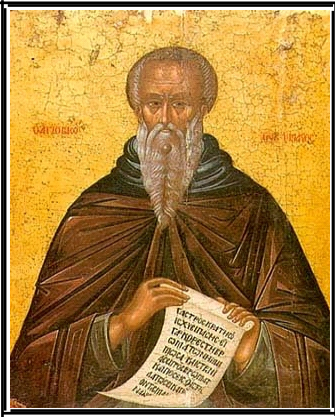


Lesson 21

Saint John of the Ladder

(Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, March 30/April 12)

(†649)



Saint John of the Ladder was a great *ascetic* of the Orthodox Church and author of the spiritual book of instructions for monks. His name comes from the title of his book, The Ladder, or Klimakos in Greek.

John was born in Constantinople around 570 in the family of Saints Xenophon and Maria. When he was only sixteen, John went to the monastery on Mount Sinai. For nineteen years monk John practiced *obedience to his spiritual* Father, Abba Martyrios. When his teacher died, John began a *life of solitude* in a place called Thola. He spent forty years there, praying and fasting. Saint John *wanted to hide his deeds of asceticism* from others and for some time lived in a cave.

Father John's humility was exceptional. People *came to him for advice*, and he, with great love and kindness, always helped them on their way to *salvation*.

Respect for Father John was so great that he was chosen to become abbot of St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. He was seventy-five at the time. Saint John was asked to write a book for monks who wanted *to reach spiritual perfection*.

Saint John named his book The Ladder because people who try *to free* themselves *from sin* get closer to Heaven *by climbing an invisible ladder*. The book describes thirty steps. After a monk climbs all of them and conquers all sins, he will be among the righteous.

The book is a great *guide not only for monks, but also for laypeople* who *want to lead a pure Christian life*.

Father John was abbot for four years. He reposed in the Lord in 649. Our Church commemorates St. John of the Ladder on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent.



Exercises

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

1. великий аскет Православной Церкви
2. послушание духовному отцу
3. жизнь в полном уединении
4. хотел скрыть свои подвиги аскетизма
5. приходили за советом
6. достичь духовного совершенства
7. освободиться от греха
8. поднимаясь по невидимой лестнице
9. не только для монахов, но и для мирян
10. вести чистую христианскую жизнь



B. Проверьте друг друга, насколько хорошо вы запомнили перевод следующих слов.

— *What is the English word for ..?*

— *The English word for ... is ...*

мученик martyr	бессребреник unmercenary
великомученик great-martyr	пророк prophet
святой saint	юродивый ради Христа fool-for-Christ
преподобный venerable	исповедник confessor
целитель healer	просветитель enlightener
чудотворец wonderworker	апостол apostle
блаженный blessed	равноапостольный equal-to-the-apostles

C. Вставьте в предложения пропущенные слова из списка, подходящие по смыслу.

invisible, laypeople, ascetic, obedience, perfection, solitude, salvation

1. Many holy fathers of the Church lived a life of complete *solitude* far from the world.
2. Saint John had many visitors who wanted his advice about the *salvation* of their souls.
3. Father John tried to hide his *ascetic* deeds from others.
4. *The Ladder* is a book of instructions for monks who want to reach spiritual *perfection*. It is also a great help for *laypeople* who want to be on the path of righteousness.
5. A novice must perform his *obedience* daily.
6. Father John explains the thirty steps of the *invisible* ladder, which a monk must climb.



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

Father John Saves His Disciple

Holy Father John had a disciple whose name was Moses. Once, the saint gave Moses some garden work to do. The disciple finished his obedience and lay down to rest a little. It was a hot summer day. Moses chose a place under a large rock which gave him shade. Father John was far away in his cell (келья) in a light sleep. Suddenly, an angel appeared to him and said, “John, why are you asleep when your disciple is in great danger?”

Father John immediately (немедленно) woke up and started praying for Moses.

When Moses came back to his teacher, he told him, “I fell asleep in the shade of a large rock. Then I heard you calling my name. As soon as I got up and left the place, the rock fell to the ground.”

Saint John did not say anything to his disciple, but gave thanks to the Lord.

Образец перевода. У святого отца Иоанна был послушник по имени Моисей.

Однажды святой поручил ему выполнить садовую работу. Ученик закончил своё послушание и прилёг немного отдохнуть. Стоял жаркий летний день. Моисей выбрал местечко под большим камнем, где была тень. Отец Иоанн находился далеко в своей келье и слегка дремал. Вдруг перед ним предстал ангел и спросил: «Как же ты можешь спать, Иоанн, когда твой ученик в смертельной опасности?»

О. Иоанн немедленно проснулся и стал молиться за Моисея. Когда Моисей вернулся к учителю, он рассказал ему: «Я уснул в тени большого камня. Потом я услышал, что ты меня зовёшь. Как только я поднялся и отошёл с того места, камень упал на землю.»

Святой Иоанн ничего не ответил ученику, но воздал благодарение Господу.



Е. Переведите цитаты из книги св. отца Иоанна.

1 вариант

God judges us by our intentions but, because of His love for us, He only demands from us such actions as lie within our power.

Образец перевода.

Бог судит нас по нашим намерениям, но по Своей любви к нам, Он требует от нас лишь тех поступков, которые находятся в наших силах.

2 вариант

Prayer is by nature a dialog and a union of man with God. Its effect is to hold the world together. It achieves reconciliation with God.

Молитва по своей природе – диалог и соединение человека с Богом. По её действию держится мир. Молитва есть примирение с Богом.



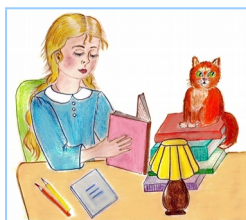
Ф. Прочтите цитату из Евангелия от Матфея вслух, вслед за учителем. Найдите её в Евангелии на русском языке.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:3-4





Homework

A. Прочтите слова по транскрипции.

Jericho ['dʒe rɪkə]

sycamore tree ['sɪkə mɔːr tri:] смоковница

Zacchaeus [zæ 'kiəs]

Abraham [ˌeɪbrə 'hæm]

B. Прочитайте текст. Предложения, выделенные курсивом, цитируются из Евангелия от Луки (19:1-10). Найдите их в русском тексте Евангелия.

Jesus and Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Jesus went to Jericho, a town near the Dead Sea. In the town lived a rich tax collector Zacchaeus. Tax collectors were often dishonest, taking more money from people than necessary. Nobody liked them.

Zacchaeus heard about Jesus and wanted to see Him. Jesus was always surrounded by a multitude of people, and Zacchaeus, a short man, could not see Him in the crowd. *So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” (19:4-5)*

Zacchaeus came down the tree, quickly ran home and received Jesus joyfully. Many people, seeing that, said to each other, *“He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” (19:7)* And, as if answering them, Zacchaeus stood up and promised, *“Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.” (19:8-9)*

Jesus loves everybody, sinners and the righteous alike. His endless love helps us to recognize our sins and try to be better.



C. Запишите в алфавитном порядке.

dishonest, climb, receive, joyfully, righteous, sycamore, save, follow

Climb, dishonest, follow, joyfully, receive, righteous, save, sycamore.

D. Переведите цитату св. Иоанна Лествичника.

Do not condemn. Not even if your eyes are seeing something, for they may be deceived.

Не осуждай. Даже тогда, когда твои глаза что-то видят, ведь они могут ошибаться.

E. Впишите в предложения подходящие по смыслу фразовые глаголы. Не забудьте поставить их в форме прошедшего или будущего времени, где это нужно.

go ahead	двигаться вперёд, продолжать
go down	уменьшаться, опускаться, спускаться
go over	повторять, изучать в деталях
go without	обходиться без чего-то

1. Last night the temperature went down below zero.
2. I could not memorize all these words. I shall (will) go over them tomorrow before school.
3. Do not be afraid of difficulties, go ahead! With God's help and hard work you can accomplish many things.
4. Saint Venerable Father Seraphim ate only once a day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he went without food.

F. Выучите наизусть цитату из урока.

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