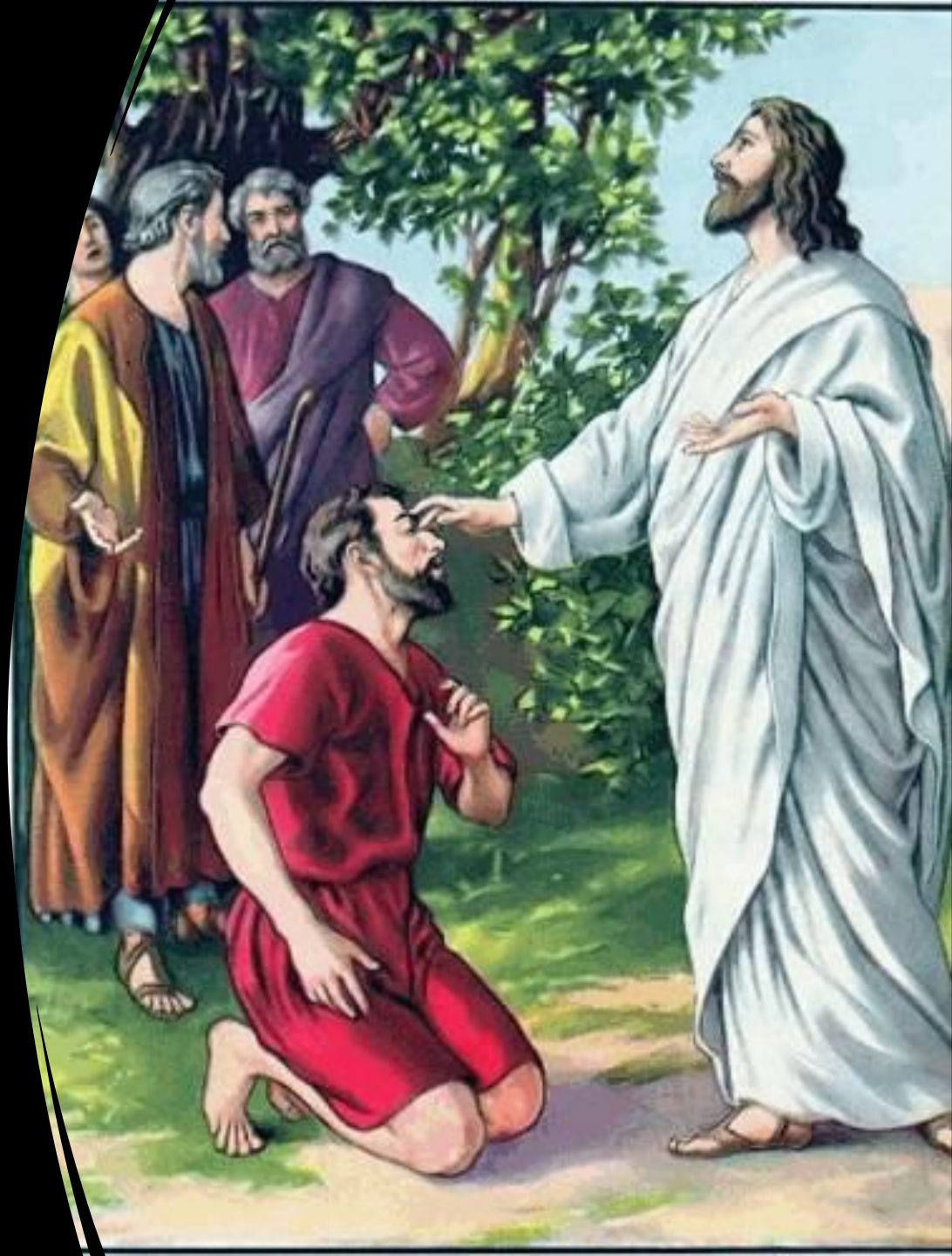


“This fellow
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demons.” –
Matthew 12:24



Evidence of True Repentance

3rd Sunday of Paona

The Evidence They Could Not Deny

- “And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “**Could this be the Son of David?**” (Matthew 12:23)
- Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “**This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.**” (Matthew 12:24)
- *“The man who sighs over his soul for but one hour is greater than he who raises the dead by his prayer while dwelling amid many men. The man who is deemed **worthy to see himself is greater than he who is deemed worthy to see the angels**, for the latter has communion through his bodily eyes, but the former through the eyes of his soul.”* (St. Isaac the Syrian)



A Changed Life

- Repentance is *metanoia* (Greek)
- EX: Zacchaeus
- “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” (Luke 19:8)



It Sticks

- Genuine repentance is marked by permanence
- Example: St. Mary of Egypt

Hatred of Sin

- “Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.” (Psalms 139:21-22)
- “*One must not desire to be delivered from the passions, simply because he desires to escape from the sorrow it causes, but precisely because he hates it.*” (Abba Dorotheos)

Humility



- True repentance accepts the shame, even the disgrace that repentance can bring.
- David and Shimei
- “Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him. It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day.” (2 Samuel 16:11–12)
- St. Paul
- “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15)

A Heart Filled with Mercy and Compassion

- The one who faces his own sin with a truly repentant heart:
- Excuses the sins of others
- Sees his own sin before others' — “For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.” (Psalm 51:3)
- Looks at others as patients in need of the True Physician, not as criminals to be judged.

A Heart Filled with Mercy and Compassion

- EX: Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
- Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, **'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'** (Matthew 18:32-33)
- *"Once an elder was asked, 'What is repentance?' And he replied, 'Repentance is a contrite and humble heart.' 'And what is humility?' 'It is a twofold voluntary death to all things.' 'And what is a merciful heart?' 'It is the heart's burning for the sake of the entire creation... From the strong and vehement mercy that grips his heart and from his great compassion, his heart is humbled and he cannot bear to hear or to see any injury or slight sorrow in creation.'"* (St. Isaac the Syrian)



Conclusion

- “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit ... For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matthew 12:33, 37)
- Evidence of true repentance
 - A changed life
 - A repentance that sticks
 - A sincere hatred of sin
 - A humble ownership of our sin
 - A heart filled with mercy and compassion