

I have no one...

On the fifth Sunday of Lent, the church puts for us in the spot light, the incident of healing the paralytic man who was laying at the bank of the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. He had this infirmity for thirty eight years, and when our Lord Jesus passed by him, the man didn't know Him. Nonetheless, he was waiting like everyone else, for the mercy of God which visits mankind when the angle comes down to stir the water and put in it a miraculous power to heal however steps in first.

Jesus surprised the man by saying: "***Do you want to be made well?***" He replied with a sigh: Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; instead someone else always steps in before me and is healed while I stay as I am.

It is obvious that the man has been longing to have a sincere person with him, to accompany him, to be vigilant and paying attention to him all the time. And for that someone to rush to push him in the water, when the angle comes down, to be healed. But such kind of companion was not available to him. And practically that kind of a person doesn't exist.

In fact, the phrase of the ill man "***I have no one.***" expresses the condition of all mankind, who always experience that in many instances, humans cannot offer anything to their fellow humans. But rather, our deficient nature is exposed in many situations.

"***I have no one.***"...This phrase reveals the lack of support from other human beings. And it is the condition of many who don't have anyone to support them, guide them, save them, or to stand by their side in time of trouble, so they cry out saying: "***I have no man.***"

We hear this phrase on the tongues of many,

- No one checks on me, cares about me in my loneliness.
- No one is helping me to resolve this problem.
- I do not have the resources to achieve success in this project.
- No one respects my gifts and appreciates my talents.
- I do not have a source of comfort in this tough situation.
- I have no one to help me out of these problems that surround me from every where.



In such circumstances, when we think that there is no helper, Jesus comes to visit us, for he is help of those who have no helper and the hope of those who are hopeless. He knows our situation and feels our pain and realizes that we are deficient. So, he comes to grant us more than what we expect or hope for.

He came and gave the paralytic amazing power, a new life, and exceptional abilities. And thus, he comes to us and gives us what we need, even more what we need.

The saints experienced God's help, rejoiced in it, and placed all their hope in this divine help. We find, for instance, Assaf the chanter in his famous psalm: "***Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You***" (Ps 73). And David the prophet also says in the spirit of prophecy on behalf of God in Psalm (91): "***For he hoped in Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him, because he knew My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in affliction, I will deliver and glorify him. With length of days I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.***"

Wherefore, the Church teaches us to pray continuously: "O Lord, God of hosts, be with us. For we have no helper in our hardships and tribulations but You." {From the passage of "Holy Holy Holy" of the Agpya prayers }

So, from now on, it doesn't matter if "***I have no one.***" As long as I have a God to care for me and to fulfill all my needs.

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