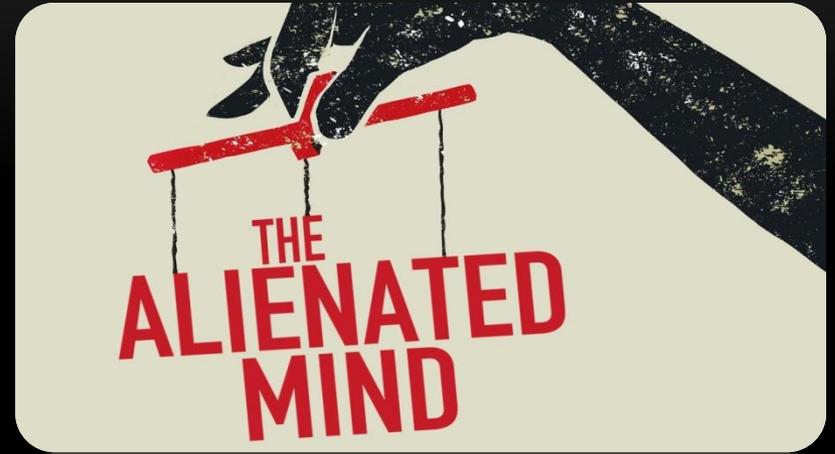


**“We
know that
this Man
is
a sinner”**

John 9:24



Living in a state of Alienation



Highlights

- Characteristics of the state of alienation
- Alienation from:
 - God - Church
 - Family - Reality
- Returning from alienation



Characteristics of the state of alienation

- Applying his/her own understanding
- Struggle with loyalty and belonging
- Sense of discomfort



Alienation from God ⁽¹⁾

- The example of the Pharisees failing to understand that God desires mercy not sacrifice.
- They were alienated from the Will of God: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” *Matthew 7:21*



Alienation from God ⁽²⁾

- The lost son and his alienation from his loving Father
- That is why repentance is a return from this alienation:
“But when he came to himself, he said...” *Luke 15:17*



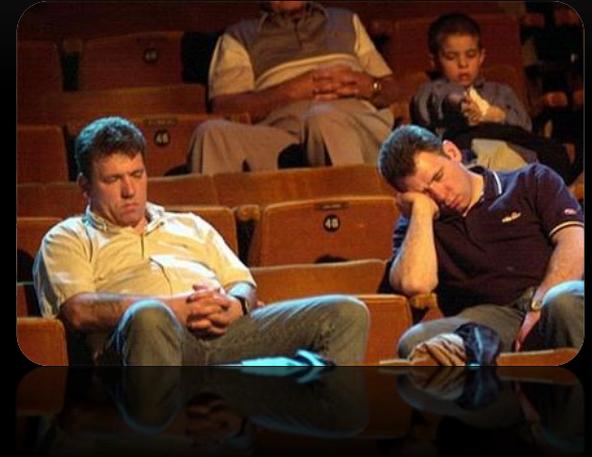
Alienation from Church ⁽¹⁾

- Not understanding, not appreciating Her doctrine, sacraments, rites, practices and wisdom
- Alienation from the Orthodox spirituality that values experience and discipleship



Alienation from Church ⁽²⁾

- Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8 was detached from the church even after his baptism as he desired to buy the gifts of the Spirit with money
- Being in the church with no understanding, no belonging, and with a great sense of unease



Alienation from Family ⁽¹⁾

- The older son in the parable was physically inside the house, yet detached from his family:
“... he was angry and would not go in... you never gave me a young goat... this son of yours”



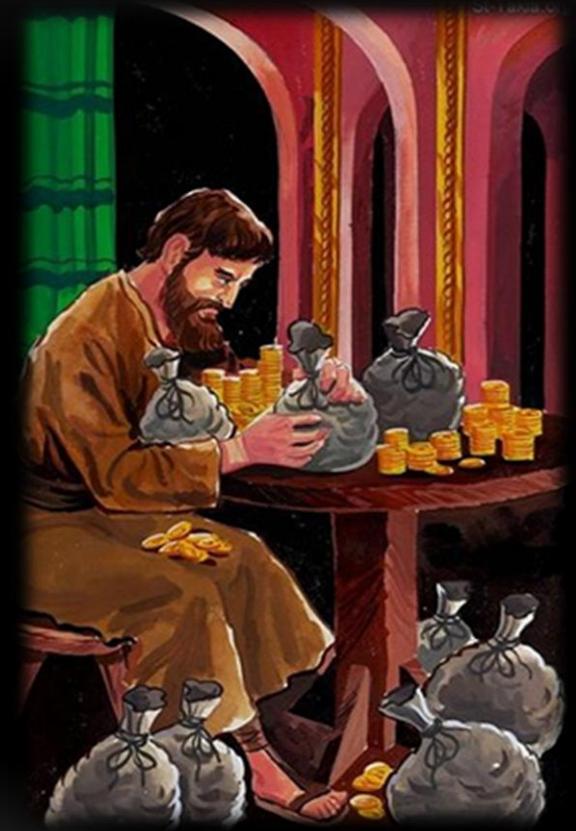
Alienation from Family ⁽²⁾

- Esau and marrying a Canaanite woman
- Selfishness, adopting foreign ideas from the family values, not considering others' needs and feelings are all signs of alienation



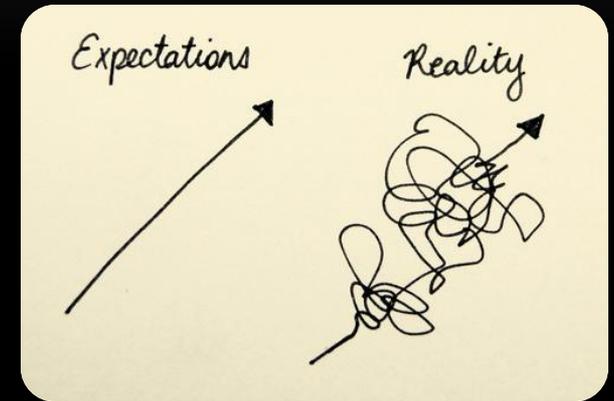
Alienation from Reality ⁽¹⁾

- Misunderstanding of the nature of the life we lead on earth:
The Parable of the Rich Fool
- Failing to see the real issue:
Haman and Mordecai, Cain,
Ahab and Naboth



Alienation from Reality ⁽²⁾

- Expecting perfection from others while accepting low standards from oneself
- Repeating the same mistake and expecting a different result



Returning from alienation ⁽¹⁾

- Realizing the status of alienation
- Finding the reference and following it:
“If you do not know, O fairest among women, follow in the footsteps of the flock, and feed your little goats beside the shepherds’ tents”

(Song of Solomon 1:8)



Returning from alienation (2)

- Repentance and turning from the evil ways and the sin of pride
- Learning and building the correct understanding of the essential matters



Repent and turn to God, so that
your sins may be wiped out.
Acts 3:19