

# SEASON OF GLORIOUS PENTECOST

*The Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost*

## الأحد الحادي عشر من زمن العنصرة



**PARISH OFFICE: 978-685-7233**

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**Website: [stanthonylawrence.org](http://stanthonylawrence.org)**

**E-mail: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org) Address: 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01841**

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### 11th Sunday of Pentecost

**Saturday, August 1**

*St. Shmouni and Her Seven Sons  
Acts 22:30-23:11/Lk 12:10-12*

**4:00 pm** In Honor of Subdeacon Antoine & Hitaf Nammour, By Kozhaya & Lola Abou Khalil

**Sunday, August 2**

*Translation of the Relics of St. Stephen, the First Martyr*

**8:00 am** Private Intention

**9:30 am** 40 Day Memorial +Houda Bejjani, By her son, George Bejjani, his wife, Rita, & Family

+Checrallah Bistany, Wadih & Souraya Bistany, By Jeanne D'Arc Bistany & Family

**11:00 am** +Antoinette Salim Raad, By Nada Asmar  
+Saria Geha, By her husband, Samih Geha & his Family

### 12th Sunday of Pentecost

**Saturday, August 8**

*St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers  
Pope St. Sixtus II (+258)  
Acts 26:1-2a,6-10,12-19/Lk 12:49-53*

**4:00 pm** +Patricia McDade, By Deacon & Mrs. James Demers & Family

**Sunday, August 9**

*St. Matthias*

**8:00 am** Private Intention

**9:30 am** 1st Anniversary +Velma Faunt, By her Children & their Families

+John Pehl, By his son, James Pehl & Family

**11:00 am** Private Intention

### LITURGIES SCHEDULE

The 8:00 AM Sunday Liturgy will continue throughout the summer months.

The following services will resume in the fall:

- First Friday & First Sunday Liturgies
- Family of St. Sharbel
- Eucharistic Adoration following the Thursday 9:00AM Daily Liturgy

## Daily Liturgies

**Monday, August 3**

*David the Prophet  
Acts 23:12-22/Lk 12:13-21*

**9:00 am** Private Intention

**Tuesday, August 4**

*St. John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars  
Acts 23:23-35/Lk 12:22-31*

**9:00 am** For the Souls in Purgatory, By Dora Pereira

**Wednesday, August 5**

*Moses the Prophet  
Acts 24:1-2a,5-6b,9-13,17-21/Lk 12:32-34*

**9:00 am** Private Intention

**Thursday, August 6**

*The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
2 Cor 3:7-17/Mk 9:1-7*

**9:00 am** Private Intention

**Friday, August 7**

*St. Doumit  
Acts 25:13-14a,22-27/Lk 12:42-48*

**NO LITURGY - OFFICE CLOSED**

### PLEASE NOTE

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons:

- ◆ For the souls in purgatory
- ◆ In remembrance of our loved ones who are deceased
- ◆ In honor of someone's birthday
- ◆ Special anniversary, and more

Liturgy stipend or offering given, signifies the sacrificial nature of giving something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

Please contact the Parish Office to book your mass intentions or for more inquiries.



### An Icon That Teaches Us How to Live

Dear Parishioners,

The official icon of Blessed Patriarch Elias Peter Howayek is much more than a beautiful religious image. Like every true icon, it is a window into heaven and a silent proclamation of faith. Every detail tells us something about his holiness, his mission, and the path that each Christian is called to follow.

At the center stands Blessed Elias Howayek, dressed in radiant white patriarchal vestments. White represents purity, holiness, and a life offered completely to God. His upright posture expresses courage and steadfastness. He appears not simply as a historical leader, but as a faithful shepherd who remained firm during some of the most difficult moments in the history of Lebanon and the Maronite Church.

Around his head is a golden halo, the sign that he now participates in the glory of God. The golden background reminds us that holiness is the work of divine grace. Saints are not people who lived without struggles; they are people who allowed God's light to transform their struggles into faith, service, and love.

Above the patriarch, we see the hand of the Father and the dove of the Holy Spirit. These symbols remind us that his vocation came from God and that his ministry was guided by the Holy Spirit. His achievements were not based only on political wisdom, education, or personal strength. They flowed from prayer, discernment, and obedience to God's will.

The open Gospel contains the words: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." These words reveal the heart of his spirituality. Before being a patriarch, diplomat, or national leader, Elias Howayek was a beloved son of God. His life teaches us that our greatest identity does not come from our titles, possessions, or accomplishments. It comes from knowing that we belong to God and striving to please Him.

The patriarchal staff in his hand represents his mission as a shepherd. Christian authority is never domination; it is service. A true shepherd protects the weak, guides the lost, strengthens the discouraged, and sometimes sacrifices himself for the flock.

The Lebanese mountain, the cedar, and the sea show his profound love for Lebanon. Yet his patriotism was not narrow or divisive. He envisioned a homeland where people of different communities could live together in dignity, freedom, and peace. The sea also reminds us of the Maronite diaspora and of a Church whose children are spread throughout the world.

The church and the religious sisters represent the Congregation of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, which he founded. He understood that the future of society begins with strong families, Christian education, and generous service.

As we contemplate this icon, let us not admire Blessed Elias Howayek only as a figure from the past. Let us ask for his intercession today. May he teach us to remain rooted in God, faithful to the Church, devoted to our families, and committed to building unity wherever division exists.

Blessed Elias Peter Howayek, faithful shepherd and father of your people, pray for us.

In Christ's love,

*Fr. Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy*

### OFFICE HOURS:

**M-TH** 10:00 am-3:00 pm

**FRI** OFFICE CLOSED

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED** (Ar)

**TUE & THU** (Eng)

**WEEKEND LITURGIES**

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

**SUN** 8am(Ar) 9:30 am (Eng)

11 am (Eng.& Ar)

**Holy days of obligation:**

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

### MEET OUR PRIEST:

**Fr. Edgard (Neemtallah) Oneissy**

[pastor@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pastor@stanthonylawrence.org)

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

Nadim Daou, James T. Demers

& David Leard

**Sub-Deacons:** Antoine Nammour

& George Merheb

### MEET OUR OFFICE STAFF:

Marie Azzi

Executive Assistant

[rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

Christine Ryan

Administrative Assistant

[bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org)

### CLERGY DAY OFF

**Fr. Neemtallah: Fridays**

### SACRAMENTS

**Baptism & Confirmation:**

1 month in advance with the Pastor,

**Donations:** Church: \$200

Priest: Free Will

**Matrimony:** Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date

**Donations:** Church \$500

Priest: Free Will

**Reconciliation:** One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home. Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.



## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

07/26/2026

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Candles           | \$74.00    |
| Sunday Collection | \$2,953.66 |
| Fuel              | \$95.00    |
| Donations         | \$1,309.00 |
|                   | <hr/>      |
|                   | \$4,431.66 |

Please remember to remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the heat on in the Winter, and the air conditioning in the Summer.



## SANCTUARY/EUCHARISTIC LAMPS

In Loving Memory of Saria Geha,  
By her husband, Samih Geha  
& his Family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

## FIRST BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Andrew Rogers & Christina Saade

Call Amale Chantiri at 978-835-7382  
or use this link:  
<https://forms.gle/cfYsgKFznogd6UUM8>  
to register your children.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Anthony Council 16204

### UPCOMING MEETING

**Tuesday, August 11 @ 7 pm**

Church Hall

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: [KOFc16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOFc16204@gmail.com)

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

- August 1:** Eleanor Abi-Moussa, Jeanine Abou Raad, Antoni Georges, Carol Hbaiter, Simona Kanaan, Jennifer Maroun  
**August 2:** Charbel Abdilmasih, Cassandra Kinney, Gerald Motta, Sam Murphy, Melissa Rahi, Salwa Ramey, David Slack, Daphne Georgia Vincent  
**August 3:** Robert Chahine, Diana Geha, Marissa Prezzano, Zakia Russo, Jad Webhe  
**August 4:** Chaniel Abou-Ezzi, Elie Ata, Sophia Benti, Carla Bou Abdo, Robert Haykal, Antoine Hitti, Tucker Kannan, Judah Ramey, Austin Roy  
**August 5:** Michel Asmar, Anthony Awad  
**August 6:** Maggie Bouchrouche, Laura Chamoun, Michelle Daccach, Noura Daher, Lea El-Hachem, Rabih Imad, Patrick Ramey  
**August 7:** Juliette Ata, Adam Avedisian, Elias Bourouphael, Joseph Gebeili, Nathaly Huntsman, Adeline Kuehne, Maliha Mouawad, Leonard Nassar, Ryan Savastano

## ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- August 1:** Marc & Brigitte Abou-Ezzi, Afif & Joelle El Rahi, James Menihane & Mary Abdoo, Tony & Hitaf Nammour, Andre & Hasna Ndaira  
**August 4:** Marcel & Eliane Saade, Timothy & Elanor Shea  
**August 5:** Sam & Alyssa Hajj, Gaby & Rama Ramy  
**August 6:** Anthony & Joud Abou-Ezzi, Ralph & Carine El-Hayek, Vercin & Nathalie Ephrem, Jimmy & Morgan Georges, Robert & Anabelle Owaida  
**August 7:** Pierre & Ann Maroun



## MAHRAJAN 2026

Planning is underway for our Annual Lebanese Mahrajan, taking place Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 4, 5 & 6, 2026!

The Mahrajan Committee is inviting our parishioners, families, and friends to join us in making this year's festival another tremendous success. Your generosity, talents, and support are the heart of this beloved parish tradition.

### MAHRAJAN RAFFLE

Our annual raffle tickets have been mailed, so please check your mailbox. Thank you to everyone who has already responded—we truly appreciate your prompt support. If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, we kindly ask that you return your tickets at your earliest convenience.

### MAHRAJAN BASKETS

We welcome donations for our popular gift baskets. Whether you'd like to create a basket or simply donate items, our committee will gladly assemble them for you.

### MAHRAJAN SPONSORS

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Please consider supporting our festival while promoting your business or honoring a loved one.

### MAHRAJAN VOLUNTEERS

Many hands make light work! Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the festival. Sign-up opportunities will be available soon - we'd love to have you join us!

**Thank you for helping make Mahrajan 2026 a joyful celebration of our faith, family, culture, and community. More exciting details are coming soon!**

# ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH PRESENTS MAHRAJAN LEBANESE FESTIVAL

SINCE 1971 - LABOR DAY WEEKEND  
2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Your sponsorship makes the Mahrajan possible and directly supports parish programs and youth initiatives. We invite your business or family to be part of this year's celebration.

| BLACK DIAMOND                                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$15,000+ | DIAMOND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | \$10,000+ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premium printed banner displayed prominently throughout the festival.</li> <li>Exclusive premier sponsor recognition.</li> <li>All Diamond-level benefits included.</li> </ul> |           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prominent logo placement on digital screens &amp; event banners</li> <li>Verbal recognition during the festival, 4 dedicated social-media posts, and featured recognition in the Mahrajan digital slideshow.</li> <li>Full-page ad in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul> |           |
| PLATINUM                                                                                                                                                                                                              | \$7,500+  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prominent logo placement on digital screens, website, and promotional materials</li> <li>Festival recognition, 2 dedicated social-media posts, and featured in the digital slideshow.</li> <li>Half-page ad in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul>                        |           |
| GOLD                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$5,000+  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logo displayed on digital screens, website, and festival webpage.</li> <li>Verbal recognition, featured digital slideshow recognition, 1 dedicated social media post.</li> <li>Quarter-page ad in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul>                                     |           |
| SILVER                                                                                                                                                                                                                | \$2,500+  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logo displayed on digital screens, website, and festival webpage.</li> <li>Featured recognition in the Mahrajan digital slideshow and social media.</li> <li>Honorable mention in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul>                                                     |           |
| BRONZE                                                                                                                                                                                                                | \$1,000+  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logo listed on the festival website with recognition in digital slideshow.</li> <li>Social media recognition.</li> <li>Honorable mention in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul>                                                                                           |           |
| COPPER                                                                                                                                                                                                                | \$750+    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company name listed on the festival website.</li> <li>Shared recognition in the Mahrajan digital slideshow.</li> <li>Honorable mention in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul>                                                                                             |           |
| CEDAR CIRCLE                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$250+    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition name listed in the Mahrajan digital slideshow.</li> <li>Name acknowledged in the Mahrajan eBook.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              |           |

Business / Sponsor Name

Mailing Address

Contact Person

Phone

Sponsorship Level

Email Address

In Memory / Honor Of

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Check☐ Venmo☐ Cash

## PAYMENT DETAILS

### Make checks payable to:

St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church

### Check/Venmo Memo:

Mahrajan Sponsorship

Tax info: to be coordinated with the Church

## LOGO & AD SUBMISSION

Email: mahrajan@stanthonylawrence.org

Format: PDF . AI . EPS . SVG . PNG . JPG

Minimum resolution: 300 DPI

Deadline: August 15, 2026

Questions? Call 978-685-7233



## BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

### Religious Education

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/)

### Maronite Youth Organization –MYO

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/)

### Maronite Young Adults –MYA

Please email the Parish to add your name to the MYA

Group: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

### Knights of Mary –KOM

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/)

### Knights of the Altars

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/)

In addition our Parish takes pride and invites you to be part of the other ministries such as:

- *Daughters of St Anthony*
- *Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality*
- *Sunshine Committee*
- *M-Wine*
- *Bereavement Ministry*
- *Ushers*
- *Men's Ministry*

## TREE OF LIFE

### BRASS ALUMINUM PLAQUES SIZES:

1.5" X 3" = \$75 / 3" X 6" = \$150 / 4" X 8" = \$250

Please submit your request either by

Phone: 978.685.7233 or by E-mail:

[rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)



**FREE ADMISSION**

# Lebanese Mahrajan Food Festival

St. Anthony of the Desert Church, 300 N. Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA

**Fri, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 5pm to 10pm**  
**Sat, Aug 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Noon to 11pm**  
**Sun, Aug 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 11am to 5pm**

*All are invited to come and join us  
Festivities will go on come rain or shine!  
Under the tents or in the open air!*

**Authentic Lebanese Food and Pastry**

**Alcoholic Beverages**



**MITCHELL KALTSUNAS AND ENSEMBLE**  
 Fri. 6pm-7:30pm & 7:45pm-10pm  
 Sat. 7pm-8pm & 8:15pm-11pm

**MYO DANCE TROUPE**  
 Fri. 7:30pm-7:45pm  
 Sat. 6:15pm-6:30pm & 8pm-8:15pm  
 Sun. 1pm-1:15pm



**Basket Raffles**



**DJ, ERIC**  
 Fri. 5pm-6pm  
 Sat. 4pm-6pm  
 Sun. 11am -1pm & 1:15pm-4pm



**THROWBACK**  
 Sat. 12:30pm-3:30pm

**THROWBACK**  
 Sat. 12:30pm-3:30pm

**Hookah**

**Dancing and so much more!**

Facebook: St Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church  
 Website: <https://saotd-fr.org/> Phone: 508-672-7653



**FREE PARKING**



**The Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost: Zacchaeus the Chief Tax Collector*****Book of Ezekiel 18:1,21-23,27-28***

The word of the LORD came to me: But if the wicked turn away from all their sins that they have committed and keep all my statutes and do what is lawful and right, they shall surely live; they shall not die. None of the transgressions that they have committed shall be remembered against them; for the righteousness that they have done they shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord GOD, and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live? Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

***A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 2:17-22***

Brothers and Sisters, Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

***Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 19:1-10***

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Saturday, August 1*

4:00 pm - Elias Azzi

*Sunday, August 2*

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Meaghan Twing

11:00 am - (Eng) Mary Saab  
(Ar) George Saab**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Saturday, August 8*

4:00 pm - Patricia Ferguson

*Sunday, August 9*

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Bethany Pellerin

11:00 am - (Eng) Rebecca Merheb  
(Ar) Gretta Merheb



## الأحد الحادي عشر من زمن العنصرة: توبة زكّا العشار

### سفر حزقيال 28-27.23-21.1:18

وَكَانَتْ إِلَيَّ كَلِمَةُ الرَّبِّ قَائِلًا: الشَّرِيرُ، إِذَا رَجَعَ عَنْ جَمِيعِ خَطَايَاهُ الَّتِي فَعَلَهَا، وَحَفِظَ جَمِيعَ فَرَائِضِي، وَأَجْرَى الْحَقَّ وَالْبِرَّ، فَإِنَّهُ يَحْيَا حَيَاةً وَلَا يَمُوتُ. جَمِيعُ مَعَاصِيهِ الَّتِي صَنَعَهَا لَا تُذَكَّرُ لَهُ، وَبِإِثْرِهِ الَّذِي صَنَعَهُ يَحْيَا. أَلَعَلَّ هُوَ فِي مَوْتِ الشَّرِيرِ؟ يَقُولُ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ. أَلَيْسَ فِي أَنْ يَتُوبَ عَنْ طَرُقِهِ فَيَحْيَا؟ وَإِذَا رَجَعَ الشَّرِيرُ عَنْ شَرِّهِ الَّذِي صَنَعَهُ وَأَجْرَى الْحَقَّ وَالْبِرَّ، فَإِنَّهُ يُحْيِي نَفْسَهُ. إِنَّهُ قَدْ رَأَى وَتَابَ عَنْ جَمِيعِ مَعَاصِيهِ الَّتِي صَنَعَهَا، لِذَلِكَ يَحْيَا حَيَاةً وَلَا يَمُوتُ. »

### رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس 22-17:2

يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَمَّا جَاءَ الْمَسِيحُ بِشَرِّكُمْ بِالسَّلَامِ أَنْتُمْ الْبَعِيدِينَ، وَبَشَّرَ بِالسَّلَامِ الْقَرِيبِينَ، لِأَنَّنَا بِهِ نَلْنَا نَحْنُ الْاِثْنَيْنِ فِي رُوحٍ وَاحِدٍ الْوُصُولَ إِلَى الْآبِ. إِذَا فَلَسْتُمْ بَعْدُ غُرَبَاءَ وَلَا نُزْلَاءَ، بَلْ أَنْتُمْ أَهْلُ مَدِينَةِ الْقَدِيسِينَ وَأَهْلُ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ، بُنِيتُمْ عَلَى أَسَاسِ الرُّسُلِ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَالْمَسِيحُ يَسُوعُ نَفْسُهُ هُوَ حَجَرُ الزَّاوِيَةِ. فِيهِ يَتِمَّاسُكُ الْبِنَاءُ كُلُّهُ، فَيَرْتَفِعُ هَيْكَلًا مُقَدَّسًا فِي الرَّبِّ، وَفِيهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا تُبْنُونَ مَعًا مَسْكِنًا لِلَّهِ فِي الرُّوحِ.

### إنجيل القديس لوقا 10-1:19

دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ أَرِيحَا وَبَدَأَ يَجْتَازُهَا، وَإِذَا رَجُلٌ أَسْمُهُ زَكَّا، كَانَ رَئِيسًا لِلْعَشَّارِينَ وَغَنِيًّا. وَكَانَ يَسْعَى لِيَرَى مَنْ هُوَ يَسُوعُ، فَلَمْ يَقْدِرْ بِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ قَصِيرَ الْقَامَةِ. فَتَقَدَّمَ مُسْرِعًا وَتَسَلَّقَ جُمُوزَةً لِكَيْ يَرَاهُ، لِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ كَانَ مُزْمِعًا أَنْ يَمُرَّ بِهَا. وَلَمَّا وَصَلَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى الْمَكَانِ، رَفَعَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا زَكَّا، أَسْرِعْ وَأَنْزِلْ، فَعَلَيَّ أَنْ أَقِيمَ الْيَوْمَ فِي بَيْتِكَ.» فَاسْرِعَ وَنَزَلَ وَاسْتَقْبَلَهُ فِي بَيْتِهِ مَسْرُورًا. وَرَأَى الْجَمِيعُ ذَلِكَ فَأَخَذُوا يَتَذَمَّرُونَ قَائِلِينَ: «دَخَلَ لِبَيْتٍ عِنْدَ رَجُلٍ خَاطِيٍّ.» «أَمَّا زَكَّا فَوَقَفَ وَقَالَ لِلرَّبِّ: «يَا رَبِّ، هَا أَنَا أُعْطِي نِصْفَ مُقْتَنِيَّاتِي لِلْفُقَرَاءِ، وَإِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ ظَلَمْتُ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، فَإِنِّي أَرُدُّ لَهُ أَرْبَعَةَ أَضْعَافٍ.» فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «الْيَوْمَ صَارَ الْخَلَاصُ لِهَذَا الْبَيْتِ، لِأَنَّ هَذَا الرَّجُلَ هُوَ أَيْضًا ابْنٌ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ. فَإِنَّ ابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ جَاءَ لِيُبْحَثَ عَنِ الضَّالِّينَ وَيُخَلِّصَهُ.»

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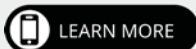
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