



**This week meditations on liturgical texts  
from **Skynia Magazine****

**July 18 - 24**  
**The Julian calendar**

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## Stages of meditation

Please find below some schematic prompts for each stage of the meditation on the Word of God. [Read more.](#)

### 1. Reading

- Read the text
- What does it tell by itself?
- Clear up the context
- Look up the comments
- Find the key-phrase

### 2. Meditation

- What is my here and now?
- What does the Word tell me?
- Use your imagination
- "Digest" the text
- The Word and my life

### 3. Prayer

- What will I say in response?
- Recognition and request
- Gratitude and glorifying
- Prayer in the Word
- My participation in the Divine Liturgy

### 4. Contemplation

- A call to conversion
- Now I am silent
- Staying in the presence of God
- Now He is guiding me

## Biblical readings and meditations

July 18

Sunday of All Saints of  
Rus'-Ukraine

- [Reading](#)
- [Meditation](#)
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- [Contemplation](#)

Romans 6: 18-23

Matthew 8: 5-13

### Romans 6: 18-23

Brethren, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Matthew 8: 5-13

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

## Meditation

In today's Gospel excerpt Jesus heals a severely ill servant. Gospel writer Matthew focuses not that much on the sick person and his healing, but on the faith with which the centurion came to God to ask for his servant. Jesus was surprised to find such faith in Capernaum. *Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.*

The centurion, whose name is not known to us, as a military man, realized what power, authority, subordination is. He himself had

subordinated *soldiers* and servants who clearly followed his orders. Caring for the sick servant shows his kindness and humaneness. Subordinates and servants, probably, followed his instructions not for the sense of duty or for fear, but primarily for respect. He was also a subordinate and followed the orders given by his chiefs. He knew it by experience what the weight of a word or order given by somebody with higher power, authority was.

If his word, just as that of a centurion, has some power, the word of God who is the absolute power is definitely mighty. Probably, the man approaches Jesus right with this understanding of power. He believes that one word is enough for God: *only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.*

What is my faith like today? Do I believe that the Lord is an absolute power and everything happens according to His Word? Or, probably, I always keep looking for some additional confirmation; I need to see a miracle to believe? Do I believe that the Lord is always staying side by side with me and taking care of me, in spite of what I feel and experience?

Do I have enough faith to say: *Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and...?* Or, probably, like the father who brought the son captured by the evil spirit to Jesus, I still say through tears: *I believe; help my unbelief!* (Mark 9:24)

Jesus did not ignore and did not reject any of these men. Either the centurion who had a strong faith, or the father whose faith was

weak. The Lord accepts and helps everyone who is staying in truth with himself and has the courage to come to Him with this truth.

**July 19**

**Monday**

**Romans 12: 4-5, 15-21**

**Matthew 12: 9-13**

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- [Meditation](#)
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**Romans 12: 4-5, 15-21**

Brethren, for as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### **Matthew 12: 9-13**

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

### **Meditation**

The Father suffered for His children to live. Jesus allowed crucifying Him to allow us to resurrect. To get humans back from death to Life. And to ascend humans on His nailed hands to heaven. The Holy Spirit descended on humans to personally prove that the Kingdom of God is real. It starts already here and now. God keeps reminding us what is ready for us in His Home. Jesus has prepared there rooms for all of us.

How important it is to remember this. Since we often think that God does not care about us. We suffer from our infirmity... How tiring this spiritual and soul decline is! We already do not imagine our life without sufferings. We identify ourselves with disease, pain, inability. While Gods suggests that we should leave this pathological humbleness with which we often disguise our own ego-centrism. Pathological humbleness with which we so often try to justify our own inactivity.

To stand up and leave. To dare take a vital action. To dare move following God's call: *Stretch out your hand!* To go out and join God. To recognize our disability to Him. Everything I am so much ashamed of. Everything I am so much trying to conceal.

Jesus, I trust You. Take me, the lost sheep, from the pit of my being. I want to live. With You and for Your sake. Since life without You is senseless. Since healing without You loses its sense. I close my eyes to fully devote myself to You. Make me relax in the waters and spaces of the Holy Spirit. I want to breath with You. To start breathing anew.

You do not accuse. You know what to do with me. You want to make us happy. But you cannot do this having no consent of ours thereto. I say Yes! to You, like Mary did. Touch me for me to no longer hate myself. To no longer envy those You make happy. To no longer think that You love others more than You love me. Your love will be enough to heal every wound of mine. Your love will be enough for each of us. I am standing in the rain of Your love. I am insatiably sipping You.

**July 20**

**Tuesday**

**Romans 14: 9-18**

**Matthew 12: 14-16, 22-30**

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- [Meditation](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Contemplation](#)

### **Romans 14: 9-18**

Brethren, for to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval.

## **Matthew 12: 14-16. 22-30**

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known.

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons." He knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property, without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

## **Meditation**

Human logic and justice claim that the evil should be punished, while the good should be remunerated. Jesus did a lot of the good to all those approaching Him. He consoled the upset, healed the

sick, gave hope to the disappointed, fed the hungry, liberated the captives. So why did the Pharisees have a council against Him, aimed to destroy Him? They could not find a single sin in Jesus to accuse Him of, though they took pains to do that. They did not believe that He is the Son of God. A man doing good things and telling the truth, in their opinion, deserves death.

Double standards. When I do something good, I expect gratitude, praise, and respect. But what if that's not me but somebody else? Envy may arise. Criticism may arise that something is done in the wrong way, or not in the right time, or that something wrong is done. Premature conclusions. Sometimes, having the least information about an individual, one may set the diagnosis for him/her, "understand" his/her motives.

Jesus does not assign us the task to assess or judge someone. It is easy to commit a sin while doing so. Jesus invites us to follow Him, learn from Him, to bring one's own fruit rather than look for somebody's.

Jesus does not try to come to terms with the Pharisees, explain everything to them, since He knows their hearts and realizes that they are closed. Jesus does not strive to please the Pharisees, He does not stop doing the things they don't like.

I don't have to explain my actions, to justify myself to all the people who have some complaints against me. It is not human opinion, but the Word of God that has to be guidance for me. The search of approval from people exhausts us and does not yield any fruit. Jesus, having no sin and performing great miracles on a self-denying

basis, for love, was accused of doing all this by the ruler of the demons.

Sometimes criticism and obstacles show that you are doing a good thing. There will always be people ready to test your endurance. They keep scrutinizing your deeds not to support you but to find faults with them and to tell about them in public. Personal prayer will help not to lose patience and self-control. One should pray more in order not to become one of the critics of good deeds.

Since if I am not with Jesus I am against Him, if I don't have my daily prayer, I run the risk of yielding to temptations.

**July 21**

**Wednesday**

**Romans 15: 7-16**

**Matthew 12: 38-45**

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### **Romans 15: 7-16**

Brethren, welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. Nevertheless on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given

me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 12: 38-45**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but it finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So will it be also with this evil generation.”

## Meditation

In today's Gospel reading we hear a discussion between Jesus and religious authority of those times. The scribes and Pharisees wish to see a sign from Jesus. But He gave a lot of signs. He healed a leper (Matthew 8:1-4), a centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13), Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15), the sick and those who were possessed with demons (Matthew 8:16). He calmed the storm (Matthew 8:23-27), cast out demons (Matthew 8:28-34) and performed many other miracles. When people saw these signs, they recognized in Jesus the Servant of Yahweh (see Matthew 8:17; 12:17-21). But the scribes and Pharisees were unable to understand the significance of so many signs that Jesus had already performed. They wanted something else. They wanted to fit Jesus into their own criteria to make it easier to fit Him into their own understanding of the Messiah. They did not open their hearts to the possibility of conversion. They understood nothing of what Jesus had done.

Jesus does not fulfill the requirement of the authority to give a sign, because that authority is insincere. Why show a nice picture to someone who doesn't want to open their eyes? He who closes his eyes does not want to see! The only sign He will give them will be the sign of Jonah. That is, the only sign will be the resurrection of Jesus, which will continue in the resurrection of His followers. This is a sign that the scribes and Pharisees will receive in future. They will face the fact that Jesus, condemned by them to death on the cross, is risen by God, in the same way as He continues to resurrect in every way possible those who believe in Him. For example, He will

resurrect in the testimony of the apostles, *uneducated and ordinary men* (Acts 4:13), who had the courage to oppose the authorities by announcing the resurrection of Jesus. Not miracles, but testimony leads to conversion! We ask the Lord of grace to increase our faith, knowing that only He is able to fill our hearts with His love so that we may become His witnesses every day.

**July 22**

**Thursday**

**Romans 15: 17-29**

**Matthew 12:46 - 13:3**

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**Romans 15: 17-29**

Brethren, in Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the good news of Christ. Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand."

This is the reason that I have so often been hindered from coming to you. But now, with no further place for me in these regions, I desire, as I have for many years, to come to you when I go to Spain. For I do hope to see you on my journey and to be sent on by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little while. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for

Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. They were pleased to do this, and indeed they owe it to them; for if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material things. So, when I have completed this, and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain; and I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

### **Matthew 12:46 - 13:3**

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow."

### **Meditation**

*My Father and our Father.* These words of Jesus are very important indeed. He has already told us that whoever loves mother or brothers more than Him is not worthy of Him. Biblical phrases show

that it is with their attitude to the everlasting Word of God that the brothers of Jesus Christ differ from the crowd. Since only they are the people who behave in accordance with the Christ's teaching. Let us also recall the following words of Jesus: *I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants* (Matthew 11:25). Thus, let us be satisfied with minor things and let us trust Jesus, listen to His words: *For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.*

The Holy Virgin always respected and listened to her Son. Jesus showed to her the relationship through which He was united with the Father. His Mother always followed the will of Jesus and the will of God, in great renunciation. She knows that Jesus is primarily the Son of the Father, and only then – her son, and that He has committed Himself to perfect obedience to the Father. That is why she leaves His life, helps and serves Him, entrusts herself to Him, according to His will. What Jesus said refers to all of us who are following Him, and not the will of the Father so far. We entrust ourselves to the Father, but almost always we take our own ways, following our own will, the will of others, a real opportunity... We seem to belong both to God, and to ourselves, to heaven and earth, to ourselves and others, truth and lie.

That is why we don't give any fruit. We are not next to the Father's heart. Today's excerpt finishes with the words saying that Jesus told them about many things in parables. The magic of parables lies in the language that contains more than was actually said. A small

story that works as fuel. You read it, and ideas are generated, it evokes images, emotions, sends you on a trip. Let us ask God today for the grace of staying more in the Father's heart and looking for the will of God, and not our own will, listening to His words.

**July 23**

**Friday**

**Our Venerable Father**

**Anthony of the Monastery of  
the Caves**

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- [Meditation](#)
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**Romans 16: 1-16**

**Matthew 13: 3-9**

### **Romans 16: 1-16**

Brethren, I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. Greet

Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; and greet his mother—a mother to me also. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who are with them. Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

### **Matthew 13: 3-9**

And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

### **Meditation**

Chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew begins the third great discourse, - the discourse in parables.

Today we meditate on the parable of the sower and seeds. Jesus preaches clearly by means of comparisons and parables. His

parables usually mention everyday things: seed, lamp, mustard seed, salt, etc. These things are well known to people of all epochs.

The parable of the sower and seeds tells about the lives of peasants. In those days it was not easy to live from the fruits of the earth: the fields were covered with stones, there was a lot of sun but little rainfall and moisture. The seeds thrown by the sower fall on this earth. Some seeds fall on the road, other fall among stones and thorns, and still some seeds fall on good soil, and, depending on the quality of the soil, will bring thirty, sixty, and even a hundredfold grain. The parable uses visible and understandable things to explain invisible and unknown things – the kingdom of God. The Galileans knew everything about seeds, soil, rain, sun, and harvest. Jesus uses these understandable images to explain the mystery of the kingdom.

*Let anyone with ears listen!* This expression means: *Here! You have heard everything, now try to understand it!* The key to understanding this parable is to search: try to understand! The parable does not present everything at once, but encourages to think and discover its meaning. Let us meditate on this parable today to understand the way the seed of the Word of God works in our life.

**July 24**

**Saturday**

**Romans 8: 14-21**

**Matthew 9: 9-13**

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**Romans 8: 14-21**

Brethren, for all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**Matthew 9: 9-13**

And the Lord said: "Let anyone with ears listen!"

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secret of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' "

### **Meditation**

Today the Church suggests a meditation on the passage of a tax collector, - Matthew. Tax collectors, as a certain social group, did not enjoy much respect. Even more, they were hated because they often took away the last of the people of Israel and gave it to Rome. Obviously, people did not want to see such traitors who profited from their job and helped the occupying state.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw Matthew. Christ does not do something extraordinary, He just invites this man to follow Him. Without any doubt Matthew changes his life. We see that he does not ask any unnecessary questions, he does not provoke, he just hears the call *Follow me*, which for us should also be an invitation and a challenge. It is obvious that this person, - Matthew, - provoked the Pharisees to anger and to rebuke Jesus.

Christ not only calls Matthew, but also visits his house, where many tax collectors and sinners came. For the Pharisees such a behavior of Jesus was very strange. How is it possible to sit and eat with obvious, public sinners? How can a person who is considered to be

a prophet behave in that way? But Christ breaks the logic of the Pharisees and of the society. These *public sinners*, tax collectors and sinful women are the ones who accept the Lord's call to follow Him without any hesitation. Their heart is open and eager to change. The Pharisees do not understand this because of their closed hearts. What's next? Christ responds that the sick need a physician and not the healthy ones. Not only physically but also spiritually sick people need a physician. How often do we look nice and healthy, and in our souls we bear so much pain and suffering? That is why Christ invites You and me to change our heart, to transform our reality, and to accept His call to follow Him. As we learn to trust and listen to His voice, we will be able to attain eternal life with Him in His kingdom. Therefore, let us pray that we may hear the calls of Jesus in our daily lives and become the ones in whose lives there will be a meal with all the saints.

## What is Skynia Magazine?

**Skynia Magazine** is published with the purpose to help its readers meet the Lord with the help of the Bible.

This is why on most pages of the magazine our readers can find daily meditations on the Word of God: biblical readings according to the liturgical calendar of the UGCC. These meditations are the fruit of the personal prayer of their authors: priests, nuns and laity, who strive to live in the rhythm of the life of the UGCC, trying to tackle present-day issues.

Bible verses are cited according to the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.

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