



**This week meditations on liturgical texts
from **Skynia Magazine****

August 29 - September 4
The Gregorian calendar

Content

<u>Stages of meditation</u>	2
<u>August 29</u>	3
<u>August 30</u>	7
<u>August 31</u>	10
<u>September 1</u>	13
<u>September 2</u>	17
<u>September 3</u>	20
<u>September 4</u>	24
<u>What is Skynia Magazine?</u>	28

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Stages of meditation

Please find below some schematic prompts for each stage of the meditation on the Word of God. [Read more.](#)

1. Reading

- Read the text
- What does it tell by itself?
- Clear up the context
- Look up the comments
- Find the key-phrase

2. Meditation

- What is my here and now?
- What does the Word tell me?
- Use your imagination
- "Digest" the text
- The Word and my life

3. Prayer

- What will I say in response?
- Recognition and request
- Gratitude and glorifying
- Prayer in the Word
- My participation in the Divine Liturgy

4. Contemplation

- A call to conversion
- Now I am silent
- Staying in the presence of God
- Now He is guiding me

Biblical readings and meditations

August 29

Sunday 14

The Beheading of the Honourable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

1 Corinthians 1:21 - 2:4

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

Matthew 22: 1-14

1 Corinthians 1:21 - 2:4

Brethren, for since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters:[g] not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Matthew 22: 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm,

another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Meditation

Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe? And he was speechless. A strange man who came to the king's wedding ignores the king himself. And the king calls him his friend! The king seems to be rather strange ... He does not invite other kings from the neighbouring kingdoms to his celebration, does not invite ministers and other noble men. Generally, it seems that the king does not care with whom he will celebrate: he accepts both good and evil people, calling everyone friends. From the very beginning ordinary people were invited: merchants and agrarians. The people who did not come are strange. That is probably the only chance in

their lives to come to a king's wedding! The strange country where all those events occur is like the Kingdom of God, says Jesus. Today this parable is supposed to urge us to have a new look at our Christian life.

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. Do we imagine it that way? Can a person imagine how it is – to live in the Heavenly Kingdom? We have decided that we already know everything, that is why we narrow ourselves down to having the Sunday of Cheesefare before the Great Lent, where we hear about the Last Judgment. Today's judgment is brought down to a friendly question: how did you get in without the adequate clothes? Clothes stand for the manifestation of our internal standpoint. In the case of our wedding guest, that is a manifestation of joy for the married couple, a sign of readiness for celebration. The fact that only one person in the wedding hall appeared to be without a wedding robe tells us about the light-headedness of this man. He also realized this, therefore, he kept silent.

What can act as this clothing for us? Whether we are good or evil, the Lord wants only one thing from us – willingness to join the wedding party. And He will take care of everything else. Are we striving for the Heavenly Kingdom? Do we want to rejoice together with God? How often do we get lost amidst our daily businesses and crafts: what to buy home, where to earn money, what to cook for supper? Today let us have a closer look at our wedding robe, our striving to be with God, let us remove dust from this clothing!

August 30

Monday

Galatians 2: 11-16

Mark 5: 24-34

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

Galatians 2: 11-16

Brethren, but when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. -But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

Mark 5: 24-34

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Meditation

Today's Gospel tells about a woman suffering from hemorrhages, stressing how Jesus treats the feeling of suffering and shame. This woman really suffers a lot, since in the situation with irregular hemorrhages, according to the then strict religious prescriptions, she was considered to be unclean, cursed by God. The hemorrhage the body suffers also brings sufferings into her social and religious life.

To complete this general picture of physical and moral sufferings, one should also taken into account the problems faced by specific people, even those who are the closest to Jesus and who still do not understand what the situation is like and don't understand God's interference.

Jesus is tested by His own disciples when He asks who has touched Him. His friends are really surprised about this question, since there was the crowd pressing in on Him. They don't understand that Jesus possesses some extraordinary sensitivity and feels even the most silent request for help, even the hidden request of the woman who touched His cloak.

It seems that the biggest obstacle on the way to recovery was not that much provision of physical health as such, but lack of hope and readiness to immediately give up when problems occur.

Hence, Mark tells about the brave faith of the woman suffering from hemorrhages. This woman is contrasted to rules and customs, since she believes that even a slight touch of Jesus can finally heal her, restoring not just her physical health, but social and religious one as well. Jesus likes her courage, He even tells that she her faith has done her well, and not just the power coming from Him.

We also often lose hope and run the risk of getting accustomed to sufferings and a pessimistic view of life. In that way one may even start believing that prayers are not heard indeed and one may not lay real hopes on Jesus. We must recover from this uncontrolled outflow of faith – let us ask God for this mercy today! And let us not forget that while touching the Gospel with our hearts and minds,

even for a second, we will be healed, and our fears and willingness to close in ourselves will be defeated.

August 31

Tuesday

Galatians 2:21 - 3:7

Mark 6: 1-7

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

Galatians 2:21 - 3:7

Brethren, I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham.

Mark 6: 1-7

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

Meditation

These two texts of today's readings are very specifically related to the issues of faith. Apostle Paul reproaches the Galatians for their relying on the law, thinking that salvation is in it. Paul indicated that if justification is in the law, Christ has died in vain.

He stresses that they have received the Spirit due to the fact that they trusted the word, and not due to the law. Here the question for each of us arises: *How much do we live with the spirit?* Is our life not brought down just to performance of duties, and here I speak not

just about religious duties. How much space do we have in our lives for faith, for the path unknown to us God wants to take us along?

Here, as always, arises a dilemma in how much our salvation depends on us, and how much it is granted through the grace. Jesus stressed that we have to become more righteous than the Pharisees, and this, in fact, seems unrealistic. Since they were the most accurate performers of the law. In the then understanding Jesus puts too high a bar. It is not possible in human ways, but He sets new criteria – criteria of grace.

Let me give an example used by one priest in relation to this topic. A man left Europe for Australia. Over a period of time he earned a big fortune, and at the end of his life he decided to make a will. He did not have his own children, so he decided to find some relatives in Europe. When a relative like that was found, the Australian guy's lawyers sent him the documents for inheritance acceptance. The European guy was surprised, but he perceived that as an attempt to involve him into some fraudulent scheme. He refused...

Now the question arises: did he get the inheritance? Yes, he did. Did he accept it? No, he did not. The same goes for faith: we receive it as a gift, while it already depends on us how far we can enter this grace.

September 1

Wednesday

Beginning of the Indiction

1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Luke 4: 16-22

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Brethren, first of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Luke 4: 16-22

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to

him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

Meditation

Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

Today is the day to live, when the Word of God is either fulfilled in my life or not. It is fulfilled when I listen to it, when I give it space and time. Everything I let into my life is fulfilled. Everything I listen to enters my heart and stays there. The good bears its fruit as does the evil. But it is I who decides what to let in there.

God says – and it happens. And what happens to what I say? If I say that everything is bad in my life, then so is happening. When I call those around me friends, they become friends. When I call them enemies, they become enemies. The Word is not just a sound, - God’s Word is His action.

The Scriptures are God’s centuries-long conversations with a human being. No word from there is superfluous. Each word has its time

and place, its power. When I open the Scriptures, do I find there the words about me and for me? The Scriptures can be read as interesting or uninteresting texts, or as my shared story with God, the story of the struggle for holiness, as God's letters to my lonely heart. On how many pages of the Bible have I seen my verbal portrait? Even if I still haven't recognize it there, then, reading the Word of God I will be able to become more and more like the portrait described there.

When Jesus unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, He recognized Himself in his description: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

This is the way the Holy Spirit fulfils the Word. He leads to freedom. He gives me the task to bring the Good News to the poor, but before that I must understand my own poverty and believe in this News.

The Good News is that God isn't indifferent to me. He truly desires to set me free when I am imprisoned by my own fears, pain, and loneliness. When I feel miserable without love, He wants to generously pour His living Love into my heart. He can open my eyes so that I can see the world the way He sees it, not through the distorting mirrors of sin. He created everything good. He seeks to free me from all that oppresses me. When I allow the Good News to change my life, I will be able to become its bearer for those who yet haven't experienced it. I will be a part of the Gospel, an apostle of Christ to those around me.

September 2

Thursday

Galatians 3:23-4:5

Mark 6: 30-45

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

Galatians 3:23-4:5

Brethren, now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in

order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Mark 6: 30-45

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of

broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

Meditation

The theme of the Law, which Jesus is trying to change through faith, runs throughout the entire New Testament. Jesus came into this world to give us a chance to clothe ourselves with Him and be righteous by walking the path named Jesus, not to be imprisoned and guarded under the law! Jesus brings freedom in faith – in fact, the one who experiences a living encounter with God is liberated from the shackles of the Law and rules, because he receives a living faith for his salvation!

The law was given to the Jewish people as a disciplinarian until Christ came! In the Epistle to the Galatians, Paul the apostle compares the law with a disciplinarian for young children – those who are not yet able to walk and make decisions on their own. Besides, the apostle associates the coming of Christ with growing up in faith and being adopted by God Himself. That is, it is not the disciplinarian who has the right over our lives, but God the Father Himself. This is a big difference in thinking and mentality. For the Jewish people such a change in the concept of faith often caused rebellious and incomprehensible consequences. For people who are accustomed to living within certain limits and rules it is very difficult to make independent decisions, take responsibility for their own

lives and bear the consequences of their decisions. For the majority of people it is easier to live being justified by the law. But God requires something completely different from us!

Even more, Paul the apostle speaks of our status as people of law. So, as long as we are them, we are guided by rules: we must obey them and follow clear instructions, because we are like small children who need a disciplinarian. We cannot fully feel the dignity of an heir to the kingdom of God, because we are under the rule. Only when we grow up we become able to walk through the doors of the New Testament and receive baptism from above, - then we truly get the power of God's Children through the Holy Spirit, as Jesus did it! Then indeed we become children of the Living God – we receive adoption!

September 3

Friday

Galatians 4: 8-21

Mark 6: 45-53

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

Galatians 4: 8-21

Therefore, formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted.

Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with

you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law?

Mark 6: 45-53

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

Meditation

Jesus stays to pray. He doesn't have to, because He is God. He is perfect and sinless; everything obeys Him. He has a constant connection with the Holy Trinity. However, earthly activities distract Him as a human being from communication with the Father and the Spirit. He doesn't have to pray, but He wants to.

It's not so easy for people to pray daily. Sometimes there is no desire, it is difficult to concentrate, there is no strength due to fatigue or no time due to life's worries. But Jesus sets an example of the importance of personal prayer. He was also tired, but went to pray.

And after the prayer He is walking on the sea to His disciples. When they see Jesus, they think it is a ghost and become afraid, - they start crying out. Maybe they don't see Him clearly in the darkness. Or maybe they cannot believe in what they see. They don't understand who they really are. They are worried. But Jesus reassures them with His word. Enters the boat, calms the wind, and everything becomes normal again.

God isn't limited by the laws of nature or human logic. Sometimes He acts in a strange and incomprehensible way. And in such situations it is difficult to understand that it is really God. But if you don't believe, don't stop being afraid, and don't invite Jesus into your boat, He will pass by and will never impose Himself. Jesus can walk on water, heal an incurable disease, turn water into wine and problems into blessings, deliver from accusers who are ready to stone us, resurrect hope in our heart and destroyed relationships

between people. Jesus can do anything. He wants to do all of this for us. He wants good and happiness for us. He wants us to have peace and live to the fullest.

There is so much suffering and unresolved problems, because people don't believe and don't trust in God. They aren't ready to accept His help. Shackled by fear and their expectations. Deceived by evil. They rely on their strength, health, money, beauty, their position and power, or on other people. They hope that they can understand, plan, anticipate, control. God's action is often impossible to understand. God cannot be ruled. He can only be trusted.

September 4

Saturday

1 Corinthians 4:17 - 5:5

Matthew 24: 1-13

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

1 Corinthians 4:17 - 5:5

Brethren, for this reason I sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church. But some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. For the kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power. What would you prefer? Am I to come to you with a stick, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans; for a man is living with his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Should you not rather have mourned, so that he who has done this would have been removed from among you?

For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present I have already pronounced judgment in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to

hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

Matthew 24: 1-13

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

“Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Meditation

In today's reading from the Gospel God encourages us to look at our life, analyse and make a revision of it. Today God encourages us to show Him the building, the temple of our life, that is what we have been building for many years, what we have been cultivating, nurturing and feeding in our hearts.

What have I built in my life? What temple have I constructed? Do I have a job, family, children or am I a student; do I attend classes? Do I live for myself and for my own pleasure? What is my life like today? What will I show Jesus? How am I going to invite Him into the temple of my heart? What temple will I show Him? Can I show Him that what I am proud of? What am I proud of? What have I built?

Regardless of the tour of the temple of my heart which I can make and regardless of everything I have built by hard and corny work the Lord can give His reference about my temple. And the question is whether I will be ready to accept it. Will I be ready not only to hear that what I want to tell Him, but also what He wants to tell me? Am I ready to hear the Lord's expert assessment of my life today? Am I ready to accept an inspector into my life in order to make it better, change, strengthened and improved it?

Am I so fascinated by my work that I even don't allow other opinion on my life different from mine? Although, maybe I am dissatisfied with it myself?

Jesus may destroy my temple, my sanctuary; He may want that *not one stone will be left here upon another*. He may say that it is

necessary to destroy what I have built, because all that, that my building lacks the most essential element – God. And if there is no God then sooner or later it will be destroyed, but it may be too late for any other changes, it may be too late to start building a new temple according to the God’s plan and not mine.

Therefore, it is better to invite God into the sanctuary of my heart and into the temple of my life as soon as possible and ask Him whether my building fulfills its function and serves God, whether it is built on God and whether God is in its centre. Or does it look like an idol temple: temple of my opinions, my gods and my views where there is no place for the true God? Yes, it may hurt, because we build not to destroy. But God will take care of everything. If He demands then He gives enough strength to change everything, He may give enough strength to construct a new building if there is a need to destroy the old one!

What is Skynia Magazine?

Skynia Magazine is published with the purpose to help its readers meet the Lord with the help of the Bible.

This is why on most pages of the magazine our readers can find daily meditations on the Word of God: biblical readings according to the liturgical calendar of the UGCC. These meditations are the fruit of the personal prayer of their authors: priests, nuns and laity, who strive to live in the rhythm of the life of the UGCC, trying to tackle present-day issues.

Bible verses are cited according to the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.

We offer digital subscriptions:

- in English and Ukrainian
- according to Gregorian, Julian and New Julian calendars

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- You can **print** or upload to your **website** a **PDF** document with the meditations from Skynia Magazine so that parishioners or members of your community could easily download it.
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