





"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Volume 7, Issue 5

Sunday, February 3, 2019

A Ministry of the Orthodox Christian Network

What will you bring back?

Let's say your parents have a little treat for you and a sibling—candy, or cookies, or a surprise. Usually they divide them up evenly, don't they? Three for you, and three for your brother or sister. Ten for you, and ten for another. That seems fair, doesn't it?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a story that might not seem so fair...at first. In the story, a man goes on a trip, and he wants his servants to take care of his things. He gives a lot of money to one of his servants, a medium amount to another,



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and just a little bit to another. The man wants the servants to take care of that money.

After a while, the man comes back from his trip. He asks his servants what happened to the money. The first two servants took care of the money, and they even made more money with it. The third one had just hidden the money, and he gave him back the same amount. The master was angry with this third one.

This story has another meaning, of course. God gives us all different gifts. Some people can do really amazing things. Some people can just do simple things. Some people have a lot. Some people have almost nothing! But God wants us each to use what we have. He wants us to take care of the things He has given us. He wants us to do the best we can with them. God doesn't always give an even amount of gifts, but He wants us to use what we have the best way we can!

What can you find in this icon? It's the Apostles! Can you believe the icons are all made of little tiny pieces of rock?



SAINT LUKE THE RIGHTEOUS "GOD PROVIDES"

We've all seen beautiful icons, but you can find some of the most amazing ones in the whole world at a monastery in the middle of Greece. This monastery is called "Osios Loukas," and it is named after St. Luke. (This is a different saint than the one who wrote one of the Gospels. This saint



A beautiful mosaic of Saint Luke the Righteous

was born in 896, about 1,100 years ago.)

St. Luke the Righteous tried to love God and to trust in Him even when he was little. He came from a poor family, and he worked very hard to help his family. He worked in the fields and he took care of sheep, staying outside in really bad weather. Still, he helped other poor people too. One time, he gave away all the seeds that he was supposed to plant in the fields. He knew that God would take care of him. But what happened? The fields gave more and better crops than St. Luke had ever seen before!

Lots of times, you can see how much people love a person by how they honor him or her. In America, you see some of the greatest monuments to George Washington and some of the presidents. But you can see that the people really love St. Luke the Righteous because his monastery is SO beautiful.

We celebrate St. Luke on Thursday, February 7th (Feb 20, OC) ************