance in our litanies during the Liturgy. Feel free to give names to Fr. Nicholas - please indicate how each person listed is connected to us (parishioner, family, friend, etc.), as well as why we are praying for them (health, memory, travel, etc.).

Confessions can be heard by appointment. If you need, I will come to you during the week. Please do not hesitate to call for a time to drop by the church or to have me visit you.

Remembrances for both the living and the dead during the prayers of preparation of the Eucharistic Lamb and during the Augmented Litany should be given the week before the desired remembrance so that the names can be put into the bulletin and given to the Deacons for the prayers. Any names of the living that are not marked as sick or traveling will be listed under general prayers.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

Galatians 6:11-18

John 3:13-17

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Matthew 19:16-26

Monday

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 3:6-12

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

Mark 3:13-19

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 9:12-10:7

Mark 3:20-27

Thursday

2 Corinthians 10:7-18

Mark 3:28-35

Friday

2 Corinthians 11:5-21

Mark 4:1-9

Saturday

1 Corinthians 2:6-9

Matthew 22:15-22

Reading the Bible in a Year

Sept 12: Wis Sir 29-32

Sept 13: Wis Sir 33-36

Sept 14: Wis Sir 37-40

Sept 15: Wis Sir 41-44

Sept 16: Wis Sir 45-48

Sept 17: Wis Sir 49-51

Sept 18: Baruch

We Must be Prepared for the Storms that Abound

The past few days I have addressed the issue of young Orthodox Christians and their college experience, suggesting that they must be prepared to defend their faith in a challenging, secular setting. The truth is, all of us need to be prepared to defend our faith, but not just against the occasional person who would challenge our beliefs, or question our involvement in a faith that is so demanding of our time and energy.

Orthodoxy is not like any other form of Christianity. Only in Orthodoxy do we find the challenge of keeping over half the year as periods of fasting. Only in Orthodoxy do we keep the ancient Christian practice of standing for our services, some lasting for many hours. Only in Orthodoxy are we expected to abstain from all food and drink from midnight on, before receiving the Holy Mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood. Only in Orthodoxy are we expected to confess our sins to Christ, frequently, before a witness (the priest).

I could go on, but the point I am trying to make is that Orthodoxy is not "Christianity lite". The Orthodox Church has not attempted to reinvent herself every ten or twenty years. Her teachings, divine services, and way of life have remained virtually unchanged for two millennia, and are not likely to see many changes for the next thousand years. If it works, why change it?

Since the Church, ancient as she is, is still set in a modern world, her faithful need to be armed as in combat, ready to live the life that Orthodoxy expects of her faithful, regardless of the influences and temptations that abound at her doorstep. The only way this is possible is if we strengthen our resolve to live our Orthodoxy in this secular environment by educating ourselves about our faith. Blind acceptance of the Church's practices and beliefs is simply not enough. We will ultimately fail in our adherence to our Orthodox Faith if we simply go through the motions without understanding what it means to be Orthodox.

Although the services impart the teachings of our faith (provided we understand the liturgical language that is being used), we can not expect to deepen our own understanding by simply attending services. Spiritual reading must be a part of our daily routine. We must see spiritual reading as more important than reading the newspaper, or watching television. Immersing ourselves in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and following the daily readings of the Church Year, should be as important as brushing our teeth. Reading books on prayer and the inner life should be as intricately a part of our day as having a nourishing breakfast before starting work.

Finally, feeding our soul is not just the job of our priest, for that would be like sending our child off to school while not expecting them to do their homework. The Great Ship of the Church is taking us on a wonderful journey into the Heart of God. We must be prepared for the storms that abound, so that we do not find ourselves being tossed overboard, or crashing into the rocks.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, I've too often stopped at feeling sorry for my mistakes and watched as regret poisons my relationship with You. I have so rarely actually entered into true repentance that my sorrow over my sins always left me enslaved to my passions. But Lord, I need Your help to finally have a godly sorrow over my shortcomings so that this grief will actually lead me to "change my mind" about how to look at this world and my desperate need daily for Your grace. Lord, have mercy on me and save me. Amen.

Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle, Sunday Before)**John 3:13-17 (Gospel, Sunday Before)**

See with what large letters I have written to you No one has ascended to heaven but He who came with my own hand! As many as desire to make a down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is good showing in the flesh, these would compel you in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not those who are circumcised keep the law, but they perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the desire to have you circumcised that they may boast world that He gave His only begotten Son, that in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast whoever believes in Him should not perish but except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to into the world to condemn the world, but that the the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision world through Him might be saved.

nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new

creation. And as many as walk according to this **Matthew 19:16-26**

rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?"

Jesus said, "You shall not murder,' You shall not

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall which I preached to you, which also you received not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your and in which you stand, by which also you are mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached yourself.' " The young man said to Him, "All these to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered things I have kept from my youth. What do I still to you first of all that which I also received: that lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you and that He was buried, and that He rose again the will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." third day according to the Scriptures, and that He But when the young man heard that saying, he was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to of whom the greater part remain to the present, you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not When His disciples heard it, they were greatly worthy to be called an apostle, because I astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was this is impossible, but with God all things are not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than possible."

they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Godly Grief Works Repentance

September 10, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

But I was really sorry. I said so over and over again. And I really meant it. I was sorry for what I did. And it wasn't the first time. It wasn't even the second time. It was multiple times I'd stumbled over the same mistake. And I was really sorry.

But nothing changed.

Why? Why was I so gripped by this short-sighted behavior? Why was I so vulnerable to this “besetting sin?” And if I was really sorry for it, why did I keep repeating the same mistake?

Look at our lesson today in 2 Corinthians 7:10-16:

Brethren, godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point, you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong, nor on account of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your zeal for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.

Therefore we are comforted.

St. Paul is commanding the Corinthian church for actually dealing with the serious moral problem in their community he had written to them about in 1 Corinthians. They had shown their hearts were committed to having a godly community and their actions proved it!

But in writing them today, St. Paul reveals to us just why being sorry isn't enough. If I'm going to actually overcome those stubborn mistakes, I'm going to have to actually repent! And true repentance isn't just being sorry for my stumbles. In fact, being sorry for my mistakes can lead to repentance OR it can lead to deeper spiritual illness.

St. Paul calls feeling sorry for mistakes “grief.” I really like that. Because awareness of my sins usually feels like grief, and grief has everything to do with death. When I finally wake up to the destructive results of my self-centered choices, I feel like something is dying. It could be the false image of who I thought I was OR it could be my relationships with others or even God that is dying because I'm continuing to sin. But something is dying, and my sorrow over that death reveals which way that sorrow is going to take my life. Paul tells us that “worldly grief” produces death. And I understand what he means. I've experienced this in my own life and I've watched this same scenario play out in the lives of others. Being so gripped by regret that you find yourself repeating the same mistakes over and over again or being swallowed by despondency and depression that you can't move, all the while feeling sorry for your mistakes. But your “worldly” grief keeps you a prisoner instead of bringing you to true repentance.

But Godly grief is just the opposite. St. Paul says that godly grief “leads to salvation and brings no regret!” Now that's what we all need – salvation and an escape from the dead end of regret. Paul goes on to say that the Corinthians’ “godly grief” has driven them to “clear yourselves.” The Corinthians allowed their sorrow for their behavior to produce a change of mind, a change of perspective. In their godly grief, they discovered helpful “indignation” and “alarm,” “longing,” “zeal,” and even “punishment!” Their godly grief produced true repentance that wasn't pain free but the pain it produced healed rather than harmed them. Just as the surgeon's knife wounds and heals, so “godly grief” may feel like punishment and even alarm. But, in the end, a grief that focuses on God's goodness, His love, His grace, and His wisdom brings me true life and not the slavery of regret.

Today, have you so misunderstood repentance that you think it is simply being sorry for making a mistake? Perhaps it's time to abandon the worldly grief that enslaves me to regret and embrace and even ask for that godly grief that leads to true repentance, that change of perspective that helps me see my sins and my failures from God's perspective rather than the dead end of mere self improvement. Being Orthodox on Purpose calls me to that shift in thinking that makes me like Jesus Christ!



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

"Let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it. Let us pray to God for this, as we have been taught, so that we may keep our souls unenslaved and absolutely free from domination by any of the visible things loved for the sake of the body. Let us show that we eat for the sake of living, and not be guilty of living for the sake of eating. The first is a sign of intelligence, the second proof of its absence."

- St. Maximos the Confessor



September

- 12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 13– 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy
Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross
- 15 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 22 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 29 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

Coffee Hour

This Week: Spaghetti Luncheon

Next Week:

If anyone who is currently unable to attend our Sunday Liturgy and supply coffee hour would like to donate to host a coffee hour, please contact Fr. Nicholas 860-861-7468

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were donated by:
Tina Murianka

The Need

Imagine missing school because you don't have a backpack or even a pair of shoes. For many children experiencing homelessness and poverty in America, they don't need to imagine. They are forced to skip school, unable to participate in sports and playground activities, and face health risks because of inadequate shoes, food, or school supplies. The problem is especially great in Philadelphia, which has the highest poverty rate of any of the 10 largest cities in the U.S., as well as in surrounding communities. Due to COVID, the need is year round and greater than ever.

How Can You Help?

Please consider a donation to the FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) Back to School Backpack Program. We hope to assist students in the School District of Philadelphia by providing them with new backpacks filled with school supplies. A donation of \$25 will cover the cost of 1 backpack filled with supplies, while \$600 will provide backpacks for a classroom of 24 students. Click on this link to go to our fundraising web page to donate and help us reach our goal of providing backpacks for needy children:

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E334599&id=179&cfid=13>

Or, you may donate by check made out to "FOCUS North America", with "2021 Backpack Program" written on the memo line, or cash, either of which may be given to Tina Murianka, cmurianka@verizon.net or 267-319-4770, or to Tina Tsiadis, kmarlos@me.com or 330-933-6987. Donations will be accepted until September 12, 2021. The video below shares the story of this program, and can be found at <https://focusnorthamerica.org/b2s/>. God bless you all for your generosity!

Children's Word

God's word in your heart

Think of your favorite song. Can you remember all of the words? Of course, you can! You can probably remember the words to lots of songs. Sometimes we know words to songs that we wish we didn't! We fill our heads with all sorts of things.

Sometimes you memorize poems for school. Other times you learn math formulas or remember lines for a play. But have you ever tried to remember a verse from the Bible? We can fill our heads with good things, like the words of our Lord, Jesus Christ. When we do that, God can give us help when we need it. Let's start today!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear one of the most famous and most loved verses in the Bible. It is John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Try to remember this great line. Fill your head with it! This verse tells us how much God loves us. Wouldn't you like to fill your head with that thought?

THE ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFEGIVING CROSS

Do you have something that is precious to you? Maybe a pet animal or a favorite toy or a present from your grandmother? Maybe your parents have told you how precious you are to them.

Something precious to you is something that means so much to you, something you wouldn't trade for anything! A precious jewel is a diamond or another gem that is worth a lot of money, but something precious to you might not be worth anything to somebody else.

On Tuesday we remember another great feastday of our Church. It is the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross. It's the day we remember how the Empress Helen searched for the real and holy Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then, when she finally found it (with the workmen), she elevated it—she raised it up high. She wanted everybody to know how precious the holy Cross is.

This week (and every week), let's try to think about how much our Cross means to us. When Jesus died on the Cross, He wanted to give us something more valuable than any amount of money. He wanted to give us life with Him forever!

We celebrate the Holy Cross on Tues, Sept. 14th

Ss. Peter and Paul Diaper Drive

Our church will be holding a three-week diaper drive in September to honor the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, and in order to help those in need in our community.

Infant diapers and adult incontinence supplies are necessities for many who already cannot afford them, and the cost of both is rising. These are items that are not covered by either food stamps or Medicare. We are asking parishioners to purchase packages of diapers and/or incontinence supplies and bring them to church anytime from Tuesday, September 8, through Sunday, September 26.

Diapers and incontinence supplies can be found in most grocery stores and pharmacies. Any size is fine, and you are welcome to donate as many packages as you wish. Cases of diapers are also welcome.

Once the diaper drive is over, all the supplies will be donated to the Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank, who will then distribute them to shelters, social services, and individual families in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Matushka Katie (adellermann@gmail.com)

or Fr. Nicholas.(860-861-7468)

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ~ Hebrews 13:16

К Галатам 6:11-18

Видите, как много написал я вам своею рукою. Желающие хвалиться по плоти принуждают вас обрезываться только для того, чтобы не быть гонимыми за крест Христов, ибо и сами обрезывающиеся не соблюдают закона, но хотят, чтобы вы обрезывались, дабы похвалиться в вашей плоти. А я не желаю хвалиться, разве только крестом Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, которым для меня мир распят, и я для мира. Ибо во Христе Иисусе ничего не значит ни обрезание, ни необрезание, а новая тварь. Тем, которые поступают по сему правилу, мир им и милость, и Израилю Божию. Впрочем никто не отягощай меня, ибо я ношу язвы Господа Иисуса на теле моем. Благодать Господа нашего Иисуса Христа со духом вашим, братия. Аминь.

1-е Коринфянам 15:1-11

Напоминаю вам, братия, Евангелие, которое я благовествовал вам, которое вы и приняли, в котором и утвердились, которым и спасаетесь, если преподанное удерживаете так, как я благовествовал вам, если только не тщетно уверовали. Ибо я первоначально преподал вам, что и [сам] принял, [то] [есть], что Христос умер за грехи наши, по Писанию, и что Он погребен был, и что воскрес в третий день, по Писанию, и что явился Кифе, потом двенадцати; потом явился более нежели пятистам братий в одно время, из которых большая часть доныне в живых, а некоторые и почили; потом явился Иакову, также всем Апостолам; а после всех явился и мне, как некоему извергу. Ибо я наименьший из Апостолов, и недостоин называться Апостолом, потому что гнал церковь Божию. Но благодатию Божией есмь то, что есмь; и благодать Его во мне не была тщетна, но я более всех их потрудился: не я, впрочем, а благодать Божия, которая со мною. Итак я ли, они ли, мы так проповедуем, и вы так уверовали.

От Иоанна 3:13-17

Никто не восходил на небо, как только сшедший с небес Сын Человеческий, сущий на небесах. И как Моисей вознес змию в пустыне, так должно вознесену быть Сыну Человеческому, дабы всякий, верующий в Него, не погиб, но имел жизнь вечную. Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир, что отдал Сына Своего Единородного, дабы всякий верующий в Него, не погиб, но имел жизнь вечную. Ибо не послал Бог Сына Своего в мир, чтобы судить мир, но чтобы мир спасен был чрез Него.

От Матфея 19:16-26

И вот, некто, подойдя, сказал Ему: Учитель благий! что сделать мне доброго, чтобы иметь жизнь вечную? Он же сказал ему: что ты называешь Меня благим? Никто не благ, как только один Бог. Если же хочешь войти в жизнь [вечную], соблюди заповеди. Говорит Ему: какие? Иисус же сказал: не убивай; не прелюбодействуй; не кради; не лжесвидетельствуй; почитай отца и мать; и: люби ближнего твоего, как самого себя. Юноша говорит Ему: всё это сохранил я от юности моей; чего еще недостает мне? Иисус сказал ему: если хочешь быть совершенным, пойди, продай имение твое и раздай нищим; и будешь иметь сокровище на небесах; и приходи и следуй за Мною. Услышав слово сие, юноша отошел с печалью, потому что у него было большое имение. Иисус же сказал ученикам Своим: истинно говорю вам, что трудно богатому войти в Царство Небесное; и еще говорю вам: удобнее верблюду пройти сквозь игольные уши, нежели богатому войти в Царство Божие. Услышав это, ученики Его весьма изумились и сказали: так кто же может спастись? А Иисус, взорев, сказал им: человекам это невозможно, Богу же всё возможно.

Galatasve 6:11-18

Shikoni me çfarë shkronjash të mëdha ju kam shkruar me dorën time! Të gjithë ata që duan të duken të mirë në mish, ju shtrëngojnë që të rrethpritni vetëm që të mos përndiqeni për kryqin e Krishtit. Sepse as vetë ata që rrethpriten nuk e zbatojnë ligjin, por duan që ju të rrethpritni, që ata të mburren në mishin tuaj. Sa për mua, mos ndodhtë kurrë që unë të mburrem me tjetër gjë, veç për kryqin e Zotit tonë Jezu Krisht, për të cilin bota është kryqëzuar tek unë edhe unë te bota. Sepse në Jezu Krishtin as rrethprerja, as parrethprerja s'kanë ndonjë vlerë, por krijesa e re. Dhe të gjithë ata që do të ecin sipas kësaj rregulle paçin paqe dhe mëshirë, e ashtu qoftë edhe për Izraelin e Perëndisë. Tash e tutje askush të mos më trazojë, sepse unë mbaj në trupin tim shenjat e Zotit Jezus. Vëllezër, hiri i Zotit tonë Jezu Krisht qoftë me fryshtën tuaj. Amen.

1 e Korintasve 15:1-11

Tani, o vëllezër, po ju deklaroj ungjillin që ju kam shpallur dhe që ju e keni marrë dhe mbi të cilin ju qëndroni, dhe me anë të cilit ju jeni shpëtuar, nëse do ta mbani fjalën që ju kanë predikuar, veç nëse besuat kot. Sepse unë ju kam transmetuar para së gjithash ato që edhe unë vetë i kam marrë, se Krishti vdiq për mëkatet tona sipas Shkrimeve, se u varros dhe u ringjall të tretën ditë, sipas Shkrimeve, edhe se iu shfaq Kefës dhe pastaj të dyimbëdhjetëve. Pastaj iu shfaq një herë të vetme më shumë se pesëqind vëllezërve, prej të cilëve më të shumtët rrojnë edhe sot, kurse disa kanë rënë në gjumë. Më pas iu shfaq Jakobit dhe pastaj të gjithë apostujve. Më së fundi m'u shfaq edhe mua, si në dështimit. Sepse unë jam më i vogli i apostujve dhe as nuk jam i denjë të quhem apostull, sepse e kam përndjekur kishën e Perëndisë. Por me hirin e Perëndisë jam ai që jam; dhe hiri i tij ndaj meje nuk qe i kotë, madje jam munduar më shumë se gjithë të tjerët, jo unë, por hiri i Perëndisë që është me mua. Pra, si unë, ashtu edhe ata kështu predikojmë dhe ju kështu besuat.

Gjoni 3:13-17

Askush nuk u ngjit në qiell, përveç atij që zbriti nga qielli, pra, Birit të njeriut që është në qiell. Dhe ashtu si Moisiu e ngriti lart gjarprin në shkretëtirë, kështu duhet të ngrihet lart Biri i njeriut, që kushdo që beson në të mos humbasë, por të ketë jetë të përjetshme. Sepse Perëndia e deshi aq botën, sa dha Birin e tij të vetëmlindurin, që, kushdo që beson në të, të mos humbasë, por të ketë jetë të përjetshme. Sepse Perëndia nuk e dërgoi Birin e vet në botë që ta dënojë botën, por që bota të shpëtohet prej tij.

Mateu 19:16-26

Dhe ja, iu afrua dikush dhe i tha: "Mësues i mirë, çfarë të mire duhet të bëj që të kem jetë të përjetshme?" Dhe ai tha: "Pse më quan të mirë? Askush nuk është i mirë, përveç një të vetmi: Perëndia. Tani në qoftë se ti don të hysh në jetë, zbato urdhërimet." Ai i tha: "Cilat?" Atëherë Jezusi i tha: "Mos vraj, mos shkel kurorën, mos vidh, mos bëj dëshmi të rrëme, ndero atin tënd dhe nënën tënde dhe duaje të afërmin tënd si veten tënde." I riu i tha: "Të gjitha këto gjëra unë i kam zbatuar që në rini; çfarë më mungon tjetër?" Jezusi i tha: "Në qoftë se do të jesh i përsosur, shko, shit ç'të kesh, jepua të varfërve dhe ti do të kesh një thesar në qiell; pastaj eja dhe më ndiq mua." Por i riu, kur i dëgjoi këto fjalë, iku i trishtuar, sepse kishte pasuri të madhe. Atëherë Jezusi u tha dishepujve të vet: "Në të vërtetë ju them se një i pasur me vështirësi do të hyjë në mbretërinë e qiejve. Dhe po jua përsëris: Është më lehtë të kalojë deveja nga vrima e gjilpërës, se sa i pasuri të hyjë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë." Kur i dëgjuan këto fjalë, dishepujt e vet u habitën shumë dhe thanë: "Atëherë, kush do të shpëtojë vallë?" Dhe Jezusi duke përqëndruar shikimin mbi ata tha: "Për njerëzit kjo është e pamundur, por për Perëndinë çdo gjë është e mundur."