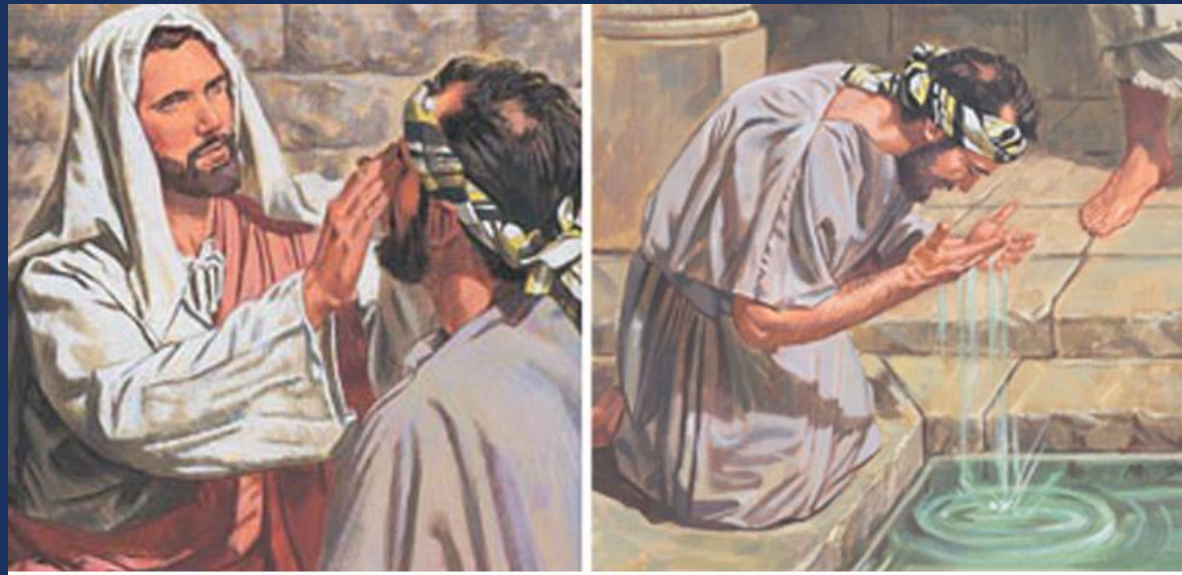


“FOR JUDGMENT I HAVE COME INTO THIS WORLD, THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT SEE MAY SEE, AND THAT THOSE WHO SEE MAY BE MADE BLIND.” – JOHN 9:39

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST



JUDGING IN TODAY'S PASSAGE

- Disciples – judge the Blind Man
 - “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (Jn. 9:2)
- Pharisees
 - The Blind Man – “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” (Jn. 9:34)
 - The Lord Jesus – “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” (Jn. 9:16)
- Christ – judged the Pharisees
 - “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” (Jn. 9:39)

SINNERS ARE SICK

- “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Mk. 2:17)
- Can the sick judge the sick?





THE DANGERS OF JUDGING



I. WHEN WE JUDGE WE ARE BLINDED

- When we judge we judge with a distorted lens
 - EX: Samaritan woman
- EX: Woman caught in adultery
 - “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” (Jn. 8:7)



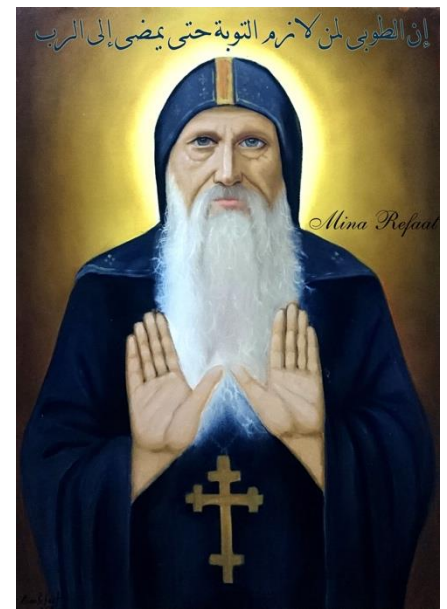
ST. MOSES THE STRONG

- *“My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another.” (St. Moses the Strong)*



2. WHEN WE JUDGE WE TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD

- A Story from the Desert Fathers
- *“If we keep remembering the wrongs which men have done us, we destroy the power of the remembrance of God.”* (St. Macarius)
- *“Only the person who neglects the remembrance of God speaks evil of his brother.”* (St. Isaac the Syrian)



3. WHEN WE JUDGE WE LOSE THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMILITY

- “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.” (Rom. 2:1)
- *“If you reprove someone, you yourself get carried away by anger and you are satisfying your own passion; do not lose yourself, therefore, in order to save another.” (St. Macarius)*

CONCLUSION

- When we judge, we:
 - Are blinded
 - Take the place of God
 - When we judge we lose the grace of God and the protection of humility
- *“The fast of one who abstains from food and drink but continues to eat the flesh of others by slander, this fast is in vain.”* (St. Isaac the Syrian)
- *“One who corrects the weak points he sees in others has found a spiritual mirror within himself.”* (St. Isaac the Syrian)