

Always Thank God

In all our liturgical services and private prayers, we usually start with the prayer of thanksgiving, in which we say “let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God... for He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Himself, spared us, supported us and has brought us to this hour... We thank You for every condition, concerning every condition and in every condition”.

Our church here teaches us that we should always be thankful to God in all conditions whether we like or dislike them, because the church wants to teach us that of course God knows what is best for us even if we don't understand or realize this in the time being. God always arranges, prepares and looks far ahead and of course He sees in the future what we couldn't see.

Sometimes we find the circumstances around us going in a negative destructive manner, which we could not understand why?!... But as children holding our Father's hand we trust that He always does the best for us and that He is able to change the evil to good, the negative to positive, the enemy to friend, the destructive to constructive and the darkness to light.

We have a very clear example when Jesus was informed that His beloved Lazarus was sick but He didn't go to heal him at that moment, but He waited two days in the place where He was and then went to Mary and Martha after their brother had died... Nobody understood why Jesus was so patient until His beloved Lazarus died!! But at the end they understood and everybody marveled and was delighted.

The same thing happened with the African king who went hunting with his childhood friend who was usually thankful to God and was loading and preparing the guns for the king, and once he did a mistake and when the king took the gun to shoot, it blew his thumb off!! But his friend seeing this thanked God as usual and said “thanks to God, this is good”!! Of course the king's wrath blew up on hearing this from his friend and immediately he sent him to prison...

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area where he should have known to stay clear of, and cannibals captured him and took him to their village, tied him, stacked some wood and bound him to the stake... On setting the fire, they noticed that he was missing a thumb, and as they were superstitious, they never ate anyone who was less than whole... So they untied him and sent him on his way.

Thinking about what happened and finding it incredible, the king soon remembered his old friend who was the cause of this missing thumb and how he treated him badly when he heard him thanking God for what happened... Immediately the king went to his friend in prison and set him free and apologized for his ill treatment to him and how he couldn't realize at that time that this might be good for him. But his faithful friend replied that the prison was also good for him and he is thanking God for that!! The king getting exceedingly surprised, asked why?! So his friend answered “If I had not been in prison, I would have been with you captured by the cannibals...”

So let us be “Giving thanks always for all things unto God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph 5:20) and be always trusting and believing that “all things work together for good to them that love God, who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28).