



# Kýrie Eléison

Published by St. Michael Publishing Co., a subsidiary of  
[www.stmichaelacademy.org](http://www.stmichaelacademy.org)

Vol. 3, No. 1

## The Cost, the Price of Entering the Kingdom of Heaven

By Archbishop Haralambos

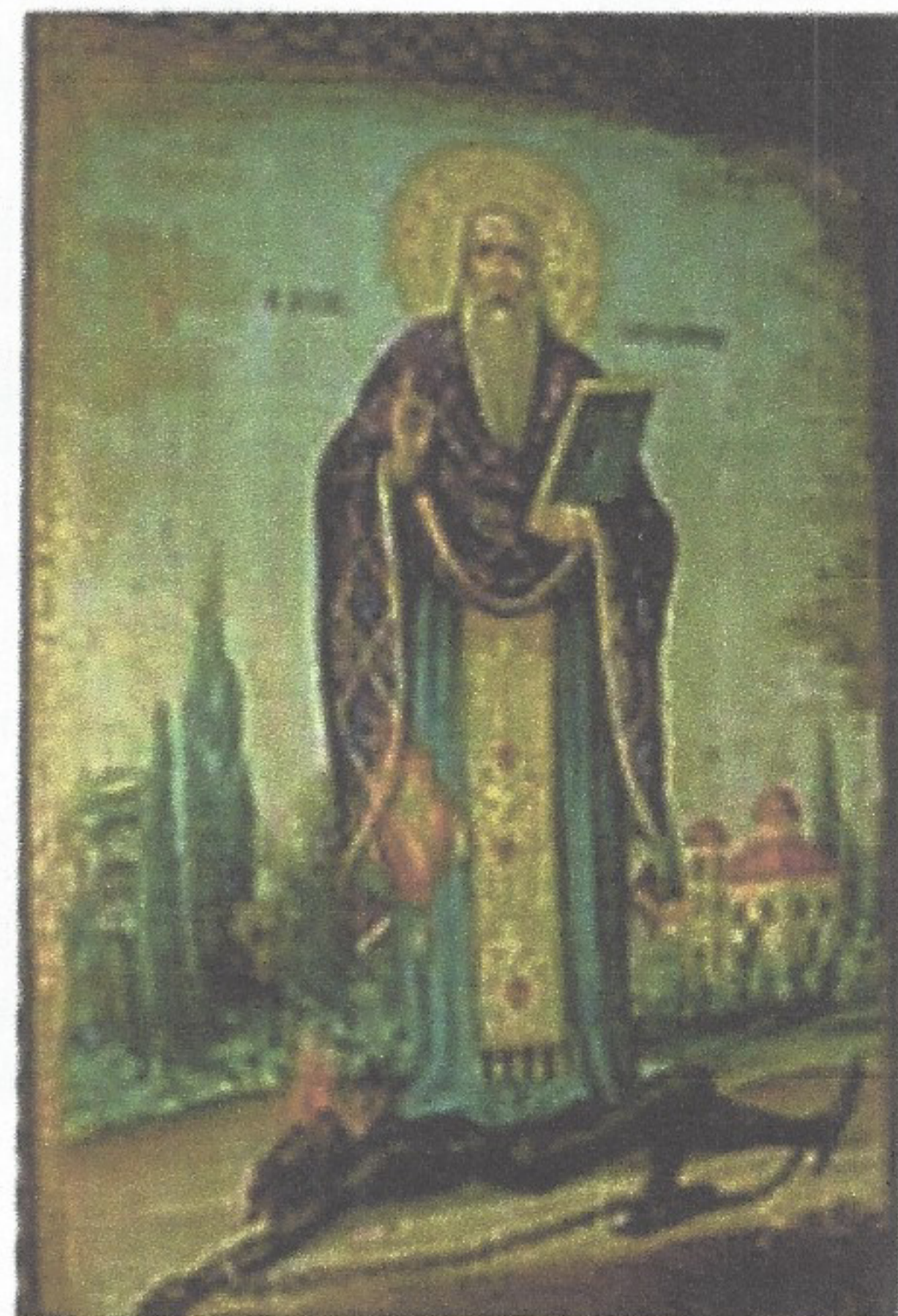
*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.* I believe this is prepared by the Lord and it affects each and every one of us. No one can escape the judgment of God and the presentation of this because it is indelibly written in the Book of Life, which is the Bible. So I will begin with the reading that comes from the Old Testament and hopefully God will bless you as He has me to understand what the Holy Spirit may say to us today and touch us. I believe it is the core and meaning of life. It's the core and explanation of what God would have us understand.

The knowledge of the Lord is something we can't even describe because we don't have the understanding of the knowledge of God and the ability of God to monitor His creation and to give His creation what it needs.

### Gift To Solomon

I will ask the Lord to bless you as I read these words because it was a gift of God to a man who worked and experienced God and that man made

mistakes too, even after receiving a great gift of wisdom and understanding. "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much." That's a very short sentence. But just think in terms of life what that really means. To think that God would take the time to make a man a part of His creation and give him part of Himself.





Kýrie Eléison

Published by St. Michael  
Publishing Co., subsidiary of  
[www.stmichaelacademy.org](http://www.stmichaelacademy.org)

Vol. 3, No. 1

Editor – John H. Vesey

© 2005

If we are made in the image of God, it's not necessarily that we all have the same gifts or that we all could be considered on the same plane or abilities.

But for God to make an outright gift, obviously He gave it to a great leader who was responsible for much of God's chosen people. To me it would almost be remiss for the people to be smarter than the king, but the king himself received the gift of God and it said, "exceedingly much."

That means God gave him a great portion of His own personal knowledge and understanding because it all begins with God and it ends with God. In terms of "exceedingly much," where did it go? Did he plant that into Solomon's mind? Did he plant it into Solomon's loins? Did he plant it into Solomon's spirit? Where He planted it was in his heart.

Now in order for Solomon to contain a great deal of this wisdom and understanding, He had to do something to Solomon's heart.



### Largeness Of Heart

It says, "And largeness of heart even as the sand is on the seashore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country and all the wisdom of Egypt." In other words you put them all together and Solomon had more wisdom and understanding. So God had to enlarge his capacity for understanding. We know the brain today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century really hasn't reached its capacity but God could expand your wisdom and understanding if you have the desire and there was communication and a gift from God.

You see, today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, how really ignorant we are. I mean we have excelled in some of the things that may seem to be important to this society but basically this society has become more ignorant as it gets more corrupt. Truly we're little by little incapacitating ourselves where we really don't understand nor do we have the wisdom of God to choose the right things to live the right life, and more importantly to substantiate our existence.

You see, the whole issue of everything as far as I am concerned, is our existence. How are we going to exist? I mean we are totally aware of what's going on in this life, and this type of living, but we are totally ignorant of the next life and the permanent life of existence. If we're ignorant here and now, can you imagine what it's going to be like in heaven if we don't prepare ourselves?

### More About The Gifts Of Solomon

So, what did Solomon have as a gift from God and really what was God's purpose in giving it to him? Well, I believe it was a gift because Solomon prayed for it. I believe it was a gift



because Solomon saw the tremendous responsibility he would have with the chosen people. He looked at it; what a responsibility I have. It's paramount; I need to have some brain power. We know Solomon became extremely rich because of the gifts that were given to him. That was God giving him all that he needed.

Solomon did not have to roll up his sleeves and go to work to receive anything in his life. It goes on in scripture and says how much he received; he received hundreds and thousands of things that counted then as riches. He became so rich that it probably would have made Trump look like a pauper. I mean Solomon was so rich, not just rich in physical possessions, but rich in how he lived his life by serving God and by serving the chosen people. Think how rich he was by having a direct piece of God come into his heart and God had to enlarge his heart to receive it. So, it goes back to the words of Christ, God, "First seek the kingdom of heaven."

#### **Seek The Kingdom Of God**

In other words, you must first pray the Solomon prayer. So, you say why do I seek the kingdom of God? In Solomon's case I will explain what I think his position and thinking was at that time. He was having a discussion with the King of Tyre and Harram, who was the King of Tyre, "who sent his servants to Solomon for he had heard they had anointed him king in the room of his father for Harram was ever a lover of David."

So, here is someone who loved the family lineage, Harram, who was also the King of Tyre, hearing that Solomon, David's son, had become king, in the proper way. Solomon sent to Harram saying, "Thou knowest how David, my

father could not build a house unto the name of the Lord for His God for the wars that were about him on every side until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But, now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side." He had peace. "So, that there is neither adversary nor evil occurring. And behold, (this is why Solomon asked for all of this) I purpose to build a house unto the name of the Lord my God."

That is the purpose for my life.

#### **Are We With Purpose?**

How unlike us in this century! Have you ever seen tadpoles in water after a heavy rain, how they dart all over the place? That's how unhinged most of us are because we lack the foundational purpose of why we exist. We seem comfortable darting here and there and not really having proper direction. Even the sperm, which seeks the egg to begin life, has its purpose from the beginning, knowing why it exists. What happened to the human race? That there probably is two out of three here that can really nail down a direction and purpose to why they exist. It really is after the fact that you are almost compensating, instead of having direction.

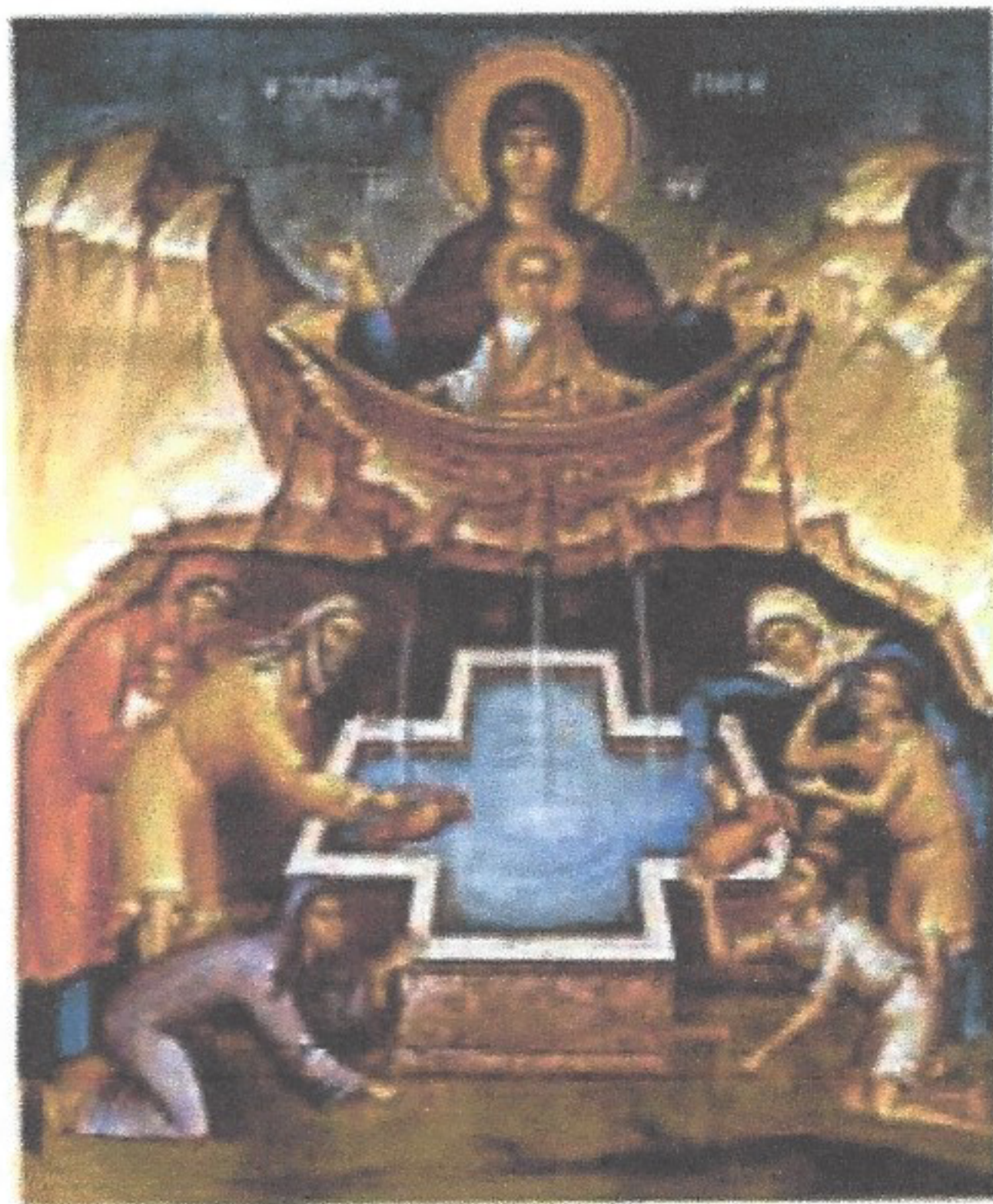
I remember my cousin, Neophtos, his father was a doctor and had books all over the place, and he was four or five when his father died of cancer at an early age. I think he was only 40 years old when his life ended, I remember being at the gravesite. We were looking in the storage areas where my aunt had put his stuff and we went through books. Neophtos purposed in his heart to become a doctor and be a great one, and he did, and he was. He even saved President Reagan's life after he was shot, by pulling out the bullet that was near his heart. So, Neophtos served God's purpose all through life. But, he



knew early in his life what he wanted to do.

Troubled is the man that lives and exists through life and as the years was passed by and he really doesn't know his purpose. He seems to vacillate and find a comfort zone, and of course when I say man I also include women, to try to compensate after the fact.

Solomon began his reign precisely and spoke these words, "And behold I purpose to build a house unto the name of my Lord and God as the Lord spoke to David." Solomon inherited this from his father just like Neophytos who had the desire to be a doctor because his father was a doctor. But for Solomon, his purpose was started at an early age and it came from his father.



### **Our True Purpose**

Now I could say that the true purpose of every human being created by God there is an established purpose by God, the creator, the Father in heaven. Well, we don't seek it. Most of us reach adulthood, maturity, and we seek Him first because something has happened in our lives that is adversarial and we try to

compensate. It isn't God's purpose for you to be born and to have adversarial events, to serve Him, and then to overcome your adversarial issues and then come before Him.

### **What Did You Produce?**

He will look at you square in the face on that great and dreadful day and say, "What did you produce?" What will you say? "Well, I overcame the adversaries." That's not production. That's like a farmer saying, well, I spent all my life removing the debris so that I could plow, but I haven't planted any seed, and that's why I don't have any production or any fruit. I was too busy pulling weeds all my life because that was where I was – in the weed patch.

"Why didn't you go to fertile ground," sayeth the Lord, "that I prepared for you, that I purposed for you?" Probably because I am a self centered person. I decided; how foolish I am. I decided.

And behold here comes the essence of God's message today, "I purpose sayeth Solomon, to build a house unto the name of the Lord my God." Why did he say that? Solomon states, "Because as the Lord spoke unto David my father, saying thy son who I will set on thy throne in thy room, he shall build a house unto my name."

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding. Where does that come from? That is God Himself. God took a piece of His thinking, a piece of His mind, a piece of His Spirit, His thinking, His brain. I can't describe God, and neither can you. But I know He gave a part of that to Solomon. Obviously, Solomon didn't have the capacity to receive all of God, he would have been God Himself, which was what satan wanted. Solomon had enough to carry out what he knew in his heart was his purpose. Certainly to have a house for



God was to have an establishment to rule the children of Israel. His purpose was to be a king and guide the people of Israel, to guide the priests, to have a place of worship, and you know the rest of how he built the temple.

### **The Spirit Of God**

And the Spirit of God came there, the awesomeness of that. But God wanted to do what? He had to increase the largeness of the heart so it could contain it. Why in our lives cannot God do that for us? It is because our hearts are full of 'crappolla'. There's not enough room for wisdom and understanding.

There is too much of us in it. You have to empty it out. Do you have any idea how much wisdom and understanding he had? Take all of the children of Egypt and their wisdom, they built pyramids, they were great engineers, they were super mechanics, they were great business people, they traded all over the world. And go into China if you can imagine what the capacity is for two billion people now, how many were there to build the wall of China and all that they were in the east because it says, "And Solomon's wisdom excelled," listen to this, "to the combine total and sum of all the children of the east country and all the children of Egypt."

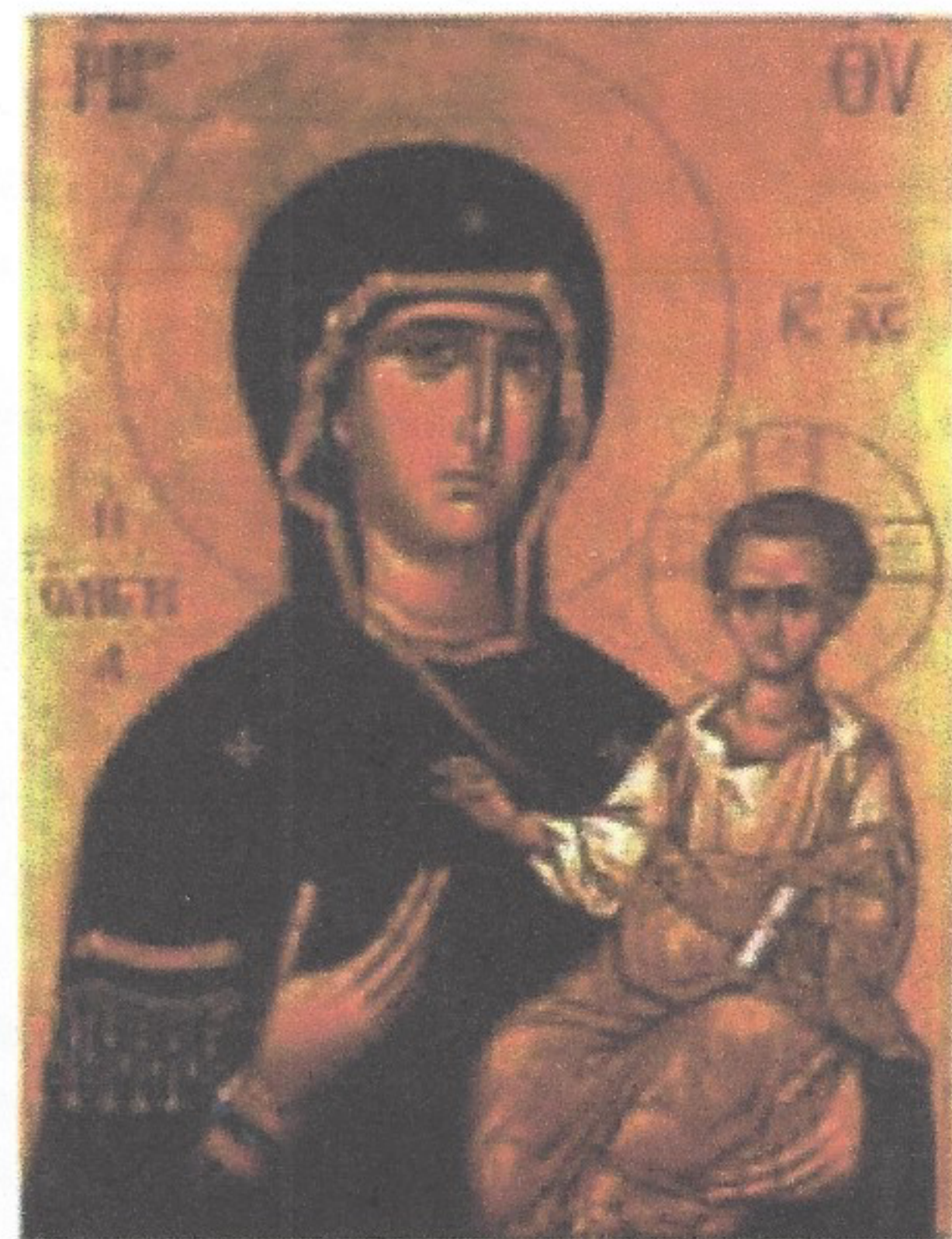
### **What Christ Said**

Can you imagine anybody with the capacity in his heart to be smarter and to make decisions more than all those millions of people? Do we have anybody like that who exists today? No. But we do have someone who did come to us that had all that and that was Jesus Christ, who built the kingdom without firing a gun or raising one soldier to build a kingdom.

And where did He say that kingdom should be? I read a very interesting article from an Orthodox priest and I

will lend myself to use some of these phrases because they are very understandable. Jesus Christ said exactly what the formula was to be a Solomon. He said, "Get rid of everything." That's a tough one. Remember the young man that was so rich that came to Him, who followed Christ, and his principles, who wasn't willing to give up anything. God couldn't empty him out.

Solomon didn't have all these adversarial issues. He had not made any mistakes to the point that he wasn't busy overcoming the problems and mistakes and financial woes. He didn't have to exercise his degrees in engineering or mechanics. He was raised to be a king of the chosen people of Israel to take the purpose of his father, David, before God. God answered and said, "Yes, you have done your job, you plowed the ground, you have eliminated the adversaries, and upon that soil, your son will build a house for my presence and continue with the reign for the chosen people of Israel."





What did Jesus Christ say? I hope and pray and my desire today is to have the words and the heart to be able to convey to you by the Holy Spirit, the formula to finish up a successful life. Brothers and sisters, I can look at every one of you and know you are not on the road to a successful life. You haven't even begun. How can I say that to you? It's because I too by the grace of God have taken the precise road, the precise turn that God would have me take. But I started something twenty-five years ago on the perfect road. First, I had to get rid of everything I was. God prepared some of it for me. I filed bankruptcy prior to this experience because it was too much for me. I had too much too early lacking wisdom in the business world. So, I filed bankruptcy. But then, I had a chance to do the rest.

I owned a piece of property, which I begged the rest of my family to go in on with me and make a ton of money. I was able to buy back my home and build something according to what I had. But first I had to pay all debts that I ever accrued until I cleaned my bank account out. All I had was a house to live in. I still have my health and ability to earn a living if I so choose. By God granting me wisdom and understanding, I progressed to the next step, and the next step, which I mention only as an example.

But the most important thing you must remember, is at that time Christ came into my heart without understanding obedience to seek the kingdom of God.

#### **Empty Your Heart**

The requisite for the kingdom of God is to empty out all that you have and are. That is the most drastic decision. What did Christ say to the young man? When you have done that then come and follow me. What do we do? We want to

follow the kingdom of God and still do our thing. Right? We are trying to juggle both and yet God said, "You can't serve mammon and me too."

What is the matter with mankind today? Can't they understand the simple message of God? You can't do both. Come. Sell. Give all that one has. That is the first step. Why? You need to give your heart to God. You have to empty it so He can put something in it. It doesn't matter if you love Him or not. I really doubt very seriously how much you love Him because you don't follow His will. I'm going to tell you exactly what you have to do. I'm not going to tell you to give it to me and put it in my bank account. I want to tell you that you know where it should go.

#### **Formula For Forever**

I know one thing – the Beatitudes don't mean anything unless first God feeds you and then gives what you need to do in life. But we certainly are speaking about something else aren't we? We're talking about the formula of forever. I hope you will see what failures we have been. Not just in our judgments. I'm not going to stand here and preach to you that money is evil. I'm going to tell you that the love of it is what is evil. You love money more than you love the truth because you want to feed your mistakes.

#### **Poor As Church Mice**

You want to go on the way you're living and you're not interested in doing what God said. Now, did God say to the rich young man, only in different circumstances? He gave a formula for all of mankind for all times and there is a reason for that. It isn't that He wants to deprive you of this life and your necessities. He wants you to have an eternal, rich life and you are all poor as church mice. So was I until this



morning's decision or reaffirmation with my wife that we prayed together and she promised me she would not influence me one bit. She was in perfect agreement with me.

We had an opportunity that was presented to me to make a ton of money right next to the Holy Theotokos Shrine. Since we had that opportunity anybody could say well I am poor as a church mouse, so I can't make my bills now, I can't tithe the church properly, I have to work extra hard just to pay my bills. Aren't you in that serious of a condition, Bishop? No. I was so far ahead you would not believe it. But I was able to say no, along with my dear wife because it would deprive us of the formula. It's an interruption; it's not wisdom and understanding. Anybody can come to God when they are behind the eight ball. How about coming to God when you have it "made in the shade"? You will deprive yourself of far more important decisions here.

How many of you would refuse a deal for God? I'm talking about thousands of dollars. I said wait a minute and I looked at my wife who said, "Why do you blame me?" I said, "Because you don't influence me when I'm getting ready because I have a creative mind and I can go exceedingly further into this thing if you don't, as my wife, tell me 'no'. I am angry with you because you don't get angry with me when I come up with these wonderful business deals, but if I continued God knows what I would wind up with.

Money begets more money until it becomes your god and the love of it. You love it, that success, that decision. What do you do to hide and kid yourself? Oh, it's the gifts of God. But it deprives you of the most important place of enrichment, heaven.

### **Give It All Away**

Sell and give all what one has is a test of God. You don't pass that test; you flunk. Can you pass? Most of us say to ourselves, well God this is all I have to give, so I'm giving you as much as I can. That's not what we are talking about here. You are missing it. You have to pass the test and clean house.

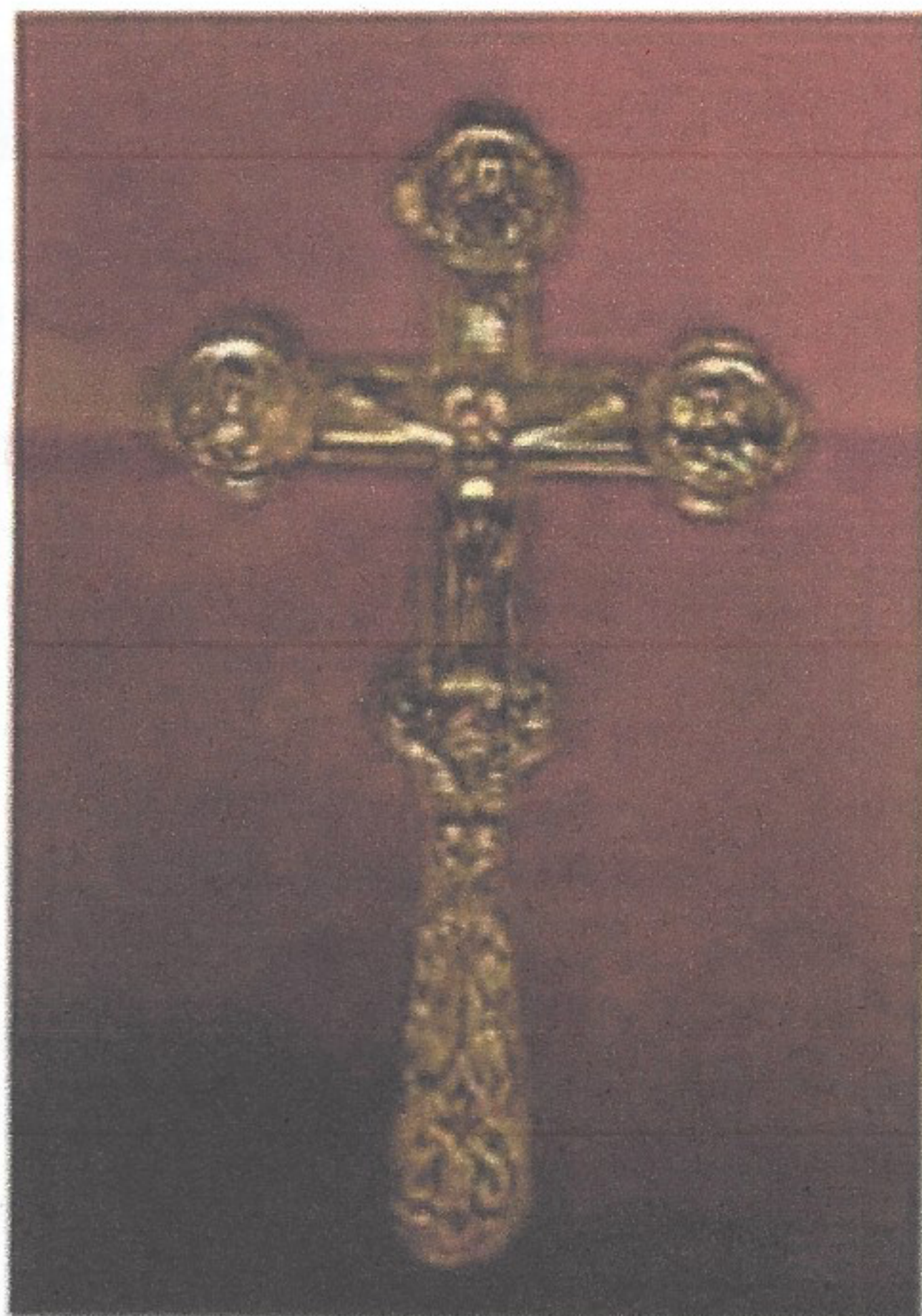
Let me explain to you why. It's a formula. Jesus already laid it down in scripture. Give all that one has and follow me. Why can't you follow him? You are not relieving yourself of the world's anxieties and responsibilities. You see if you really wanted to follow God you should have never had children, never got married. That's what nuns do. You might have wanted to be one but you didn't become one. That was a purpose in life because you relieve all of the world's responsibilities. So, where are you? You are caught up like I was. You never, ever, could imagine how caught up I was in the world responsibilities. I was quite a busy young man at the age of twenty-one and twenty-two. I didn't fool around when I got out of the service. I had a huge business when I was twenty-two. It was a successful one. It was far bigger than my thinking.

### **Business Is Not God**

But business is not God. It is an affair of this world. Real estate is not God, it belongs to God and it is just a matter of who owns it temporarily and what they do with it. If you are part of that, that isn't anything unless you are buying and selling and giving it back to God. No, you are doing it to make a living. So basically the affairs of this world do interfere with stage two of relieving oneself of the world's responsibility. Now when God made Adam and Eve, did He tell Adam to go and get a job?



Adam I want you to go into the tree trimming business because this Paradise is full of all this stuff so you have to be a pruner and a trimmer. No sir! It wasn't until Adam violated God's word that he had to work for a living. He had it all up front and God is saying we can go back to that stage if you will follow me. We are so entrenched in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and so far out of whack, I can't imagine, we are almost in eternity with our stupidity. We build this great society and civilization and all this freedom we have and we are going to hell. So, what do we have? Nothing but a road to hell because the endtime of our existence is at the door. Do we enter or don't we?



### Step Three

Step three - God will promise He will supply us. Now I know a lot of TV evangelists are saying, "You gotta give it to me," i.e. Benny Hinn. That's not what I am talking about.

In my case I couldn't give it to anybody except to those I owed. I

walked into one man's office and handed him a check for \$5,000. and he knew I didn't have to pay him and he was amazed. He also thought I had totally lost my mind. He was a young man then and now he has already passed on. He was the number-one businessman in downtown West Palm Beach and had great power. We had done a business deal together and I wound up with everything like I always do, it seems. The man looked at the check and said, "What is this for?" I said, "It's in my heart to give it to you, Bill, because I feel in my heart I owe it to you." Now God didn't tell me to go to Bill's. I didn't hear any voice saying go to Bill's office and give him \$5,000.

By the way, the great wealth I had from this property was starting to dwindle and I didn't stop. My heart was actually emptying out on its own volition. I didn't have to and I could have saved some, which we all frugally do. Let's see now, we put this in the bank and we get 6 percent on this, we paid off the house and we don't have a mortgage. Got my house back, building a nice pool. I have a sauna, live on the lake, and have probably the best property in West Palm Beach. I was cauterizing my heart and was emptying it. I am big-hearted, but at least I emptied it. I passed the test. I emptied things out of my heart so He could put into it the gift and desire of serving Him and how He would decide I would serve Him. After that, all I said was that I give my whole life to God, I give Him 100 percent of my time, I work full time for the Lord.

Yes, Haralambos, but what do you do full time for the Lord? I don't know, I am just available full time for the Lord. Then the Lord poured wisdom into me through the scriptures on a day-by-day



basis and a constant communication with Him on probably the best and most expensive beaches in the world – in Palm Beach. I had a personal place to go to and I had made a little hut on the beach to keep the sun off of me, like Jonah. I put on a bathing suit, which was my uniform for my personal school with God. I went down to the beach and I had company every now and then, but physically I was there to enjoy God's creation and to meditate and to study what God was teaching me. I had no affairs to be concerned about or anxieties of this world.

#### **Passing The Test**

I had passed step one by instituting wisdom. Then He says, "What are you going to do with that house?" Lord, my mother says I have lost my mind, I think I want to give it to you and how do I do that and still have a place to live.

It was me who got her to buy her house for \$35,000. I wanted my family to move from across the tracks and enjoy what I had and it was an opportunity and through pre-real estate she could buy it directly from the state. And that she also enjoyed the wisdom of the Lord in blessing us both when the 80 acres in Jupiter got sold, which was the prelude to this story.

#### **God Will Bless**

But my choices in success have nothing to do with what I'm about to say to you – what God is speaking to us about. God will bless, but first you have to complete everything. The house had to go too. God said, "I gave you money in the proper place and everything, and that's fine Haralambos, but you have to give it all. I didn't say part, or decide how much – all of it. Even though your family will criticize you. And so it all went. Now we're down to the goose egg. I had children, I had an ex-wife –

all the catastrophes you guys have. That was not my concern. My concern involved these very words: "Christ left His riches in heaven and became poor that we, through His poverty may become rich."

What is He talking about? To be rich here? We too have to become poor in order to become rich. He's talking about being rich in the Kingdom of Heaven. How can you look at me, now and say, But Haralambos, look what you have? And guess what, until I said that prayer with my wife this morning, I wasn't exactly where God wanted me. But God had already had me ready with check in hand ... except for the Lord. The next step for the Lord, if I was to serve Him, He had to make me ... what did He do to Solomon? Gave him substance and sustenance to make a down payment.

#### **The Essence Of It All**

That's the essence of getting anything here – especially in my case, after giving it all up, getting ready by God so I wouldn't go off the deep end. Now He blesses me to no end, so I have a tremendous amount of treasure to make a down payment in Heaven. Why? Because the down payment is what? My invested time. To do what? To make riches in Heaven. What He gave me was sustenance so I wouldn't have to work anymore. All I have to do is serve Him. The desire of your heart. But you can't do it now.

Give me the riches and the sustenance and still not take anything really away. But multiply it a hundred-fold the way He says He does, in scripture. You don't realize it, but those words you've never understood because you didn't have the wisdom and understanding – hopefully until today. Because you have not done that. You have to do that. Because



Scripture says that's the formula. Those are God's words.

### **Making Riches In Heaven**

When you make the down payment, He will bless you. Then all you have left is the precious life that He has given you and you apply that life to what? Making riches in Heaven. Because that's where you going to be for eternity. And the only way you can do it is if He blesses you enough here so that you apply your time. But don't double-cross Him. What God gives, God can take away. If He gives it to you, and you say, "Oh boy, I think I'll build me a store house, so I can put more in there."

I'm standing here doing my cross, thankful to God that I turned away from that – this opportunity, to take a piece of property – and I don't know how to tell you how much it would be worth if I went ahead and developed it. So that was what God was looking for – what was really in my heart. And it was in my heart to say, "No. I have enough down payment, thank you God, to finish my life." And I've always known that the reason God is blessing me is not for me to spread it around or give it to the poor. But to use it to finish my work here for Him, so that I could be a multi-zillionaire – that Donald Trump couldn't even imagine – in Heaven.

### **Father In Heaven**

For some reason He chose me to have the wisdom, probably because I didn't really have a father who could teach me this. But my Father in Heaven, who wanted to be a Son like He was to His Father, has blessed me. He has given me the opportunity where I can finish the rest of this life, with strength to overcome anything that prevents me from finishing the purpose that He has for me.

### **Saint Paul's Spirit**

I have inherited what went into the spirit of Saint Paul. He says, "I go out, it doesn't matter what." And I will go on, by the Grace of God and by the strength of the Lord and protection of the Holy Angels to finish the work because He has made me rich enough where I've got sustenance for the down payment to Heaven and to go anywhere in the world He wants me to go. I even bought a travel agent's ticket that prepares any place we have to go.

At first, like a silly child, I thought, "Well, I think I'll travel to the islands of Greece this year, and I think I'll go to Spain again." But, what's important, is – I'm getting to the point where everything will be in perfect order in this house as an Archbishop, as an ordained, anointed man of God to go anywhere that God wants me to go.





### **What Does It Mean To God?**

What will that mean to God? Every assignment – do you know how much gets stored in Heaven for me when I accomplish that assignment? I haven't asked for an appraisal or a balance sheet from God yet to see what I have in Heaven – at this time. I think I have something there. But God's saying, "You can't imagine the riches I can give you if you finish your life the way I want you to."

I'm going to ask you folks if you know what it is you need to do? You do, but you don't do it. You need to spend 100 percent of your time for the Lord. Hand in your badge for real estate. You can quit any time you want to. You are almost halfway there, because you are living in a place that has been provided by God for you. It gives you your office, your house, everything you need. You don't really need a retirement plan because you have something already for you that you couldn't build in all your life.

### **Work 100 Percent For God**

The Lord does provide. But you need to seek Him out. I'm not trying to be critical here. I'm trying to tell you what is required according to His words. Do you want to serve God 100 percent? All you have to do, if you are really sincere about it, is to say provide for my children. That's a tough one. Because parenting is a thing you are really after. I don't think God brought you into this world as I see you on a tractor. I see you as tough. You have a whole lot to give. On that tractor, you're bouncing around, doing your thing up there at Holy Theotokos Shrine. I could stand here and probably, through the wisdom that God gives me and put you all in your place – what you do wrong. But I think you really know. Why should I pick on you?

I want you to continue loving me. You already know where you are failing. You know because you didn't bankrupt when you should have. So you are still paying off your debts.

### **Cleaning Out Your Heart**

You all had a chance too, by God, you who suffer the most. A woman from this chapel died and gave you all money, and what did you do with it? It all went down the toilet. It went to pay off past bills. None of you invested. Am I right or am I wrong? Did you buy a piece of property? I did. But I'm only putting myself out there, whether you like it or not, to tell you that you have to go through this.

That's what seeking the kingdom of heaven is all about. Not just communion. Not just sacraments. Not just baptisms. Seeking the kingdom of heaven is cleaning out your heart. That's where the kingdom of heaven is. Not in the water. Not in your body. Not in your sins. Not in what you put in your mouth, but in your heart. That's why we're all poor as church mice, when we should be kings within ourselves. Because if you are a king and your heart is clean, you are a king of a kingdom that's in your heart; that's what makes you a king.

It says in here – it's a very good saying – making an idol out of money really is putting pleasure upon pleasure and luxury upon luxury. The reason I am able to give this wonderful sermon today is because it comes directly from the Holy Spirit and not me. I am as stupid as the rest of this world and because I was so busy after going through all of the steps – first giving it all away. I'm sure God in Heaven is rejoicing. "I have a potential here. My goodness, we have this poor guy who was contemplating suicide 20 years ago, he's now ready to give his life and everything he owns.



He's a candidate." And so I progressed to Step Two, then I balked. Then when it came time for Step Three and Step Four – when He's starting to bless me, I got a little confused. I didn't have the wisdom and understanding of Solomon to know that these blessings came for me to have and to be rich in Heaven – to use it as a down payment.

#### **You Have It All**

Let me explain something to you. If you have \$1.5 million, you can buy at least \$10 million worth of property. It's called leverage. You put down the down payment and \$1 million in cash can buy you just about anything here on earth. So then you can increase. That's when I got confused. All of a sudden the enemy was able for me to say, "You have all this, but you can have more. God's really blessing you. Anything you touch turns to gold." Yeah, and I can have more, too, can't I?

But I was forgetting that it isn't just for this life that I was really working, but it was for the next life. And not just to get entry into the kingdom of heaven, because that starts in my heart, but to get rich there. But He gave me some little markers along the way – and He gave me a dream one time – I love mahogany. Finished mahogany with a urethane finish just turns me on. So I see this mansion and everything is mahogany. And God says in my dream, "That's yours." But I noticed something, too. It was empty. I didn't open any doors and see a whole bunch of treasure, because I hadn't gotten there yet. I was ready to make a down payment. But I was starting to choose how much of a down payment I needed. There was the mistake. So let's go some more. Let's make some more business deals and it got me in trouble. Oh, I used the premise of my son, but that's an excuse, because

I'm a clergyman and I'm almost embarrassed to tell people that I'm an archbishop and I own a restaurant.

#### **Serving Loaves And Fishes**

What in the world does an archbishop have to do with owning a restaurant? Well, let me see now. Somewhere it says that God said He served 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes, so that makes Him a great Chef. Then He turned around and taught them the spirituality of things. But He had to cook first. Hey, that's me. I have to cook first. I have to feed those people in Vero, then I'm going to feed them the Beatitudes. I always knew I was a great rationalizer, but that's the best one I've come up with yet. Even my roommate at the University of Florida said, "You know, Bouk, I know one thing about you. You can rationalize your way out of anything."



#### **Producing For Heaven**

It was because I felt guilty. What was I doing? Oh, yeah, I said it was for my son, but in my heart I said, "What an investment this restaurant is. This guy is selling it for \$85,000. I can walk in, put another \$30,000, \$40,000 or \$50,000 in it and I'll have something fine. I'll build that baby up and probably sell it for \$1 million." But it was costing me a price. Because if I don't produce enough here, I won't have enough riches up there in Heaven. So wait a minute. The idea is, when you have the investment here, you are to put it to work and it should sustain



you so you can produce directly and precisely treasures and place them in Heaven.

#### **God Doesn't Limit**

God doesn't put a limit on that. He says "I will provide the projects for you to work, so you can have those treasures in Heaven." And all He asks of us is that if He blesses you here, after you have cleaned out your heart, gone through Step One and Step Two, I will bless you. But most of us go to God early and say, "Oh Lord, bless me." The heart isn't cleaned out. We want this and that. We haven't even gone the first step. And here we are asking God to bless us. The blessing comes when you meet Him – the real blessing. The blessing comes in your richness in Heaven.

Have we forgotten those Parables? The rich man? The poor man? The poor man, who was in the bosom of Abraham. The rich man, whose mouth was dry and hot. It's a simple formula that even a child can understand. The basis is not how rich we are here; the real issue is how poor are we there? We say to ourselves, "Oh, I've done this. I've had compassion on people. I take care of this one who is dying."

Listen, folks, let me tell you something. My wife's mother was living more when she was dying than you are alive. She was dying here, but she was living in Heaven. She was increasing her presence in Heaven. We forget that. We long for them and we want them to remain here. We don't even want them to go on and get their reward. And their rewards are up there. Their riches are up there. How rich is she? I'll tell you how rich she is – and we had to make her do the down payment. She didn't want to. She isn't getting rich in Heaven by taking communion. She became rich because she showed us what it was to

suffer. She showed us what a dying person suffering can make up for all of her prior life, which was all self-serving. And it just went right over our head. We were just going to give her a Mnimosinon at 40 days because that's what Orthodox Christians do.

Do you think being a Bishop down here is going to give you something up there? You're going to go up there and be broke if you do make it up there because you have more responsibility being a Bishop than you do being a plain old Orthodox.

#### **Give Of Yourself**

It's not giving money down here. It's what you can give of yourself that God is seeking.

This really hit me. I thought, Lord, I have to say this. I'm lucky because they are the ones who are really living.

The following came from an excerpt I want to put in the sermon. It was a testimony of a nurse, and she said:

"I am an oncology nurse, which often has met, caring for and caring about people who are dying. People often ask me how I can stand to work with dying people, saying it must be depressing. I honestly tell them that I almost always feel it is a privilege that I am lucky to be able to work with the dying. I am lucky because they are the ones who are really living."

This applies to Grace, my wife's mother, who died. Grace was rarely ever bent out of shape over the stock market or car repairs or the laundry that needed to be done. Or any other countless frustration over which we all spend our time fussing and fuming.

"Talk about perspective," says this nurse. "These people are concerned with the very basic elements of human existence and there is no time or energy for trivialities." The nurse states one of



the most beautiful paradoxes I've ever heard – "People who are dying are the ones who are really living."

### **The Good News**

The Good News is that if you truly follow Christ, you do not necessarily need to be dying in order for you to really live. It was Christ who died for you, in order for you to live. "I have come, saith the Lord, that they may have life and they may have it more abundantly." Where? Not just here, but in Heaven, where it is permanent. It's a gift from God.

And so, in my feeble cry to the Lord, in trying to reconcile a stupid mistake, I vented. I sat in my bed and I said, "I'm not going to proceed with that Lord, this is the fleece," saith the Prophet. I'm telling God now where it's coming from. "Here's how it's going to be, Lord. If they call me – and I know I'm low on the totem pole with my bid for my son and myself because I think it's a good business deal – if they call me, I'm going to do it. But if they don't call me, You don't want me to do it.

What did I do? I'm in bed getting ready to take a nap and I call. "Hello, Martha." She says, "Bob, I was just getting ready to call you." Whew, that got me off the hook. If I had waited two seconds, she would have called. But I didn't quite complete the whole prayer and fleece with the Lord. I should have waited for that call. Maybe God would have stopped her from calling. Or, I don't know, maybe God would have had her call. Nonetheless, she said, "If you really want that restaurant, it's yours. All the other deals have fallen through. All you have to do is come up with \$2,000,00 here and fix it."

### **The King's Kafeneion**

I thought I was on top of the world. Then Hurricane Francis came. Then Hurricane Jeanne came. And they changed the entire scenario. But, now I'm thinking, let me see, God, what You did in a case like this. What can I do to make this Your project? Can I feed them like you fed the 5,000? Then I'll make it a Kafeneion like Paul visited and is written about in Acts 17, then I'll bring the treasures up there from our Museum in West Palm Beach and show these rich people that they have it made – they already have a down payment in their pocket, they already have it in the bank, they are already living lives of luxury and leisure. But what they need is to make treasures in Heaven, so that when they leave their riches here – which they will leave to their children to squander – they will have something in Heaven. So, let's teach them The Beatitudes, whether they like it or not.

So I struggle and struggle. And I go to my church and ask, "Will you support me? I don't think I can afford it – the cash flow involved – can we open a Kafeneion, can we do something with this that's a project of the church?"

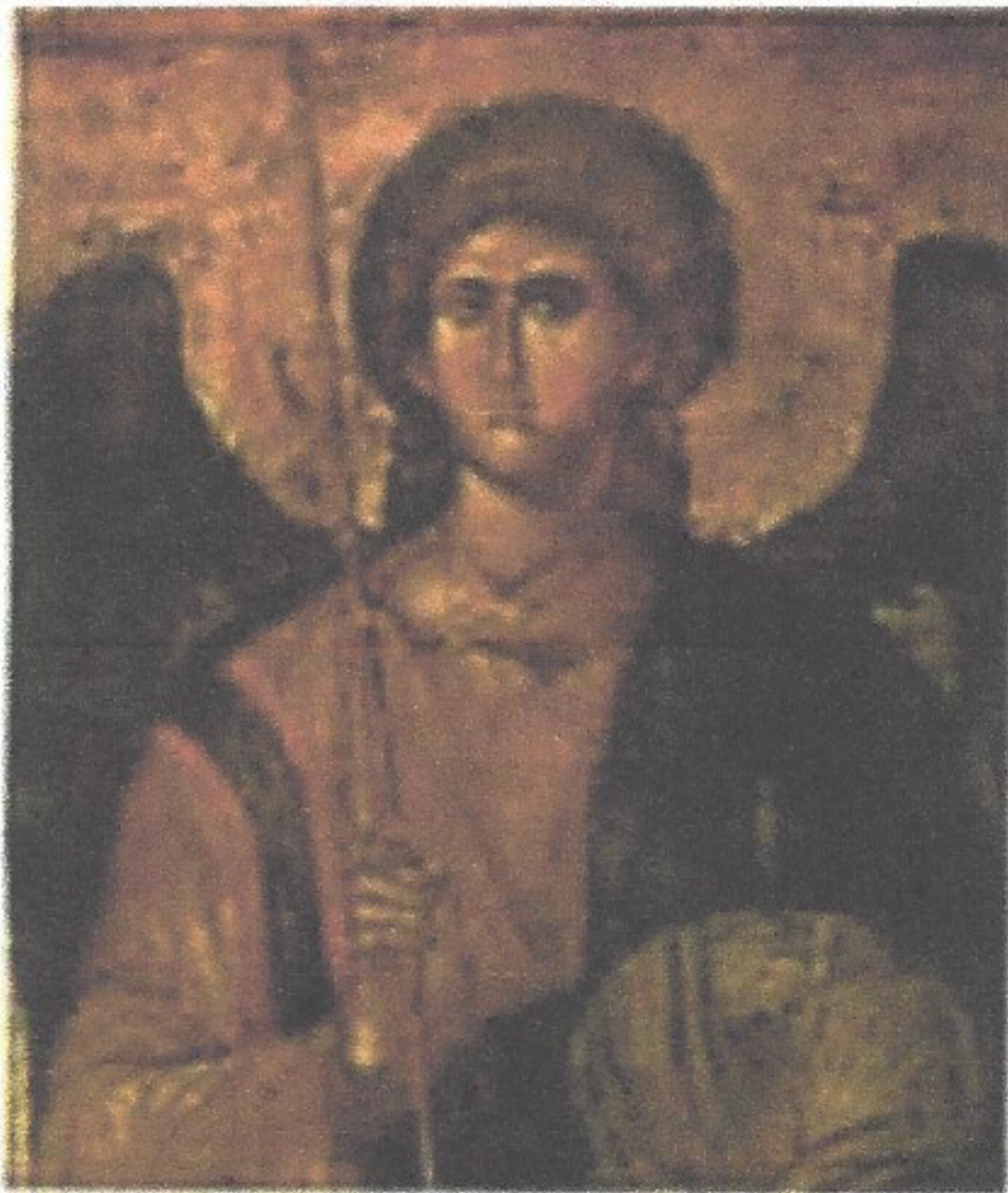




### Be Ready For The Lord

At this very moment, I don't know if the Lord wants me to use that down payment for more treasure in Heaven. But if the down payment interferes with me putting treasures in Heaven, now I know the answer. Because maybe my work is a little different. It might be your work, because you don't have the Spirit of Elijah. But my work is to be ready for God and to travel the entire world because I have enough money to do that. You don't. Most of you are depending on your Social Security, this and that and the other and your retirement. And you have to do that just to maintain.

I'll tell you another thing – I'd like to do that myself, because I remember how wonderful it was to hit the beaches every day and meditate to God and learn, first-hand, talking to the Lord like Moses did. That led me to where I am in my life today.



But I notice something that worries me is that this eye has all kinds of little stuff in it – it has for a while. And this eye needs to be operated on because it has cataracts. And it's a matter of when I operate on this one. I thought, well, I can close this one and this one's cured, I can

look at light and I can see okay, when I do this, and I look at light, I have a blur.

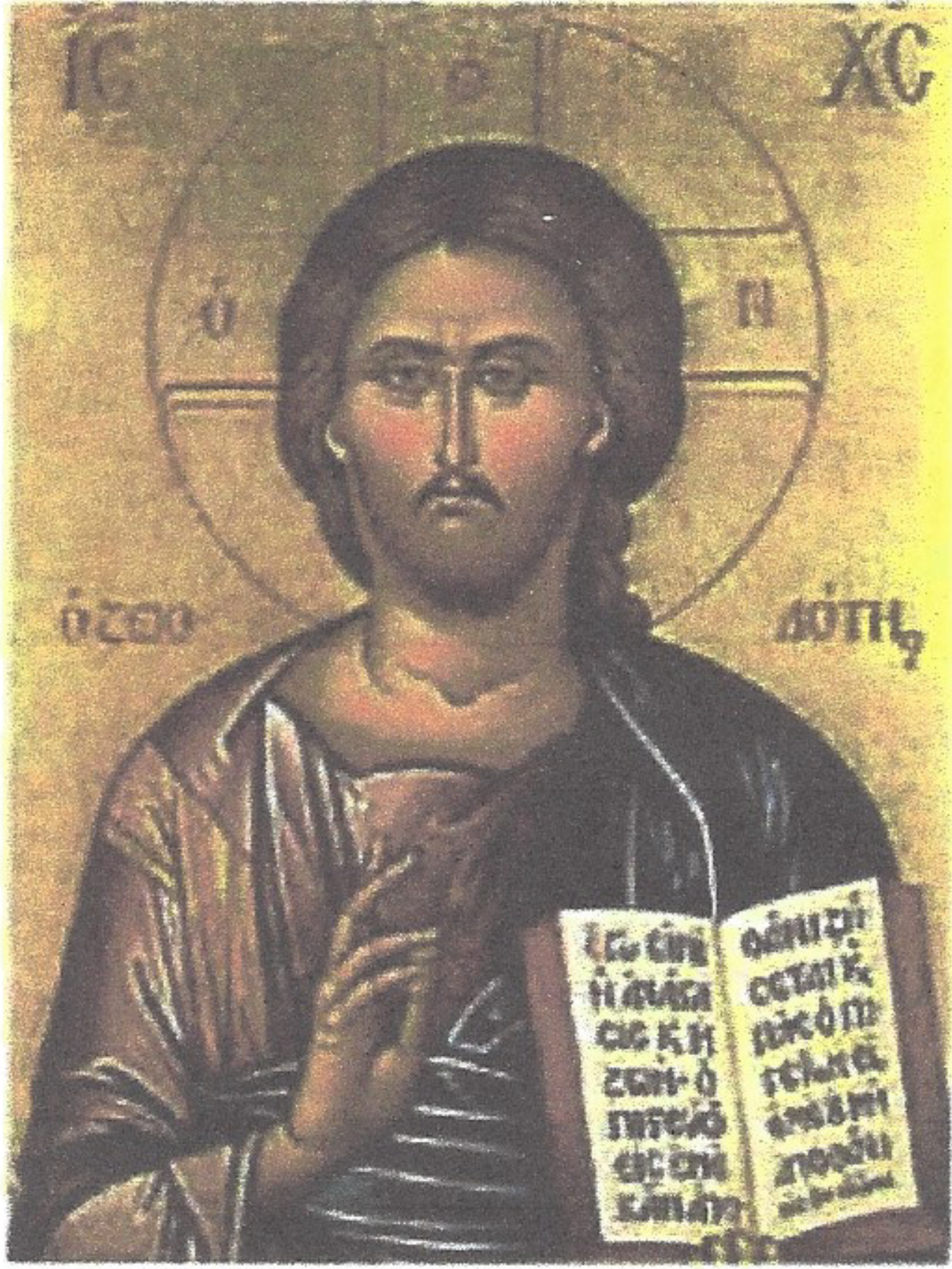
I told my wife Lois all these miles we drove – about 2,000 miles – a lot of it I was driving it mentally. She said, "What? Now you tell me this? And you couldn't see?" Not all of it. How come, you think, I kept asking you what the signs said? How far are we to the road? I fussed at her. And she put me on the wrong turn. That's the prerogative of a husband over a wife. He can fuss at her. Especially when he's driving.

But I want to hear the voice of God. I long for that. And God knows that. So this morning, I finally talked my wife into knowing why I get ticked off at her when she doesn't talk me out of my foolish creativity. You can be overly creative. I can come up with more things that are just unimaginable.

And I see them just like a vision. That's a gift from God. But I want to apply that directly to having people understand this sermon today. I want them to have the wisdom and understanding of Solomon and that a piece of it was given to me so that when I am in Heaven, and I'd have an opportunity to triple where I am at today. But I don't need that money. I said, "Lord, I'll fret and worry over it. It will take time and effort. And I think I have enough, unless You say otherwise, to make the down payment so I can be rich in Heaven. I finally see this is what I want and how to work it."

You hear it all the time, but you don't know the formula. But with this sermon, through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, you know what you have to do, or you can expect to be challenged at the door, and when you go in, find, maybe a house, and if there is one there, it will be empty. It won't have treasure.





I have often said it's no big deal to be saved from Hell. To do all you can to be saved from Hell is like saying if I jump off a building, if I do this, this and this, and pull the parachute, I won't hit the ground and go splat. It saves me from going splat in my existence, but I still hit the ground pretty hard. By the way, it's like jumping off a two-story building with a parachute, so you'd better know how to hit the ground and roll, or you'll break your leg. I learned that in the Air Force, wearing two parachutes.

The essence of life is to enter into the Kingdom. And it begins now, and in your heart. The Kingdom of Heaven is inside of you, and it can't be dealt with by God until you answer.

*In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**CONTACT US AT 561-835-3557**

St. Michael Academy  
P.O. Box 7007  
West Palm Beach  
Florida 33409