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Sunday, June 22nd, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
2nd Sunday of Matthew

One of the most important points about anxiety is that it is basically an acceptable consequence of being human. Most professionals agree that anxiety is a positive force which is ignited by caring too much and trying too hard.

When I read the account of Jesus being asleep in a ship during a great storm of wind it perplexes me. The disciples accused the Lord of being apathetic and uncaring. If today's professionals are correct, that is, if anxiety is a product of caring, Jesus, above all, should have been pacing back and forth on the bow of the ship and wringing His hands. After all, He cared more than any person who ever lived.

As Christians, we seem to be caught in the middle because caring, sensitivity and being the very best that we can be are godly attributes. Do these godly attributes cause us to suffer undue anxiety? Is anxiety really the result of caring too much and trying too hard?

Many people work themselves up into a state of anxiety in an attempt to make a point, that is, they really care. Anxiety is not one of God's characteristics and throughout the Scriptures we are taught that it is unacceptable. Yet, the professional community wants us to learn how to accept it as normal.

Caring and trying is not the primary cause of anxiety. The primary cause of anxiety is ungodly and unreasonable expectations of one's self and others.

One of the neatest words I was ever introduced to is *procrustianism*. This is the obsession of trying to make other people fit our hold. It can also mean the obsessive attempt to make one's self fit the mold that others created for them. When we learn how to accept ourselves and others our problems with anxiety will diminish drastically.

COMING UP...

- ◆ Synaxis of the Holy Apostles:
Mon. June 30th
Orthos 9AM
Div. Lit. 10AM
- ◆ Independence Day— Office Closed: **Fri. July 4th**
- ◆ Clergy— Laity:
July 6th – July 9th
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- ◆ Circle of Friends: **Thurs. July 10th 6PM**
MOVIE NIGHT
(Monuments Men)
- ◆ Parish Council:
Tues. July 15th
6PM
MEETING

HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER— Please follow Ushers Instructions

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church. **Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: HYMNS AND WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND

Hymns of Divine Liturgy insert can be found in the pews to allow you to follow along. The hymns in the bulletin will be the variable ones specific to that week or change from the common hymns that you will find in the insert located in the pews.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων
(Page 44)

Kontakion

O protection of the Christians unashamable,
mediation to the Maker immovable, despise
not, the pleading voices of those in sin, but
hasten, O good one, to the help of all of us,
who in faith cry out to you: Speed up your in-
tercession, and press on your supplication, O
Theotokos who always protects, all those who
honor you.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ακαταίσχυντε,
μεσιτεία πρὸς τόν Ποιητὴν αμετάθετε, μή
παρίδης, αμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ
πρόφθασον ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν,
τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι: Τάχυνον εἰς
πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεύσον εἰς ἡμετέραν, ἡ
προστατεύουσα αἰεὶ, Θεοτόκε τῶν τιμώντων
σε.

Communion Hymn

Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ, τοῖς εὐθέσι
πρέπει αἴνεσις. Ἀλληλουί

Here before us in Matthew 4 are a few verses that show what Jesus did in the lives of men, who fished for a living, transforming them from untested men into seasoned communicators of the gospel. The principles that were true in their lives can also be true in ours as well. Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” Recognize that as He calls them to go fishing for men, this is not a call to salvation, but rather a call to service.

Let me ask ourselves a question. Do we ever share our faith with others? If not, why? Some researchers have found that 95% of all Christians have never led another person to Jesus Christ. When I read this, I don't think it's because we are trying and failing. I would conclude that many of us are never even dropping our lines in the water. That would be like having the ultimate reel, all the proper lures and equipment, but then you would sit around on the dock and never drop your line in the water and wonder why you don't catch fish. You have to cast that line out there and reel it in or throw that net out there and pull it in. You have got to make an effort.

I wonder if we are making an effort. Are we looking for those opportunities? Are we too timid? Fearful? I think these are more excuses than reasons. Because the call to share our faith with others is given to every follower of Jesus Christ. God will give you the strength to do what He has called you to do. The scriptures provide us with a striking contrast: either the devil is going to catch men or we are going to do it.

Now there are a number of qualities that make for a good fisherman. And the same qualities apply to fishers of men. Let's discuss a few of them.

1. A good fisherman needs to be real patient. It takes time to catch fish so we must learn to wait.
2. A fisherman must persevere. If the fish aren't biting on one place, then you go to another. Then you come back to the old place again and try again.
3. A good fisherman must have good instinct for going to the right place and dropping the net or casting the hook at the right moment. Some people can just tell this is the place. They just have that sense, that instinct of a fisherman. The same is true of sharing our faith. We must be sensitive to the timing and leading of the Holy Spirit.

4. A good fisherman will develop skill with repetition. You know your equipment. Your lures, hooks, floats, weights, and bait. We learn how to use these tools more effectively through experience. Through taking chances. Through trying to engage people in conversation. Just doing it again and again.

5. Good fishermen must know how to work together. When that fish is hooked, you need your buddy standing by with a net. We need to work together, to pray together. Again, as the scripture says, one waters, another sows. God gives the increase. We want to support any person who is legitimately bringing the gospel message to others. So we all work together.

Jesus Himself was the master communicator wasn't He. And it's interesting to note that Christ never dealt with any two people in exactly the same way. To a woman who was trying to fill a void in her life, Jesus spoke to her of her deepest spiritual thirst. The woman at the well. To a man of tremendous intellect who was an expert in theology, named Nicodemus, Jesus spoke in almost childlike terms about the need to be born from above. To a lonely, friendless outcast perched up in a tree, who was named Zacchaeus, Jesus offered friendship calling him down to have a meal together. And to a woman caught in the actual act of adultery, Jesus spoke of mercy, ultimately saying, “Woman, where are your accusers.” You see He varied His approach.

One of the best ways to share your faith is to listen and to then talk. That's what Jesus did with the woman at the well. He drew her out. He conversed with her. He paid attention to what she was saying. He noticed where her needs were and what she spoke of and then He brought the message to her. We need to do the same and engage people.

God wants to use you to be a fisher of men. I would suggest to you that if you will make the effort, if you will load up your tackle box and your pole and go out looking for opportunities, that God will use you in the next few weeks not only to sow seeds and to water seeds that others have sown, but even to have the privilege of helping to lead a person to Christ. And I will tell you that is one of the greatest joys you are ever going to experience.

SAINTS COMMEMORATED

TODAY, SUN. JUNE 22nd

- Eusebius, Bishop of Samosata
- Zenon the Martyr & his servant Zenas of Philadelphia
- Anastasios the Serbian

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 6 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. We are currently at \$127,000 and our goal is \$200,000 for 2014! Everyone please pledge!

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Coffee Hours hostesses for the month of JUNE are Ginny and Barbara. Please lend a hand in helping these ladies.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

MOVIE & PIZZA NIGHT- Showing: The Monuments Men, with George Clooney: Cowriter and director George Clooney adapts author Robert M. Edsel's book The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History to tell the incredible true story of the seven art historians and museum curators who went behind enemy lines during World War II on a mission to recover some of the world's greatest works of art. With war raging in Europe, the Nazis have managed to plunder some of the biggest art collections on the continent. As the Third Reich begins to topple, the German army receives explicit orders that in the event of Adolf Hitler's death, they are to destroy every work of art in their possession. Determined to prevent 1000 years of culture from going up in flames, American president Franklin D. Roosevelt approves a proposal by Frank Stokes (Clooney) to form a task force comprised entirely of art experts to enter Germany, recover the works of art, and ensure they are returned to their rightful owners. With little knowledge of modern weapons or warfare tactics, the ragtag squadron has their work cut out for them. Cate Blanchett, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, and Jean Dujardin also star. **The movie is showing Thurs. July 10th at 6pm in the Fr. Arthur K. Kontinos Community Center. Admission is \$5 per person (Covers movie and includes pizza plus a soda.) Courtesy Text/Call RSVP to Joan Simon 201-826-8991.**

BELOW ARE SOME GENTLE REMINDERS ABOUT CHURCH ETIQUETTE & TRADITION

We should offer Christ our "Sunday best," every single day of the week, both in conduct and dress. This is our Lord's house 24/7 and the respect we show should never change from one day to the next. We should always dress neatly and modestly, not only on Sundays. Shoulders and chest areas should be covered, and discretion used concerning skirt lengths, appropriately fitting clothes, excessive make-up and jewelry.

Along with fasting before church (from both food and improper speech), gum is a no-no during services, and in fact, gum should not be used several hours after receiving Holy Communion. Although toddlers and infants may need to drink, eating is to be discouraged.

Please blot lip-stick before venerating Icons and receiving Holy Communion.

2ND TRAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund until paid in Full. In order to receive credit for your donation, for income tax purposes, make sure to put your cash donation in an envelope with your name on it or pay by check.



Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Nick Karras, Bess Karabetsos, Louis Eftim, Susan Christodoulou, Penelope Churchman, Theodore Lizas, John Kontinos, Penelope Kontinos, Dean Kontinos & Stella Demosthenis.

Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099