

Lesson 13

Venerable Father Seraphim of Sarov

(January 2/15, July 19/August 1)

(† 1833)



Saint Seraphim was born Prokhor Moshnin in 1754 in a merchant's family. As a young boy he already showed **great devotion to God**. He liked to pray, **read about lives of saints** and attend church. At age 18 Prokhor told his mother he had decided to be a monk. She **blessed him with a large crucifix** which the Saint wore all his life.

Prokhor went to Sarov Monastery **to serve as a novice**. He ate only once a day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays did not eat at all. Very often he **withdrew deep into the forest** and prayed there for a long time.

At age 27, novice Prokhor took monastic vows. He spent most of his time in church. *Through* constant prayer Father Seraphim **became worthy of seeing angels**. Once, during the Liturgy on Holy Thursday, he saw the Lord Jesus Christ blessing the people. After this vision, Saint Seraphim could not speak for several days.

For a long time, Father Seraphim lived as a hermit in a forest five kilometers from the Monastery. He achieved such *perfection* that wild animals **were not afraid of him**. The venerable father even fed a bear out of his hand.

For a thousand days and nights the Holy Father prayed on a rock in the forest. His constant prayer and *purity enabled* him to see the light of *the Holy Spirit* and show it to other people.

Towards the end of his life, Father Seraphim **met with everyone who wanted to see him**. He greeted every person with the words, "My joy!" Thousands of visitors received **help, advice and a kind word from Venerable Seraphim**.

Saint Seraphim of Sarov was glorified in 1903.

Exercises

A. Найдите в тексте эквиваленты следующим словосочетаниям. (Ответы выделены.)

1. великая преданность Господу
2. читать жития святых
3. благословила его большим распятием
4. служить послушником
5. удалялся в лес
6. удостоился видения ангелов

7. жил отшельником в лесу
8. не боялись его
9. к концу жизни
10. принимал всех, кто хотел его видеть
11. помощь, совет и доброе слово от преподобного Серафима

B. Grammar Practice

Задайте вопросы к подчёркнутой части предложения.

1. At age 18 Prokhor told his mother that he had decided to become a monk.
When Prokhor was 18, what did he tell his mother?
2. Prokhor's mother blessed him with a large crucifix. How did his mother bless him?
3. He prayed for a long time deep in the forest. Where did he pray for a long time?
4. At age 27 novice Prokhor took monastic vows. How old was Prokhor when he took monastic vows?
5. Thousands of people came to see Venerable Seraphim to ask for his advice and help.
Why did thousands of people come to see Venerable Seraphim?
6. Saint Seraphim was glorified in 1903. When was St. Seraphim glorified?

D. Вставьте в предложения подходящие по смыслу слова.

*worthy, pious, purity, devotion, secluded, perfection,
reposed in the Lord, hermitage, crucifix, withdrew*

1. When Prokhor was only three years old, his father reposed in the Lord
Prokhor's mother, Agafia, a pious Christian woman, raised her children alone.
2. St. Seraphim was worthy of seeing the Most-Holy Virgin. For the first time She came to him a dream, when Prokhor, then a small child, was very ill.
3. From early childhood, Prokhor had a good memory, bright mind and devotion to prayer.
4. The young man led a pure, secluded life.
5. In 1778 Prokhor withdrew from the world and began serving God in the Sarov hermitage.
6. All his life, the saint wore a crucifix given to him as a blessing by his beloved mother.
7. The purity of Father Seraphim was such that he could see what was in a person's heart.
8. St. Seraphim reached perfection by constant prayer, silence and fasting.



Е. В течение одной минуты вспомните и запишите перевод как можно большего количества слов.

1. nun монахиня
2. martyr мученик
3. hermit отшельник
4. monk монах
5. wonderworker чудотворец
6. novice послушник
7. mercy милость
8. righteous праведный
9. the Theotokos Богородица
10. abbot настоятель
11. witness свидетельствовать
12. feast праздник
13. holy святой
14. preach проповедовать
15. miracle чудо
16. care for заботиться о
17. heavenly небесный
18. proclaim провозглашать
19. humility смирение
20. image образ



Е. Прочитайте и переведите текст. Подготовьте пересказ на английском языке, используя выделенные слова в форме прошедшего времени.

Once, in the forest, robbers (разбойники) to attack Father Seraphim. They thought that he to have money. The robbers to begin to beat him and to stop only when he fell down. Father Seraphim to be a strong man, but he did not resist the attackers. Then the thieves (воры) to decide that the holy man to be dead, and they to leave him. After the beating, Venerable

Seraphim to remain hunched over for the rest of his life. When the men were caught, the holy staretz to ask the judge to forgive them.

Once, in the forest, robbers attacked Father Seraphim. They thought that he had money. The robbers began to beat him and stopped only when he fell down. Father Seraphim was a strong man, but he did not resist the attackers. Then the thieves decided that the holy man was dead, and they left him. After the beating, Venerable Seraphim remained hunched over for the rest of his life. When the men were caught, the holy staretz asked the judge to forgive them.

Образец перевода. Однажды в лесу на о. Серафима напали разбойники. Они думали, что у него были деньги. Разбойники стали его бить и остановились лишь тогда, когда он упал на землю. О. Серафим был сильным, но не стал сопротивлялся напавшим на него. Тогда воры решили, что святой умер и оставили его. После избиения преподобный Серафим остался согбенным на всю жизнь. Когда тех людей поймали, святой старец попросил судью простить их.



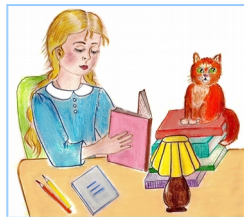
G. Прочтите цитату из Евангелия от Матфея вслух, вслед за учителем. Найдите её в Евангелии на русском языке.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:7-9



Homework

A. Найдите в словаре следующие слова и запишите их перевод.

wilderness пустыня

locust аркиды

honey мёд

prophet пророк

repentance покаяние

hurt обижать

mighty сильный, мощный

C. Прочитайте текст. Предложения, выделенные курсивом, цитируются из Евангелия от Луки (3:2-18). Найдите их в русском тексте Евангелия.

The Prophet John Preaches and Baptizes

Saint John the Forerunner lived in the wilderness. He wore simple clothes made of camel hair and ate locust and wild honey. The Lord had a special mission for John: to make people ready for the coming of the Messiah. Hundreds of years ago, the prophets wrote that the Forerunner would come to prepare the path for Christ.

God told John to go to the region near the Jordan River and preach repentance (покаяние) for the forgiveness of sins. Many people came to him to confess their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.

People asked him what to do. *And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."* (3:11) John told the tax collectors not to take more money than they needed. He told the soldiers not to rob or hurt (обижать) anybody.



Свято-Иоанно-Предтеченский Собор
в Вашингтоне, США

Some people, who believed in the prophecies about the coming of the Saviour, thought that John was Christ. John told them, *"I baptize you with water; but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of Whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* (3:16)

Saint Prophet John was worthy of baptizing our Lord Jesus Christ.

D. Составьте предложения.

1. people | for | Christ | Saint John | prepared | the coming of

Saint John prepared people for the coming of Christ.

2. them | in the Jordan River | he | baptized

He baptized them in the Jordan River.

3. asked | many | Saint John | what | people | to do

Many people asked Saint John what to do.

4. forgiveness | preached | he | repentance | about | of sins | and

He preached about repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Е. Переведите изречение преподобного Серафима Саровского.

Where there is God, there is no evil. Everything coming from God is peaceful, healthy and leads a person to the judgment of his own imperfections and humility.

Образец перевода.

Где Бог, там нет зла. Всё, что исходит от Бога, мирно, полезно и ведёт человека к осознанию своих несовершенств (грехов) и смирению.

Примечание. Найдите оригинал этой цитаты в высказываниях св. Серафима. Насколько он отличается от Вашего перевода? Помните, что перевести «дословно» с русского на английский (и наоборот) часто бывает невозможно, ведь языки имеют разные правила грамматики и способы лексического выражения. Наша цель в том, чтобы максимально сохранить суть оригинала.

Ф. Выучите наизусть цитату из урока.

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