

Saint Nicholas of Japan, Equal-to-the-Apostles

(February 3/16)

(✠1912)



Saint Nicholas of Japan was born Ivan Kasatkin in 1836 in Smolensk province. His father was a deacon. Ivan's mother died when he was only five. The family was very poor, and Ivan suffered much *deprivation* in his childhood. He was talented and hard-working, and graduated *with honours* from the Seminary in Saint Petersburg. In 1860 Ivan Kasatkin was given the name Nicholas, and he went to Japan as a missionary.

The first years in Japan were especially difficult for St. Nicholas. He did not speak Japanese. People were hostile towards him because he was a foreigner and a Christian. With hard work and God's help, the *hierarch* learned Japanese and translated many church service books. He also learned to speak English, which was becoming an international language at that time. Saint Nicholas studied the history of Japan and knew it better than many Japanese.

The first person to convert to Christianity was a Shinto priest, Sawabe. Sawabe one day came to the Russian priest to express his hate towards Christians. Father Nicholas spoke to him kindly and told him about the Christian faith. Sawabe became interested and came the next day to hear more. Later, he brought a friend with him, then another friend. All three wanted to receive instructions in the teachings of Christ. In a few years, they were baptized. Sawabe was given the name John and *ordained* as an Orthodox priest.

By 1868, the congregation of Father Nicholas numbered 20 people. By 1878 there were 4,115 Christians in Japan. Father Nicholas established the Russian Mission, a seminary, and a school for women. The Mission regularly published a Christian magazine. The beautiful Church of the Resurrection was built in Tokyo at that time.

Saint Nicholas became the first bishop of Tokyo, and then, in 1906, an archbishop. Father Nicholas always remained a humble servant of God. He reposed in the Lord in 1912 at the age of 75. By the end of Saint Nicholas' earthly life, there were 33,000 Orthodox Christians in Japan.

The Church commemorates St. Nicholas of Japan, Equal-to the Apostles, on February 16th (new calendar).

To this day, Christians of Japan remember and deeply respect Father Nicholas.

Japan [dʒə'pæn]
Japanese [dʒæpə'ni:z]

Lesson 18

Словарь к тексту

deprivation, *n.* [ˌde prɪ'veɪʃən] нужда, лишение

hierarch, *n.* [ˈhaɪ ra:k] иерарх

with honours [ˈɒnəʳz] с отличием

ordain, *v.* [ɔ:'deɪn] посвящать в духовный сан

despite, *prep.* [dɪs'paɪt] несмотря на

Exercises

A. Ответьте на вопросы по тексту.

1. Where did Father Nicholas study?
2. When did he become a missionary in Japan?
3. Did Father Nicholas speak Japanese before he began his missionary work?
4. Why were the first years in Japan so difficult for Father Nicholas?
5. Who were the first Japanese to convert to Christianity?
6. How large was the congregation in 1868?
7. How many Orthodox Christians were in Japan by 1878?
8. What is the name of the Christian church built in Tokyo during Father Nicholas' time?
9. When did Father Nicholas become an archbishop?
10. How many Orthodox Christians were in Japan by the end of Saint Nicholas' life?

B. Grammar Practice

Вставьте подходящие по смыслу глаголы, употребив их в прошедшем времени.

have, be (2), become, publish, repose, convert, learn

1. The father of Ivan Kasatkin a deacon.
2. Ivan much deprivation in his childhood.
3. The hierarch Japanese and English.
4. Shinto priest Sawabe and his friends to Christianity.
5. There twenty people in Father Nicholas' congregation in 1868.
6. The Russian Mission in Tokyo a Christian magazine.
7. Father Nicholas the first bishop of Tokyo.
8. Saint Nicholas in the Lord in 1912.

Lesson 18



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

1. confessor _____
2. laypeople _____
3. clergymen _____
4. sacred _____
5. choir _____
6. enlightener _____
7. Theophany _____
8. beloved _____
9. Resurrection _____
10. monk _____
11. vision _____
12. bishop _____
13. blessing _____
14. repose _____
15. pious _____
16. abbot _____
17. kneel _____
18. tunic _____
19. grieve _____
20. blessed _____



D. Прочитайте и переведите текст. Перескажите его на русском языке близко к содержанию.

Rin Yamashita, a Japanese Iconographer

Rin Yamashita was born in 1857 in a poor Samurai family in the town of Kashima, Japan. As a little girl, she loved drawing and sculpting. When Rin was 16, she went to Tokyo to study art.

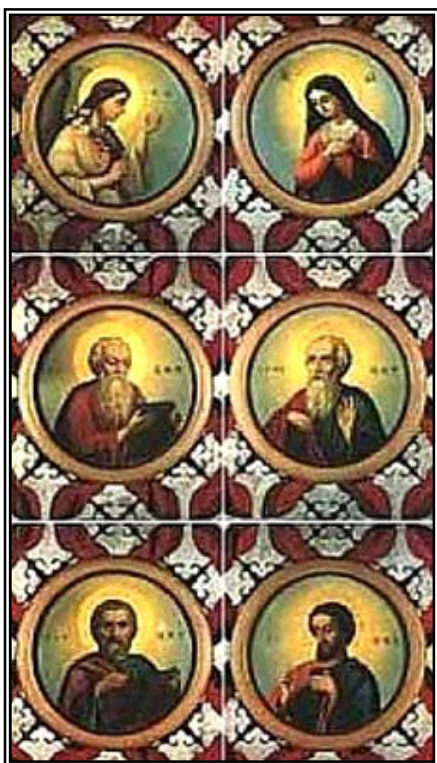
Lesson 18

There she met Father Nicholas and became seriously interested in the Orthodox faith. Some of her Japanese friends in Tokyo were Orthodox Christians. Rin converted to Christianity and was given the Russian name Irina.

Irina loved Russian art, especially Ivan Kramskoy's painting *Christ in the Desert*.

At that time, the Orthodox Church in Tokyo did not have icons, and there was need for an icon-painting school. Bishop Nicholas saw how talented Irina was and sent her to Saint Petersburg to study iconography.

The climate of Saint Petersburg was very difficult for Irina, and she was often ill. But she was a good student and learned well. Her favourite place in Saint Petersburg was the Hermitage.



Роспись в православном храме
Токио, выполненная Ириной
Ямашитой

Father Nicholas sent letters to Irina to encourage (поддержать) her. He told Irina that she would become a wonderful painter.

In 1883 Irina returned to Japan. She painted icons for the church and taught many students. With her help, many Japanese people learned to understand and love Russian culture and art. Her icon of the Theotokos was given to Tsarevich Nicholas, future Tsar Nicholas II, when he visited Japan in 1891.

Irina died in 1939. Sadly (к сожалению), many icons painted by Irina Yamashita were lost in an earthquake. Her icon of the Theotokos presented to Tsar Nicholas II is now kept in the Hermitage.



Е. Один ученик спрашивает другого, когда Церковь отмечает следующие праздники.

Образец. – *When does the Church celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker?*
– *The Church celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker on December nineteenth.*

Рождество Богородицы

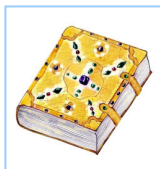
праздник Покрова Пресвятой Богородицы

Воздвижение Животворящего Креста Господня

Рождество Христово

Крещение Господне

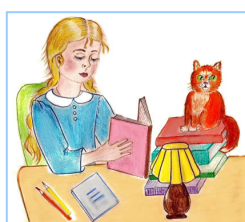
Lesson 18



- Ф. Прочитайте цитату из Евангелия от Марка вслух, вслед за учителем. Найдите её в Евангелии на русском языке.

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer,
believe that you receive it, and you will.*

Mark 11:24



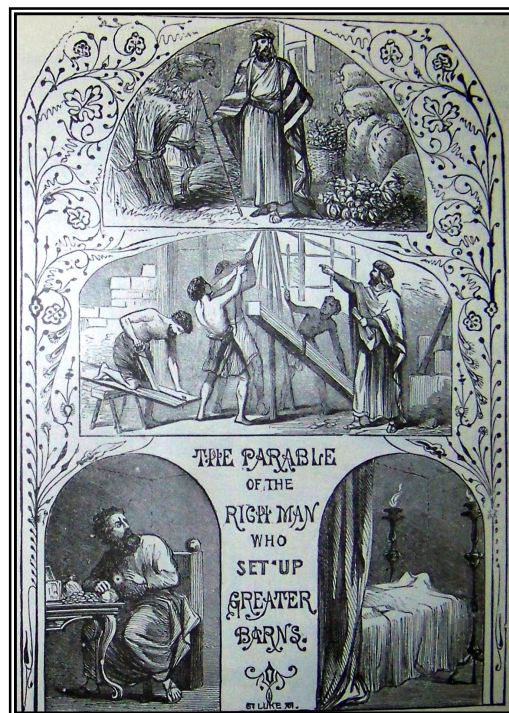
Homework

- А. Прочитайте текст. Предложения, выделенные курсивом, цитируются из Евангелия от Луки (12:15-21, 29-31). Найдите их в русском тексте Евангелия.

The Parable about a Foolish Rich Man

When preaching to the multitude, Jesus often spoke in parables so the people would understand His teachings better. In the parable about a foolish rich man, Jesus explains that the life of a person is not measured by his riches or possessions.

The man owned large fields that produced good harvests, but there was not enough space to store all his crops. *And he said, "I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."* (Luke 12:18-19)



Страница из старинной детской Библии

Lesson 18

But God spoke to the rich man and told him, *“Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” (12:20)*

This parable teaches us to seek the Heavenly Kingdom, and not to worry about collecting the treasures of this world. Jesus reminds us that our caring Heavenly Father provides us with all we need. *“And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink ... for all the nations in the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek His Kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well.” (12:29-31)*

B. Замените пассивный залог на активный.

Much wealth was collected by a foolish rich man.

C. Запишите в алфавитном порядке.

multitude, parable, possessions, land, harvest, crop, collect, treasure, save, soul

D. Подготовьте краткий пересказ текста упражнения **D** из урока. Для правильной последовательности пересказа используйте следующие вопросы.

1. When and where was Rin Yamashita born?
2. What talent did she have?
3. Why did she come to Tokyo?
4. What happened after Rin met Father Nicholas?
5. Why did Father Nicholas send her to Saint Petersburg?
6. When did she return to Tokyo?
7. What did she paint?
8. When did Irina die?
9. What happened to most of her paintings?

E. Выучите наизусть цитату из урока.



© 2012 Панина Марина Витальевна



Это произведение публикуется на условиях лицензии Creative Commons «Атрибуция — Некоммерческое использование — Без производных произведений» 4.0 Всемирная.