

CHRIST THE PHYSICIAN

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



A MAN WITH DROPSY IS HEALED

Luke 14:1-6

Throughout the gospels, we learn about the huge crowds of people who traveled from far and wide to reach Jesus and were healed by Him - lepers, blind, mute, paralyzed, demon possessed, crippled, and even dying. It didn't matter how minor or extreme the ailment was for the person, Christ healed them.

Luke shares with us that Jesus had been invited to the home of a ruler of the

1

GOAL

Who is the Physician of our souls and bodies?

2

AT CHURCH

Holy Communion
Holy Confession
Holy Unction

3

AT HOME

Reading the Bible;
Prayer; Fasting;
Almsgiving



Dropsy:

is known as edema today. A person will have an area under their skin fill with fluid, which is an indication of liver, kidney, or heart disease or of malnutrition.



Sabbath:

is a day of rest for Jews when they observe no work or travel from sunset on Friday to Saturday evening.

Pharisees for a meal on the Sabbath. (The Sabbath is a holy day for the Jews. It begins at sunset on Friday and lasts until after sundown on Saturday. They do not work or travel on this day.) As Jesus is sitting at the table, everyone was watching closely and scrutinizing every single move He made. Then, everyone's attention shifted to a man who silently stood in front of Jesus. This man had dropsy - or edema - which is an indication that his liver, heart, or kidneys are probably going into failure.

The room is filled with lawyers and Pharisees. These are people who constantly remind everyone else about the rules they should follow, including not working on the Sabbath. Jesus knew what the lawyers and Pharisees were thinking and prompted them with a question, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" (Is it allowed to heal on the Sabbath?) But they said absolutely nothing in return even though they thought it was not lawful.

The Law was given to the Jews to prepare them for the coming of Christ. Christ assures us, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17) Additionally, Jesus tells us, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." (Luke 6:5)



Christ then healed the man with dropsy and dismissed him, allowing him to go home.

Jesus then answers His own question with another question, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?"

Fr. Lawrence Farley explains, "And such a task took a lot of effort, with much time and strain. Yet one would do it anyway, even if it were just to help an animal. If one were permitted to alleviate such suffering on the Sabbath, even at the cost of such strenuous exertion, how much more was Christ permitted to alleviate worse suffering with a mere word, by simply taking hold of a man! Not surprisingly, the experts were not able to answer back to these things and remained silent."

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 272 - 284

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 178 - 191

What is Shabbat? (Sabbath) - [Jewish Virtual Library](#)

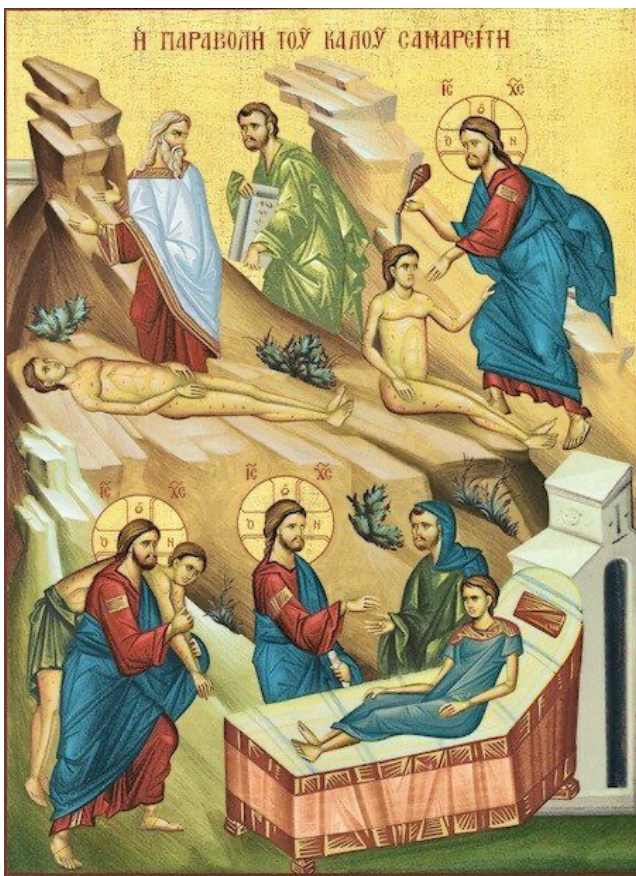
The Names of Jesus Podcast by Fr. Thomas Hopko

YouTube: [Fr. Vasile's Sermon for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple](#) (start 17:55)



THE CHURCH IS A HOSPITAL

Last week, we learned about the Parable of the Good Samaritan. As we look at the icon, we can see the many scenes of the parable depicted for us - the wounded man, the two men who passed-by, the Samaritan who stops and tends to the needs of the wounded man, and also the Samaritan bringing the wounded man to the inn - or the Church, which the Church Fathers refer to as a hospital.



We were created by God to be united with Him. When we sin, we separate ourselves from God (we turn away from Him) and are left wounded.

We refer to the Church as a hospital because we have all turned away from God in one way or another. The Church tends to our wounds and assists us in our recovery. Christ tells us, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but

those who are sick.” Luke 5:31 *What are some examples of ways we turn away from God?*

Christ wants to be reunited with us! Everything He did was for our salvation - being born of the Virgin Mary, His ministry: healing countless people, teaching them, and then His Crucifixion, death, and Resurrection!

When we go to the ER at the hospital, sometimes we have a pretty good idea of what is wrong with us (maybe it’s a broken leg or we cut ourselves bad enough we need stitches), but other times we don’t know what is wrong with us. We just know we’re in extreme pain or we’re so sick / injured that someone had to bring us to the hospital.

The same is true of our spiritual health as well. When we go to confession, sometimes we know exactly how we sinned (maybe we lied to our parents) and sometimes we have no idea why we feel anxious, agitated, or resentful. Father can help guide us during confession. He will listen attentively and caringly as we confess our sins. Then he might provide us with some insight or direction, such as pointing something out to us that we didn’t know or understand, providing us with some specific prayers, or instructing us to change certain behaviors. He is there to help reunite us to Christ - to be healthy once again. *What are some ways that we can prepare for confession?*

We know there are things we should do to keep our bodies healthy like: drinking plenty of water, eating healthy foods, exercising regularly and getting enough sleep.

“...heal the sick, Physician of our souls and bodies.”
- from the Divine Liturgy

We also need to keep ourselves spiritually healthy as well. *What are some ways to help us work towards being spiritually healthy?* We can:

- **Go to confession regularly:** Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."
- **Prepare ourselves to receive Holy Communion:** John 6:35 "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
- **Regularly read the Bible:** "This is the cause of all evils, the not knowing the Scriptures. We go into battle without arms, and how are we to come off safe?" (St. John Chrysostom, Homily IX On Colossians)
- **Receive Holy Unction:** We are anointed with holy oil for the healing of our both our spiritual and physical ailments. [Read more here](#)
- **Develop a regular prayer rule** (with family and by ourselves) - You can even download the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese prayer app called *Daily Readings*: Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray"
- **Read the lives of the saints:** They can provide us with guidance for how we can grow closer to God.

There are times when our ailments or struggles can be for the benefit of our salvation. We can ask ourselves - Is God providing me with an opportunity to learn patience, endurance, humility, to develop faith in that Him, to learn how to be loving, kind, and compassionate? *What are some examples of these situations?* (Taking care of children, taking care of an elderly or sick parent, working to regain strength after an injury, etc)

ICON: HEALING OF THE MAN WITH DROPSY

In the center of the icon, we see Christ healing the man with dropsy (the man without a shirt with an enlarged stomach).

Behind Christ on the left side of the icon, we see His Disciples. On the right side of the icon, we see those in attendance of the meal.

The curtain on the building indicates that this is an indoor event.

SING:

Middle School - Save O Lord Thy People

High School - More Honorable Than the Cherubim

PRAYER IN TIME OF NEED:

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to my help and deliver me from this difficulty that besets me. I believe Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Take away from me fear, anxiety and distress. Help me to face and endure my difficulty with faith, courage and wisdom.

Grant that this trial may bring me closer to You for You are my rock and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy. I trust in Your love and compassion. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHRIST THE PHYSICIAN

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

Listen, I entreat you, all that are careful for this life, and procure books that will be medicines for the soul...get at least the New Testament, the Apostolic Epistles, the Acts, the Gospels, for your constant teachers. If grief befalls you, dive into them as into a chest of medicines; take from there comfort for your trouble, be it loss, or death, or bereavement of relations; or rather do not merely dive into them but take them wholly to yourself, keeping them in your mind.

St. John Chrysostom
Homily IX on Colossians

Additionally, St. John Chrysostom teaches us in *An Address on Vainglory & the Right Way for Parents to Bring Up Their Children*:

1. Tell our children a story from the Bible
2. Then retell the same story to your child, until they know the story well
3. Ask your child to narrate the story back to you
4. Then explain the story to your child and how it benefits them
5. "This is not all. Go, leading him by the hand in church and pay heed particularly when this tale is read aloud. You will see him rejoice and leap with pleasure because he knows what the other children do not know, as he anticipates the story, recognizes it, and derives great gain from it. And hereafter the episode is fixed in his memory."

HOME ACTIVITY #15

Preparation for Holy Confession: [Children and Repentance](#)

[Icons of the Miracles of Christ from a Serbian Monastery](#)

