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MAHDERE-SEBEHAT LEDETA LEMARIAM
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX
TEWAHEDO CHURCH



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In the name of the
Father, and the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, one God.
Amen.



Begin with the Lord's prayer

Our Lord and Savior, our King and God, we thank you for gathering us here to stand before you to call on your Holy Name.

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in everything we do. Our God open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds that we may hear Your Word, keep it in our hearts and tell our friends about your glory and honor.

Bless all the children and keep them safe. Hear us when we humbly and thankfully pray to you.

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

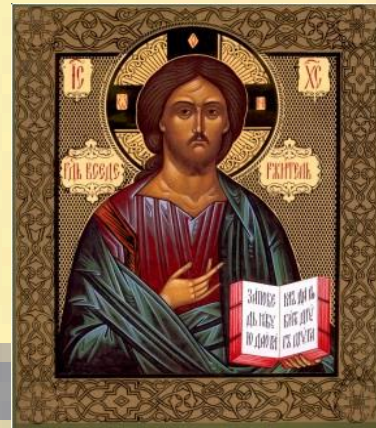
As we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from the evil one

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the

Glory. Forever, Amen.



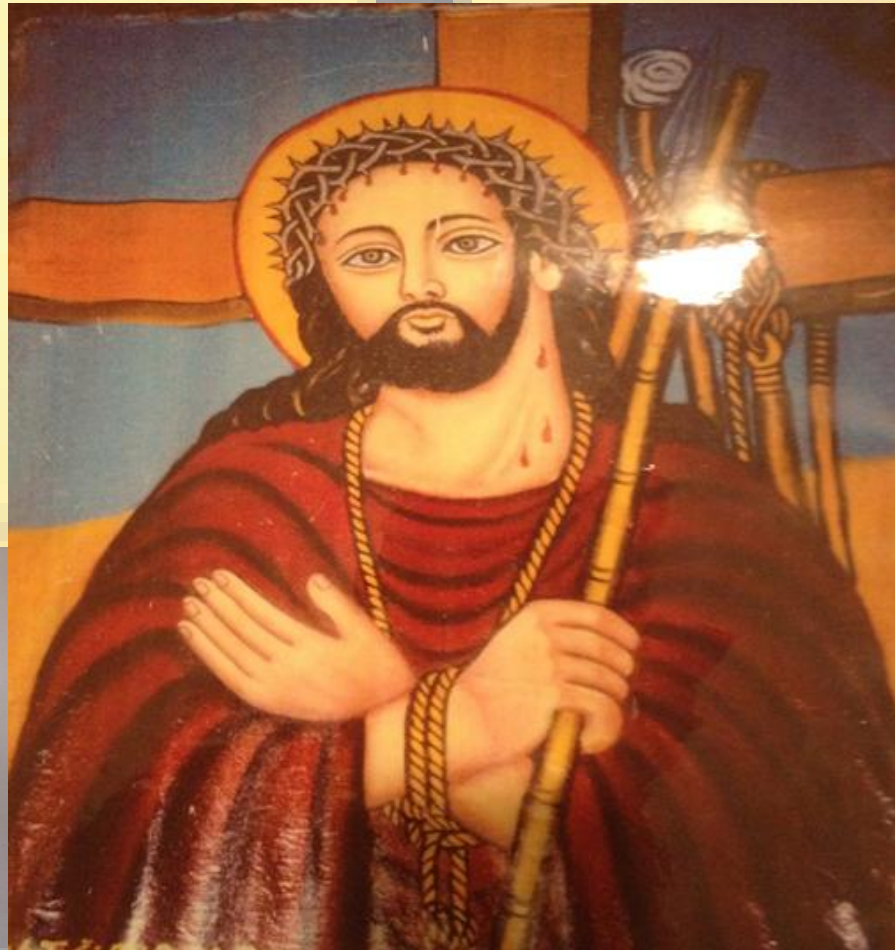
O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Holy Mary, the God-bearer, pray that your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, may forgive us our sins. Amen.



Say The Jesus Prayer 3 times

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.**

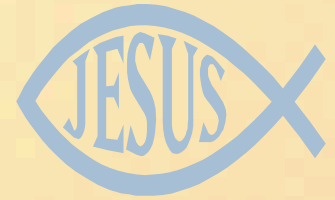


Recite Last week's memory verse

“For the Lord loves a cheerful giver”.
2 Corinthians 9:7






Review



1. **Where did the Lord go?**
 - To the temple
2. **What did the rich offer and where did they put their gifts?**
 - The rich putting their gifts and lots of money in the treasury
3. **What did the Lord Jesus Christ notice?**
 - A poor widow putting 2 coins in the treasury
4. **What did the Lord Jesus say to them all?**
 - You all put a small portion of the great riches you have, but see this widow she cheerfully gave from her poverty all she had!

Class Covenant

I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my s on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.

Simon and Sorcery

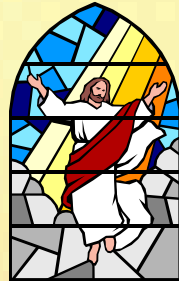


September 21, 2014



Memorize today's Verse

**“They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”
(Acts 8:17)**



**Practice this verse
again during the week.**

What is Sorcery??

- ▣ The use of evil spirits in the form of black magic
- ▣ Witchcraft
- ▣ Fortune telling

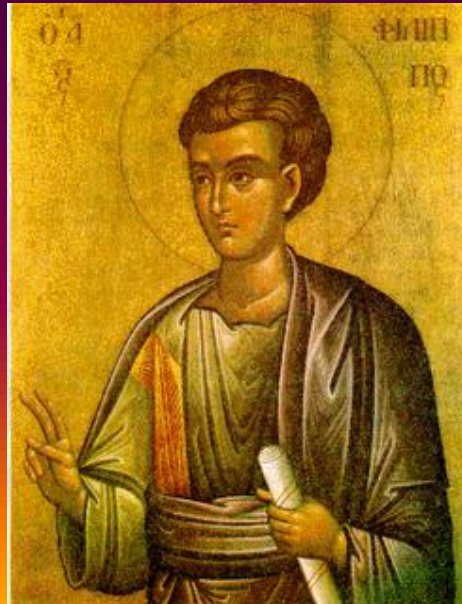


Timeline

- ▣ Jesus Resurrection
- ▣ Day 1-39 : Jesus appears to his disciples
 - Promises of the Holy Spirit
- ▣ Day 40: The Ascension
- ▣ Day 40-49: Preparation for Pentecost
 - Prayer and Fasting
- ▣ Day 50: Pentecost
 - The disciples started going to many surrounding cities and countries to preach the word of God

St. Philip

- ▣ A deacon (Acts 6:5)
- ▣ Was chosen with Stephen and 6 other followers of Jesus to help serve the poor Christians of the early church.
- ▣ St. Philip was called to serve in Samaria.



Samaria

- ▣ Who was the first person to preach about Jesus in Samaria?
 - The Samaritan woman = St. Photini
 - And many of the Samaritans of the city believed in Him (Jesus Christ) because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.” (John 4:39)

- ▣ St. Philip told the Samaritans about Jesus
 - They heard and saw miracles
 - They believed
 - They were Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ▣ The city of Samaria was in great Joy.

Simon the sorcerer

- ▣ A famous sorcerer in the land.
- ▣ People used to fear him and thought his power was from God.
- ▣ He astonished the people.



- ▣ However when they saw what St. Philip did in the name of Jesus Christ
 - Casting out evil spirits
 - Healing the paralyzed and the sick
 - Many more miracles...

- ▣ The people of Samaria believed and were baptized.

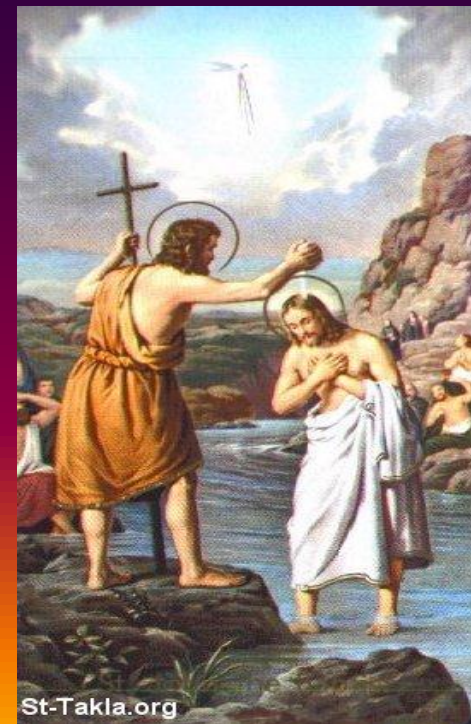
- ▣ Simon also marveled to see such power
 - Believed and also was baptized.

- ▣ Did Simon convert for the right reason?
 - No, being a sorcerer and dazzled by St. Philip's healing – he converted because of the signs nor for the faith.

- ▣ Simon followed St. Philip in his work and was amazed at what he could do.

The Holy Spirit

- ▣ The rest of the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that many Samaritans became Christians.
- ▣ They sent St. Peter and St. John to them.
- ▣ St. Peter and St. John:
 - Prayed for them
 - ▣ so they could receive the Holy Spirit
 - Laid hands on them
 - ▣ and they received the Holy Spirit.



A free Gift

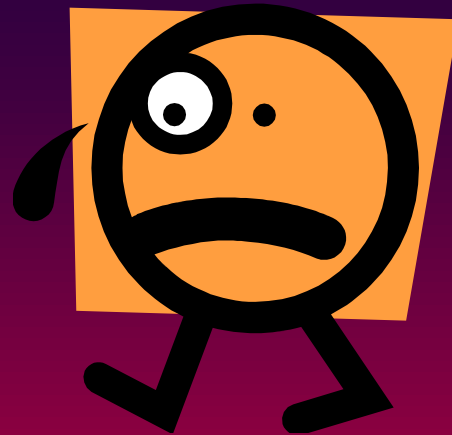
- ▣ When Simon saw this power (the Holy Spirit) given to the new believers :
 - He offered the disciples money in order to give him this power: “ Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:19)
 - He wanted to buy the power to work miracles
 - ▣ To keep his reputation and fame in Samaria





- ▣ St. Peter was upset with him for his worldly thinking:
 - “ Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!”
 - “ ... Your heart is not right in the sight of God”
 - He told him to repent and pray that God may forgive him of his bad thoughts and intentions.

▣ Simon felt bad for what he had done and asked St. Peter to pray for him that God may forgive him.



Conclusion

▣ Be ware of False Teachers:

▣ Simon

- He wanted to keep his fame and glory
- He wanted people to follow him not God
- To replace his sorcery with something more awesome and powerful

The power of laying hands that the apostles did were given from God

▣ *For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand". (Matt. 24:24-25).*



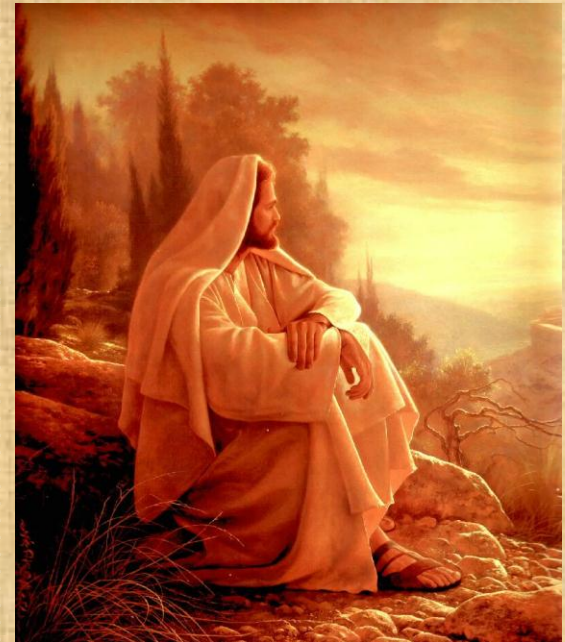
Conclusion

- ▣ Can the gift of God be bought by money?
 - No, God's gifts are free and we should use them for the glory of His name.
 - Money can not buy any of God's gifts or any of the spiritual blessings.

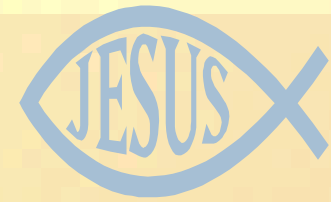


Movie Clip

Show a short movie clip about the story, if available.



Pop Quiz

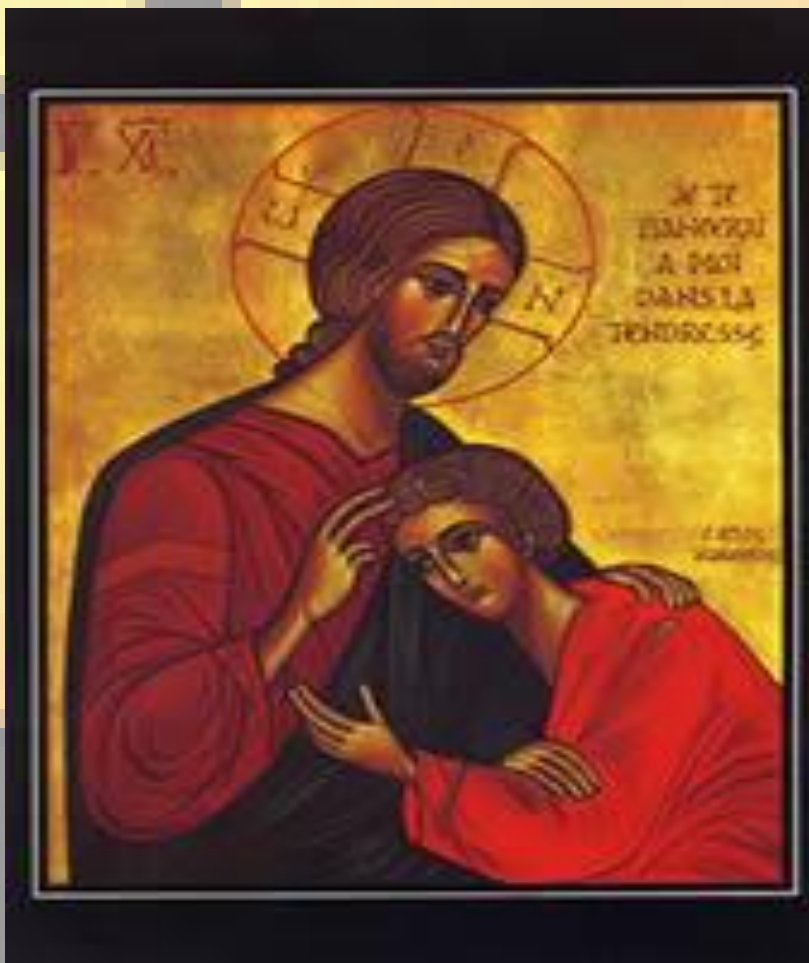


1. What was the name of the city where Simon the sorcerer lived?
Samaria.
2. What is the name of the disciple that went to preach in Samaria?
St. Philip
3. Why was Simon famous in Samaria?
He was a sorcerer that did magical acts and the people feared him.
4. Who came to Samaria to lay the hands on the believers?
St. Peter and St. John
5. What happened when St. Peter and St. John laid the hands on the believers?
They received the Holy Spirit of God.

The End

Next Week

We will learn about Saint John the Evangelist and the thief.





May the love of God the **Father** and the grace of our Lord **Jesus Christ** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

3 things we all can do to strengthen our relationship with God

1. Read the Holy Bible daily preferably when we get up in the morning. 5 minutes to start.
2. Partake Holy Communion regularly.
3. Remember God throughout the day. We can repeat short prayer such as “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me.”

JESUS CHRIST

- “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)





We are one in Christ



*“And you shall know
the truth, and the
truth shall make you
free.” John 8:32*

Any question?

Close with prayer.

