

ABOUT SPIRITUAL ELDER PORPHYRIOS

From the book by monk Michael: Banned Orthodoxy

What made a great impression about this Spiritual Elder was his magnificent freedom. But not only him, but also other similar Spiritual Elders. Their holiness was always accompanied by great freedom. And it is paradoxical that these men who lived as ascetics, completely isolated from the world, to have this air and this freedom and second rate Spiritual Elders, who day and night are busy with people, lack. One would have expected a more open approach from them in the daily problems of life, instead we see them being moody, idiosyncratic, closed minded and unable to adjust to new things.

One of those first mentioned beautiful Spiritual Elders, made a very important comment to me when I was 22 years old and went to confess to him.

Be careful my child, where you look to find Spiritual fathers because you have an inborn freedom in your character, and you must know that real freedom within the realms of the Church can only be found either in great saints or in great sinners.

It is true, I told him, in true saints one finds real and great freedom, but how can one find it among the sinners?

How is it possible for ascetics who live in caves, learn to respect freedom so much and to face others with so much respect? One would have expected that the more someone isolates himself from the world, the more he would find it difficult to

connect with other people. And the less he becomes in contact with human daily affairs, the more difficult it would be for him to face them. From where then, do these ascetics gain so much freedom which shocks people? They get this freedom from God. They also learn to be free, because God is free and liberal also. Seeing God acting with so much gentleness and sensitivity toward human individuality, they also learn to do the same.

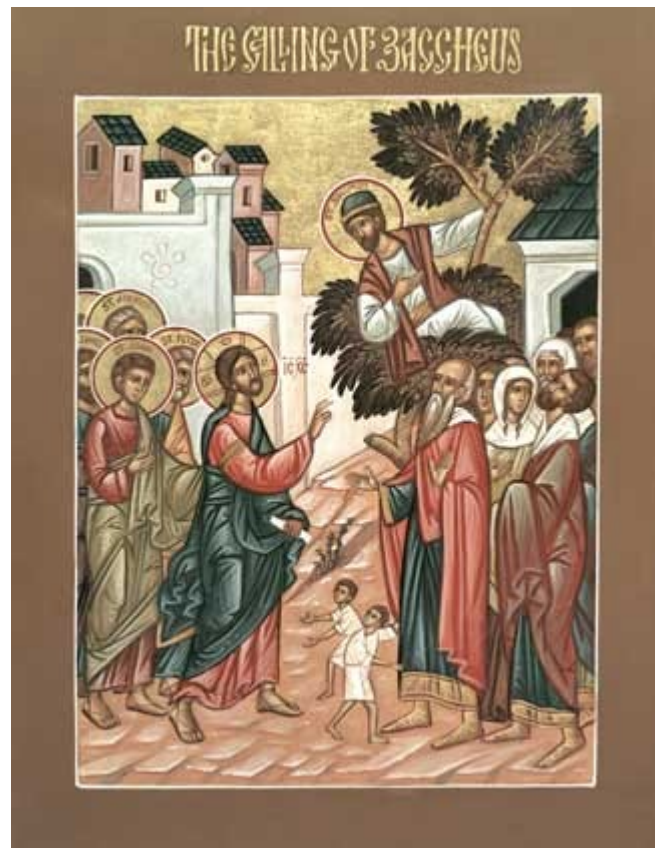
If humans learn to accept the fact about their misdirection in life, then God extends his radiance and the vibrancy of his light. However, if humans deceive themselves, which is what most usually happens, with the half darkness which God reveals, He gives humans the possibility to hide in this darkness and denounce God. Because what God has revealed to man does not fit with the impression man has about himself. In such a situation, it is very difficult for humans to denounce their fake individuality. And God, feeling sad but respecting the freedom of the individual, departs without complaining about the falsification of truth.

O.K. Saints learn from God about freedom, where do sinners learn it from? From sin? Naturally no. Sin is a poison and everywhere it touches, it poisons the beauty which it comes in contact with. With know a tree by its fruits, and a free and dignified individuality is not possible to come from the fruits of sin.

From where then one finds freedom from sinners? From sinful conciliation! What is meant by this is the following: An unethical Bishop can let an honest new cleric to find the space to develop the work of God, as long as this cleric does not interfere in the private life of this Bishop. On the other hand, a clean and an immaculate Bishop, could be so unbearable and suffocating, or non communicative, that in essence he drowns the work of God. What is therefore within the interest of the Church? To have clean Bishops but suffocating, or unethical ones who leaves you some space of freedom, so you can do what you consider is right?

Ethics are not just a square foot below your navel, but something much more. It is the whole spiritual being of a person.

Source: http://noctoc-noctoc.blogspot.com/2008_04_01_archive.html



"One will find real freedom next to great saints or next to great sinners"

A Saying by a Spiritual Elder