

EPILOGUE

Although the Book of Acts ends with no clear ending, my pilgrimage, through it, is but a learning tool that should conduct my life. It gave me a way how to live my Christian life. It is full of mysterious symbolism that enlightens those who seek to become followers and disciple of Christ.

Every one of us is endowed with the gift of royal priesthood at our Chrismation after dying and resurrected with Christ in the font of Salvation at our Baptism. This royal priesthood bestows on us the responsibility to act in imitation of Christ for we have put on Him¹ and we bear his name as our identity. We are called Christians. We are rooted in Him and we are vested in Him. And what is better than the Apostles, their Disciples, and the saints to show us the way to imitate Him.

They are the first imitators, the first pioneers who were driven by the mighty wind of the Spirit. They are the best examples of inspirations. They teach and encourage us to endure tribulation and to put our trust in the Lord who will take our burdens and put them on the Cross.

By doing such ministry we have to remember that He is the True worker and we are but transparent tools of His Love and Mercy for “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”² This keeps our ego and pride as low as possible. Keeping in mind that we are weak and in weakness we live our witness to Him. it is not I who do, but Christ who is in me does all things.

But, do I have a clean place for Him in me, or this place is full of heavy loads of sins? Then, by being vigilant of keeping my being as a “temple of the Holy Spirit”³ through repentance, communion with Him, and the ministry of love, and only by invoking the Mercy of God, He will graciously lives in me and His marvelous and wondrous works will be revealed.

Hence, I become a liturgical being. I am offering myself on His Altar, the Altar of His Body, the Church. There is the place where the Holy Spirit purifies, illumines, sanctifies, guides and discerns. In the Church is my safe place to become a holy

¹ Galatians 3: 27.

² Galatians 2: 20.

³ 1 Corinthians 6: 19.

temple. It is by partaking of the sacraments and mystical services I become in communion with Him. In the Church I can foretaste the Kingdom of Heaven. "Blessed is the Kingdom of God" is the beginning of the Divine Liturgy in the Orthodox Church. In the Church I transcend my earthly things; I serve with the invisible powers and see God in His actions of Mercy. In the Church I will be united with Christ and will become one with the members of His Body. I become partaker of the Divine mysteries and my mouth will eat the Eternal Food and the Drink that will not perish. In the Church my mouth will declare praises, my ears will listen to the words of God, my hands will touch the holiness of the icons and all the instruments provided, my eyes see Salvation and the performed mysteries, and my nose smells the incense of my prayers.

All this, O Lord, I learned through my pilgrimage of the second Book of Luke. Certainly, there is still multitude of learning through the hidden meanings of your words for they are divine words; Luke was inspired to state what he included in his book.⁴ And all my life should become a progressive process to learn, more and more, and adapt my life in accordance to these revelations.

We are as St John the Baptist, the friend of the Bridegroom, who met Christ, yet both in the wombs of their mothers. We are meeting Christ in the womb of the font of Baptism, and as St John became the Forerunner of the Incarnation, the first coming of Christ, we are too became the forerunners of Christ's second coming in His glory. We are here like him, the last of the prophets and the first of the apostles, to prepare God's creation for the Kingdom of Heaven, which is near and begins in every one of us.

Therefore, O Lord, guide me and forgive me of any misunderstanding, for my knowledge is but what you instill in me. I know nothing without you and your words in Scripture are my inspirations.

⁴ 2 Timothy 3: 16 "All Scripture is inspired by God."

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