



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

23 – 29 Feb, 2020

Do not Bear False Witness, part 1

'I do not fear at all what men can do to me for speaking the truth. I only fear what God would do if I were to lie'

Saint John Bosco

'But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' 'No'. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one' Mt 5:37

- † Christ did not leave room for a white lie
- † Any lie is a deceit

Characteristics of a lie

- † *'Humility is nothing but truth, and pride is nothing but lying' Saint Vincent de Paul*
- † *'By mixing a little truth with it they had made their lie far stronger' C S Lewis*
- † Lies and the truth never meet, just as light and darkness never meet. *'no lie is of the truth' 1Jn 2:21b*

'Do not lie to one another' Col 3:9

- † Christ specifies the source of lies. *'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it' Jn 8:44*

The consequence of lying

- † One will feel shameful since no one has enough memory to be a successful liar
- † *'A little lie is like a little pregnancy-it does not take long before everyone knows' C S Lewis*
- † A lie, no matter in what form it comes, leads to failure

The forms of lies (Acts 5:1-11; Jo 7; Lk 22:54-62)

- † **The outright lie where there is a total fabrication of new facts as when Peter denied Jesus**
- † **The insinuation where you make a statement that leads people to think something that is not true, encouraging them to jump to conclusions. It can be made simply by twisting facts with a gesture or a tone of voice (Gen 3)**
- † **The half-truth. In legal courts, we phrase 'to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' is used. By telling half the truth we feel we did not lie, although half the truth is a lie**
- † **The excuse:**
 - **harms someone else**
 - **stops us from dealing with the problem**
 - **stops us from repenting and asking the Lord's forgiveness**
- † **Others:**
 - **Gossiping. Remember it takes two to gossip; one to give it and one to receive it**
 - **Flattery. It devalues everything we say**
 - **Exaggeration**
 - **To keep silent**

The saying 'all talk is cheap' is wrong

- † ***'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. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness Mt 7:21-23***
- † **All throughout the Church history, Christians were fiercely persecuted under different circumstances. Hundreds of thousands of Christians in Iraq and Syria were being persecuted and given three choices: convert, pay the Jizya tax, or die. Many have taken the third option knowing that talk was not cheap!**
- † ***'Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father Who is in Heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in Heaven' Mt 10:32-33***

Bibliography

1. Ephrem the Syria. *Hymns*. New York: Paulist Press. 1989
2. Lewis, C.S. *The Horse and His Boy*. New York: Macmillan. 1954
3. Moss, Vladimir. 'Mercy and Judgement.' Orthodoxchristianbooks. January/February, 2018. Accessed August 12, 2019.
<http://www.orthodoxchristianbooks.com/articles/868/mercy-judgement/>
4. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful' Prv 14:25

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

† Christ told me that He is the Truth

My reaction

† Am I living His mercy by refusing to compromise?

† Am I laying my life with wisdom, justice and mercy to others?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Orthodox Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
أومن بإله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يُرى وما لا يُرى
وبربٍ واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساوٍ للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وتأنس
وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقُبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث على ما في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الأب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لمملكه
وبالروح القدس
الربُّ المُحيي
المُنبتق من الأب
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
مسجود له ومُمجَّد
النَّاطق بالأنبياء
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدّسة، رسولية
وأعترف بعموديّة واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربّانيّة
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدّس إسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
لتكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
خُبرنا الجوهري أعطنا
اليوم
واثرُك لنا ما علينا
كما نترك نحن
لمن لنا عليه
ولا نُدخلنا في تجربة
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين