



“THEN FEAR CAME UPON ALL, AND THEY GLORIFIED GOD...” – LUKE 7:16

Introduction

- This miracle takes us to the intersection of life and death
- “Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.” (Lk. 7:16)
- Why should we fear God who died for us and loves us?
- “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...” (1 Jn. 4:18)

St. Basil on the Fear of God

- There are different kinds of fear
- There are 3 states that we can please God
 1. By fearing hell and following His commandments – like slaves
 2. By doing His commandments to receive the reward of eternal life or peace – like a laborer
 3. By pleasing God out of love for Him – like a son of God

Dorotheus of Gaza

- Classified the Fear of God into two categories
 1. Beginner – fears God because he is afraid of Hell or punishment
 2. Saint – fears God because he seeks to please God whom he loves
 - Perfect love
- Both types of the Fear of God are useful and biblical
 - We ought to fear God
 - Those who fear God...



WE OUGHT TO FEAR GOD

What should we fear?

1. His majesty, glory, and power

- EX: Moses
 - “So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.” (Exo. 34:30)
- “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.” (Rev. 1:17)
- “Worship God in fear and trembling.” (Divine Liturgy, St. Basil)



2. His authority over our souls

- “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28)



3. Fear coming up short

- “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.” (Heb. 4:1)
- The Lost Sons (Lk. 15)



4. Fear being a stumbling block

- “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matt. 18:6)



6. Fear Self-Approval

- “But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (Matt. 19:30)
- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” (Matt. 7:21)

6. Fear Self-Approval

- St. Paul
- “But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.”
(1 Cor. 5:3-5)

We ought to fear...

1. His majesty, glory, and power
2. His authority over our souls
3. Coming up short
4. Being a stumbling block
5. The wide and broad way
6. Self-Approval