



Season of Great Lent

Sunday Of The Healing of the Paralytic - أحد شفاء المخلّع

"When Jesus saw their faith,
he said to the paralyzed man,
'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"

Mark 2:5

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Maronite Church Community
We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship*

PARISH OFFICE: 978-685-7233 FAX: 978-688-4475 Website: stanthonylawrence.org
Office E-mail: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org Mailing Address: 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01841

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Daily Liturgies

Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic

Saturday, March 29 (Eng) *St. Cyril*

4:00 pm + Thomas Solomon, *By his Family.*

Sunday, March 30 *St. John Climacus*

8:00 am +Private Intention

9:30 am +Geryes & Mariam Abou Khalil & 40 Day Anniversary - Joseph Abou Khalil, *by his daughters Catherine and Chantale, his siblings: Kozhaya, Kamil, Hanane, Claudine and their families*

+Deceased Members of the Rahhal & Jesser Families, Raymond Faunt, Sr., & John D'Angelo, Sr., *By their loving families.*

11:00 am Private Intentions

Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man

Saturday, April 5 (Eng) *St. Robert of Molesme*

4:00 pm + Robert Danus, *By the Rembis Family.*
+ Private Intentions.

Sunday, April 6 *St Marcellinus of Carthage*

8:00 am Private Intentions.

9:30 am +Fred & Alice Maron, *By their Family.*

11:00 am + 1st Anniversary - Mary Ata, *By her son, Tony Ata, & Family.*

5:00 pm + Afif & Ziad Moussa & Tony Maroun, *By their Families.*

Monday, March 31 (Ar)

Pope St. Lucius I / Eph 5:3-13 / Mk 5:1-20

9:00 am + Charbel Mansour Mouawad, *By his mother, Madeleine Mouawad & Family.*
+ Dr. Elias Nabbout, *By a friend.*

Tuesday, April 1 (Eng)

St. Mary of Egypt / 1 Tim 1:1-8 / Mk 6:47-56

9:00 am + Mariam Abou Khalil, *By Kozhaya & Lola Abou-Khalil, their children & families.*

Wednesday, April 2 (Ar)

St. Aphian & St. Aedesius / Eph 6:1-9 / Lk 7:11-17

9:00 am + Elham Azzi, *By her husband, Pierre Azzi, & Family.*

Thursday, April 3 (Eng)

Isaiah & Ezekiel the Prophets / 2 Tim 1:6-14 / Mk 4:33-41

9:00 am + For the Souls in Purgatory, *By Dora Pereira.*

9:30 am - 7:00 pm *Eucharistic Adoration & Exposition*

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm *Confession*

7:00 pm *Adoration Prayers*

Friday, April 4 - OFFICE CLOSED

Pope St. Anicetus / Phil 2:12-19 / Lk 4:31-44

7:00 pm Station of the Cross followed by Adoration of the Cross



PLEASE NOTE

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.



HOSANA SUNDAY – PASSION WEEK – EASTER

SCHEDULE

HOSANNA SUNDAY		
Saturday April 12	4:00 PM	HOSANNA LITURGY
Sunday April 13	8:00 AM	HOSANNA LITURGY
	9:30 AM	HOSANNA LITURGY
	11:00 AM	HOSANNA LITURGY (CHURCH)
	11:15 AM	HOSANNA LITURGY (HALL)
	7:00 PM	Rite of the Coming to the Harbor
HOLY WEEK		
Monday April 14	9:00 AM	Liturgy
	6:00 PM	Confessions
	7:00 AM	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday April 15	9:00 AM	Liturgy
	6:00 PM	Confessions
	7:00 AM	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday April 16	9:00 AM	Liturgy
	6:00 PM	Confessions
	7:00 PM	Rite of the Lamp - Anointing of Holy Oil
Thursday of the Mysteries April 17	7:00 PM	Washing of Feet
	8:00 PM - Midnight	Adoration & Confessions
GOOD FRIDAY April 18	9:00 AM	Sanctification Liturgy
	4:00 PM	Adoration of the Cross
	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross (from St Joseph Church to Saint Anthony)
	7:00 PM	Adoration of the Cross
Glorious Resurrection		
Saturday, April 19	4:00 PM	Easter Vigil (English)
Sunday, April 20	12:00 AM	Easter Midnight Liturgy (Eng/Ar)
	9:30 AM	Easter Liturgy (Arabic)
	11:00 AM	Easter Liturgy (Ar/Eng)

OFFICE HOURS:

M-TH 10:00 am-3:00 pm

FRI OFFICE CLOSED

SAT By Appointment

DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am

MON & WED (Ar)

TUE & THU (Eng)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4 pm (Eng)

SUN 8am(Ar) 9:30 am (Eng)

11 am (Eng.& Ar)

Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

MEET OUR PRIESTS:

Chorbishop Elie Mikhael

(305) 807-9087

Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy

(857)390-4838

pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR DEACONS:

*Nadim Daou, James T. Demers,
& David Leard*

Sub-Deacon: Antoine Nammour

CLERGY DAY OFF

Fr. Neemtallah: Fridays

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation:

1 month in advance with the Pastor,

Donations: Church: \$200

Priest: Free Will

Matrimony: Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date

Donations: Church \$500

Priest: Free Will

Reconciliation: One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.

Family of St Sharbel & Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild



No Liturgy in April due to Holy Thursday.

Every Tuesday—Zoom Prayer @ 8pm
Zoom ID: 335616991 Passcode: 816342

Or you can join by clicking this link:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:
communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org

Mahajan 2025 Dabke Troupe

Dabke Registration is now open! Please scan the attached QR-code to sign-up!
Deadline April 21st, 2025. \$20 donation per member

For more information, contact:
Carla Khoder (Ages 13-20) @ 978-697-1725 | Reine Ata (Ages 7-12) @ 978-902-1234



Monthly Meeting Schedule
Third Saturday of every month
@ 8 am at St Anthony
Maronite Church Hall.

DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

"The Oldest Organization of St. Anthony's Church"

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 12 pm, church hall
Lunch will be served.
We will play a little Bingo so bring your luck!



M-WINE

"We Serve Better Together"

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 7, 2025 7pm @ Church hall

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO

Next Meeting:

Sunday, April 6, 2025 @ 6 - 7:30 pm
www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

**Saturday, May 10, 2025,
11 am– 12:30 pm @ Church hall**
Remember to bring your handbooks to the meetings.
New applicants are always welcome!

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Next Session:

Saturday, March 29 & April 26th, 2025 @ 5-7 pm
www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Session:

Saturday, April 5, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm
Please visit our website for the yearly calendar
www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/
Lawrencereligioused@gmail.com

Sign up by April 15th

**LIGHT OF LIFE
SUMMER BIBLE
CAMP:**
"ANCHORED IN HOPE"

**JUNE
18-20TH**

Saint Anthony
Maronite Church
145 Amesbury St
Lawrence MA

Presented by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light
MARONITESERVANTS.ORG

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAgAN7JcsrnG7t2oCOTI7V1cPCmDtqaQDgze__SizeK1q-A/viewform

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -St. Anthony Council 16204



**"In Service To One,
In Service To All"**

Next meeting:

Tuesday April 8, 2025 @ 7 pm, Church Hall

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOFc16204@gmail.com

ST ANTHONY PARISH VETERANS & FAMILIES OF VETERANS

The Knights of Columbus Men's Group is compiling a record of all St. Anthony Parish Veterans, past and present. If you are a veteran or a family member, relative or friend of a parishioner who served in any branch of the US military, past or present, please submit your/ their name along with their rank, military branch and campaign if known to:

kofcstanthonyveteran@aol.com

or rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

It is our intent to memorialize the names of our veterans with a permanent display honoring their sacrifice. Thank you for your assistance in helping us remember them and their service to our parish and nation.



St. Anthony Lenten Food Drive

Sponsored by
The Knights of Columbus

**Help us reach our goal of providing food the
Maronite Monks at Petersham**

Please consider donating a grocery bag with:

- Canned vegetables
- Brown rice & quinoa
- Canned diced tomato's
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned olives
- Dried fruit
- Canned tuna & chicken
- Walnuts
- Stuffing mix
- Soup & broth
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Boxed mac and cheese
- Baking ingredients
- Healthy breakfast cereal
- Old fashioned oats
- Herbal tea-decaf

Please drop off food items in the church lobby by
April 13th

Thank you for your generosity & continued blessings

EASTER LILY

"PURITY, REBIRTH, NEW BEGINNINGS AND HOPE"

In honor of **Christ Resurrection**, the sanctuary will be decorated with Easter lilies. **Honor or Remember Your Loved Ones** by dedicating one or more Easter Lily Plant .

I would like to dedicate _____

An Easter Flower Donation @ \$15 Each

"In Memory of" or **"In Honor of"**

Given by:

Please return this completed form, along with your payment (Check, Cash, or Venmo), to the Church office by 12pm, Friday, April 11. You may also place this form with your Sunday offering basket collection. There will be a tribute page on Easter Weekend, in the Parish Bulletin, to acknowledge your dedications.



SAINTS, WITNESSES OF HOPE

Relics of Jesus and His Saints Exhibition

Presented by

Saints Be To God & Saint Anthony's Church

Over 100+ Relics Including

Jesus' Passion (15 Relics), an actual piece of the Veil of Mary, St. Pope John Paul II the Great, and many other notable saints

Exhibition times

- Saturday, March 29, 2025 (3 pm - 7 pm)
- Sunday, March 30, 2025 (8 am - 1 pm)

Location

St. Anthony Church Hall
145 Amesbury Street,
Lawrence, MA 01841
978-685-7233

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

03/23/2025

Candles	\$131.00
Donation	\$325.00
Sunday Collection	\$3,100.55
Utilities, Fuel, & Electricity	\$20.00

Total \$ 3,576.55

Thank you for your generous support to our parish. Please remember to remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the Heat on in the Winter and the AC on in the Summer. Thank you!

**SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE**



**TO BE DRAWN
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20, 2025**

1st PRIZE: \$2500

2nd PRIZE: \$1000

3rd PRIZE: \$500

4th PRIZE: \$250

1 TICKET \$10

5 FOR \$45

NORTHERN REGIONAL 2025
 FINDING STRENGTH IN SURRENDER

APRIL 5 - LAWRENCE, MA
 Saturday April 5

9:30 AM Check-In
 10:00 AM Prayer
 10:15 AM Icebreaker
 10:45 AM Talk #1
 11:30 AM Breakout
 12:00 PM Lunch
 1:15 PM Talk #2
 2:00 PM Breakout
 2:40 PM Adoration and Confession
 4:00 PM Mass
 5:00 PM Break
 8:00 PM Dinner at Beirut

In addition to the above MYA events, the Lawrence Parish will be hosting

Friday April 4
 TBD Stations of the Cross

Sunday April 6
 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*Schedule is subject to change

This is a Church sponsored event. Please be mindful to dress modestly for all liturgical events and activities

ST ANTHONY ANNUAL CHARITABLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Weather Permitting, St. Anthony's Golf Tournament has been scheduled for:

Monday, June 30, 2025 at the Atkinson Country Club.

***Individuals who are interested must register by April 15, 2025, which is the drop dead date.**

- There are 36 opportunities to sponsor a hole. The sponsorship is \$1,500 per hole.
- The sponsoring foursome, or company, will have two signs displayed at the tournament. One sign at the sponsored hole and one sign at the club where the dinner event will be held.
- Sponsoring company logo or text must be sent by June 1st.
- Provide Polo Shirt Sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL)
- A hole can be sponsored by up to two entities.

The Tournament fee is projected to be \$175.00+ per player. The fee will include golf, cart, lunch, and dinner meals, and prizes. The format will be a friendly scramble. We are looking for a minimum participation of 90 players.

For more information, to Register for, or to Sponsor this event, reach out to George Kassas at georgekassas@comcast.net, or email the rectory@stanthonylawrence.org.

The DCG Scholarships

The Dorothy C Gabriel Foundation is offering the *DCG scholarship* to any St Anthony parishioner who will be attending Central Catholic High School in fall 2025. For more information or to apply, text the students full name and contact number to **Ken Gabriel** at 508-633-0704.

Deadline to apply is May 15, 2025.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 29- 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, March 30 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Catherine Abou-Khalil

11:00 am - (Eng) Mounira Daher

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 5 - 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, April 6 - Meghan Twing

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am - (Eng) Anthony Ata

(Ar) Rita Mallat



MYO – John A. Solomon
Two for High School Seniors \$2000

Massabki Brothers
One for High School Seniors \$2000

Naomi & Paul Kassouf
Two for High School Seniors \$2000

Abouna Sharbel
Three for High School Seniors \$1000

Undergraduate Scholarships

Chagoury Family Undergraduate
One for College Student \$2000

Thomas and Jennie Ayoub
One for College Student \$2000

Graduate & Professional Scholarship

Chagoury Family Graduate
One for Graduate Student \$2000

Study Abroad in Lebanon Opportunities

Notre Dame University-Louaize
Up to 10 scholarships for Fall 2025 or Spring 2026

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
Up to 12 scholarships for Summer 2025 Semester

For more information and application visit namaronites.org or e-mail namscholarships@gmail.com



APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31, 2025

BIRTHDAY WISHES

March 29: Peter Bou Sanayeh, Jason Azzi, Pascal Daher, George Jbeily, Crystal Jean, Cal Kannan, Rodney Ndaïra, Lindsey St. Jean, John Thomas

March 30: Maureen Abraham, Abigail LeGallo, Georges Moura, Karyn Ramey, Henry Sader

March 31: Joseph Akiki, Sadie Cadell, Corey Cadell, Jack Callahan, Meaghan Harvey, Matteo Hashem, Jimmy Msaddi, Alexander Ramey

April 1: Iliana Bourouphael, Mary Francis, Danielle Garcia, Simon Kanaan, Gaby Maroun, Najla Purcell

April 2: Jasmine Haddad, Dany Karam, Barbara Kramer, Danny Maroun, Charles Nehme,

April 3: Enzo Azzi, Alyssa Hajj

April 4: Mitchel Alghoul, Charbel Bou Jabbour, Celia Ephrem, Vivian Hunnfeld, Roger Kasbo, Krista Salem

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Paralytic

Book of Isaiah 35:1-6, 9b-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away .

First Letter to Timothy 5:24-25, 6:1-5

The sins of some people are conspicuous and precede them to judgement, while the sins of others follow them there. So also good works are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden. Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be blasphemed. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful to them on the ground that they are members of the church; rather they must serve them all the more, since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these duties. Whoever teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words. From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, and wrangling among those who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' he said to the paralytic 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this! .

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Memory of Thomas Solomon, *By his family.*

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

الأحد الخامس من الصوم الكبير: أحد شفاء المخلع

سفر أشعيا 35:1-6. 8. 10-b9

لِتَفْرَحِ الْبَرِّيَّةُ وَالْقَفْرُ وَلِتَبْتَهِجِ الْبَادِيَةُ وَتُزْهِرْ كَالْتَّرَجِسِ، لِتُزْهِرْ أَزْهَارًا وَتَبْتَهِجِ أَبْتَهَاجًا مَعَ هُتَافٍ. قَدْ أُوتِيَتْ مَجْدَ لُبْنَانَ وَبَهَاءَ الْكَرْمَلِ وَالشَّارُونَ فَهَمَ يَرُونَ مَجْدَ الرَّبِّ وَبَهَاءَ الْهِنَا. قُؤُوا الْأَيْدِي الْمُسْتَرَحِيَةَ وَشَدِّدُوا الرُّكْبَانَ الْوَاهِنَةَ. قُولُوا لِفِرْعَى الْقُلُوبِ: «تَقَوُّوا وَلَا تَخَافُوا هُوَذَا إِلَهُكُمْ النَّقْمَةُ آتِيَةٌ هَذِهِ مُكَافَأَةُ اللَّهِ هُوَ يَأْتِي فَيُخَلِّصُكُمْ.» «حِينَئِذٍ تَنْفَتِّحُ عُيُونُ الْعُمَيَانَ وَأَذَانُ الصُّمِّ تَنْفَتِّحُ وَحِينَئِذٍ يَقْفِرُ الْأَعْرَجُ كَالْأَيْلِ وَيَهْتَفُ لِسَانُ الْأَبْكَمِ فَقَدْ أَنْفَجَرَتِ الْمِيَاهُ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ وَالْأَنْهَارُ فِي الْبَادِيَةِ. وَيَكُونُ هُنَاكَ مَسْلَكٌ وَطَرِيقٌ يُقَالُ لَهُ الطَّرِيقُ الْمُقَدَّسُ لَا يَعْبُرُ فِيهِ نَجْسٌ بَلْ إِنَّمَا هُوَ لَهُمْ. مَنْ سَلَكَ هَذَا الطَّرِيقَ حَتَّى الْجُهَّالِ لَا يَضِلُّ. بَلْ يَسِيرُ فِيهِ الْمُخَلَّصُونَ وَالَّذِينَ فَدَاهُمُ الرَّبُّ يَرْجِعُونَ وَيَأْتُونَ إِلَى صِهْيُونَ بِهُتَافٍ وَيَكُونُ عَلَى رُؤُوسِهِمْ فَرَحٌ أَبَدِيٌّ وَيُرَافِقُهُمُ السُّرُورُ وَالْفَرَحُ وَتَنْهَزُمُ عَنْهُمْ الْحَسْرَةُ وَالتَّأْوَهُ.

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى تيموثاوس 5: 24-25. 1:6

يَا إِخْوَتِي، مِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ تَكُونُ خَطَايَاهُمْ وَاضِحَةً قَبْلَ الْحُكْمِ فِيهَا، وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ لَا تَكُونُ وَاضِحَةً إِلَّا بَعْدَهُ. كَذَلِكَ فَإِنَّ الْأَعْمَالَ الصَّالِحَةَ هِيَ أَيْضًا وَاضِحَةٌ، وَالَّتِي هِيَ غَيْرُ وَاضِحَةٍ فَلَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ تَبْقَى خَفِيَّةً. عَلَى جَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ نِيرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ أَنْ يَحْسُبُوا أَسْيَادَهُمْ أَهْلًا لِكُلِّ كَرَامَةٍ، لِئَلَّا يُجَدَّفَ عَلَى اسْمِ اللَّهِ وَتَعْلِيمِهِ. أَمَّا الَّذِينَ لَهُمْ أَسْيَادٌ مُؤْمِنُونَ فَلَا يَسْتَهَيِّنُوا بِهِمْ، لِأَنَّهُمْ إِخْوَةٌ، بَلْ بِالْأُخْرَى فَلْيَخْدُمُوهُمْ، لِأَنَّ الْمُسْتَفِيدِينَ مِنْ خَدَمَتِهِمُ الطَّيِّبَةَ هُمْ مُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَجْبَاءُ، ذَلِكَ مَا يَجِبُ أَنْ تُعَلِّمَهُ وَتَعْظُمَ بِهِ. فَإِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يُعَلِّمُ تَعْلِيمًا مُخَالِفًا، وَلَا يَتَّمَسَّكَ بِالْكَلَامِ الصَّحِيحِ، كَلَامِ رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَبِالتَّعْلِيمِ الْمُوَافِقِ لِلنَّقْوَى، فَهُوَ إِنْسَانٌ أَعْمَنُهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ، لَا يَفْهَمُ شَيْئًا، بَلْ مُصَابٌ بِمَرَضِ الْمُجَادَلَاتِ وَالْمَمَاحِكَاتِ، الَّتِي يَنْشَأُ عَنْهَا الْحَسَدُ وَالْحِصَامُ وَالتَّجْدِيفُ وَسُوءُ الظَّنِّ، وَالْمُشَاجَرَاتُ بَيْنَ أَنْاسٍ فَاسِدِي الْعَقْلِ، زَائِفِينَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ، يَطُنُّونَ أَنَّ النَّقْوَى وَسِيلَةٌ لِلرِّيحِ.

إنجيل القديس مرقس 2: 1-12

عَادَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى كَفَرْنَاحُومَ. وَسَمِعَ النَّاسُ أَنَّهُ فِي الْبَيْتِ. فَتَجَمَّعَ عَدَدٌ كَبِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ حَتَّى غَصَّ بِهِمُ الْمَكَانُ، وَلَمْ يَبْقَ مَوْضِعٌ لِأَحَدٍ وَلَا عِنْدَ الْبَابِ. وَكَانَ يُخَاطِبُهُمْ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ. فَاتَّوَهُ بِمُخَلِّعٍ يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةُ رِجَالٍ. وَبِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ لَمْ يَسْتَطِيعُوا الْوُصُولَ بِهِ إِلَى يَسُوعَ، فَكَشَفُوا السَّقْفَ فَوْقَ يَسُوعَ، وَنَبَشُوهُ، وَدَلَّوْا الْفِرَاشَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُخَلِّعُ مَطْرُوحًا عَلَيْهِ. وَرَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، فَقَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: «يَا ابْنِي، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ!» «وَكَانَ بَعْضُ الْكُتَّابَةِ جَالِسِينَ هُنَاكَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ: لِمَاذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَذَا الرَّجُلُ هَكَذَا؟ إِنَّهُ يُجَدِّفُ! مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟» وَفِي الْحَالِ عَرَفَ يَسُوعُ بِرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِهِذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا هُوَ الْأَسْهَلُ؟ أَنْ يُقَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ؟ أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ: قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ وَامْشِ؟ وَلَكِي تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ لِأَبْنِ الْإِنْسَانِ سُلْطَانًا أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ؟» قَالَ لِلْمُخَلِّعِ: لَكَ أَقُولُ: قُمْ، احْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ، وَأَذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ! فَقَامَ فِي الْحَالِ وَحَمَلَ فِرَاشَهُ، وَخَرَجَ أَمَامَ الْجَمِيعِ، حَتَّى دَهَشُوا كُلَّهُمْ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: «مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا الْبَيْتَةِ!»

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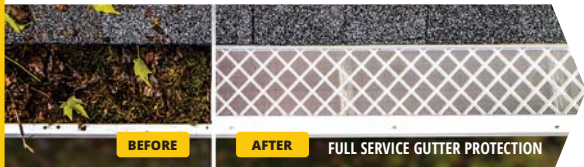
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