

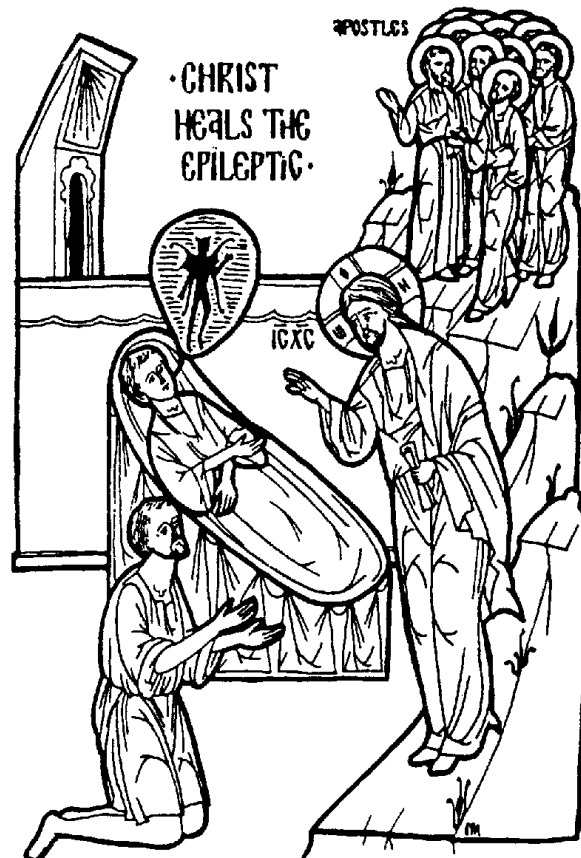
JESUS HEALS A VERY SICK BOY

At that time, a man brought his son to Jesus. The son was sick because the spirit inside him made his body do strange things. Sometimes he would throw himself to the ground. Other times, he would grind his teeth, and become very stiff. You can see why the father so very much wanted his son to be healed. Before this, the father had asked Jesus' disciples to heal the boy, but they could not.

Jesus asked to see the boy. Sure enough, right in front of Jesus, the boy had another attack and threw himself down and rolled around. The father said, "He has been so sick for so long. Even when he was little he would throw himself into the fire, or into the water. If you can do anything, please help us!"

Jesus said, "If you believe that I can heal him, you will see that all things are possible." The father said with tears in his eyes, "Lord, I believe! Help me to believe even when it is hard!"

Jesus then told the spirit to come out of the boy. It did, but the boy was so still, people thought he was dead. Jesus then took his hand and helped him up. Jesus told the disciples that they couldn't heal the boy because much prayer and fasting was needed.



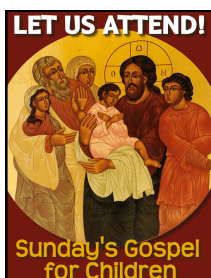
Images courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who wanted to see Jesus? Why?
2. The father wasn't sure Jesus could heal the boy. Jesus told him, "If you believe, all things are possible."

Jesus wanted the man to trust Him, so that He could heal his boy. Did the father then trust Jesus?

3. Jesus healed the boy, and then helped him to walk,
4. The disciples asked why they couldn't heal the boy. What two things did Jesus tell them they needed? We are in a time of fasting called Lent.



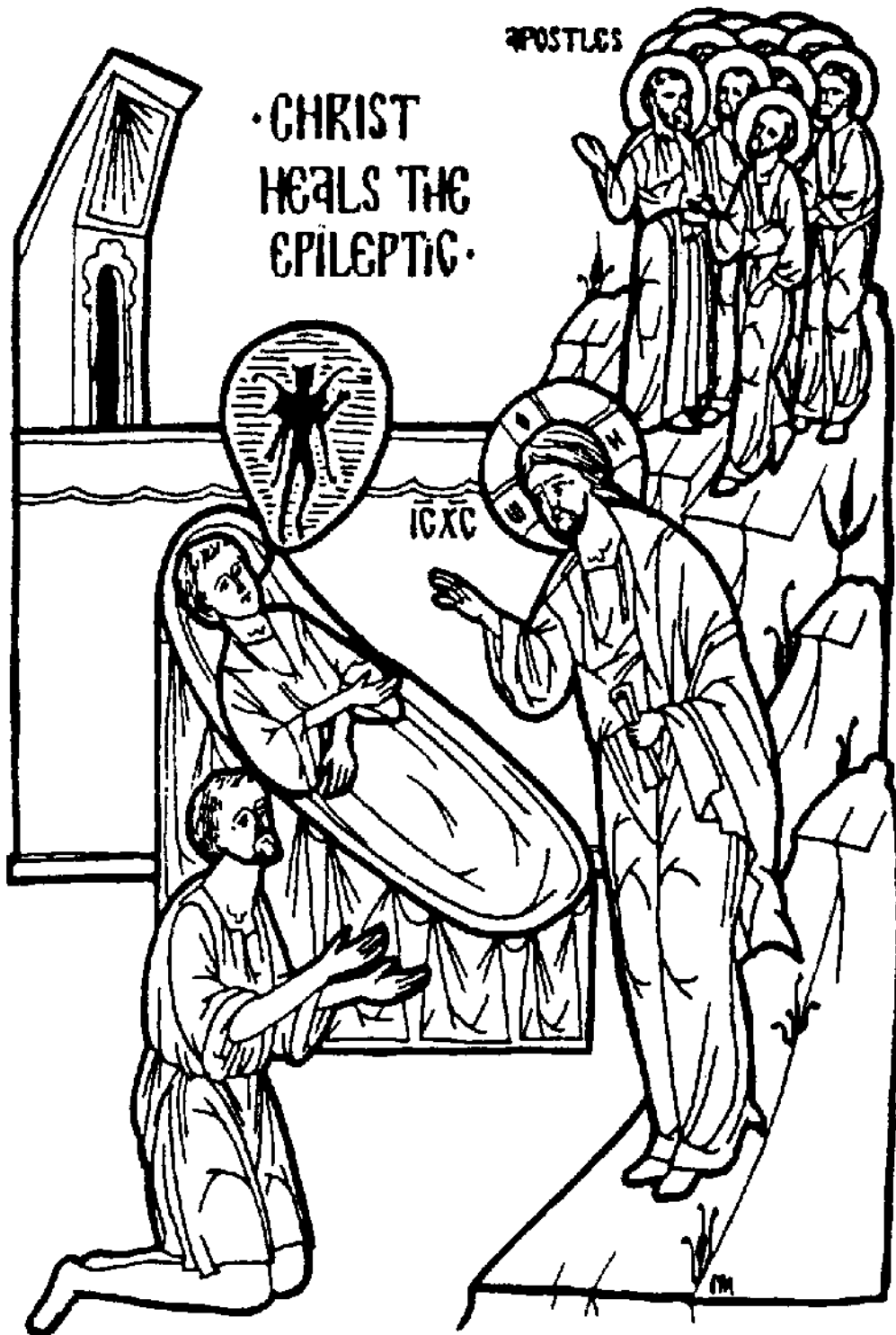
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Pre-12



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JESUS HEALS A VERY SICK BOY

One time, a man came and knelt down in front of our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "Teacher, I have brought my son to you to be healed. He has a bad spirit that makes him fall and get hurt. I asked your disciples to heal him, but they could not."

Jesus said, "Bring him to Me."

They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it made the boy fall down and roll around on the ground. Jesus asked the boy's father how long this had been happening.

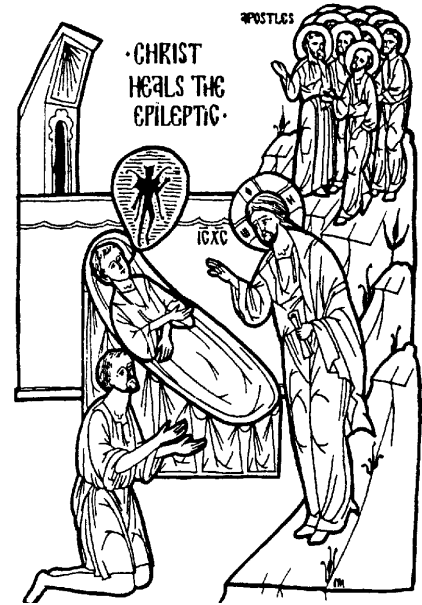
He answered, "Since he was little! Sometimes the spirit has thrown him into the fire or into water, to hurt him. If you can do anything, please help us!

Jesus answered, "If you believe, anything can happen!"

Right away the father began to cry and said, "Lord, I believe. Help me when I do not believe."

So Jesus told the bad spirit to come out of the boy, and to never come back. The spirit left, and the boy lay very still. Everyone around him thought the boy was dead. But Jesus took his hand and helped him get up. He was healed!

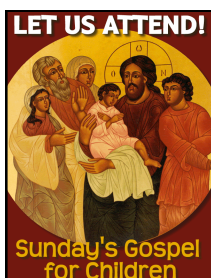
Later, the disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't heal the boy. He told them that healing like this could only happen with prayer and fasting.



Images courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why did the father bring his son to Jesus? What was wrong?
2. What did the bad spirit do to the boy when it saw Jesus?
3. When the boy was little where else had the bad spirit made him fall?
4. What did Jesus say the father should do so his boy could be healed? Did he?
5. What happened? Did Jesus heal the boy?
6. We all need help from God. Sometimes we have trouble believing that He will take care of us. When this happens to you, remember the father in this Gospel story and pray with him, "Lord, I believe! Help me when I do not believe!"



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ONLY BY PRAYER AND FASTING

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying

out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting."

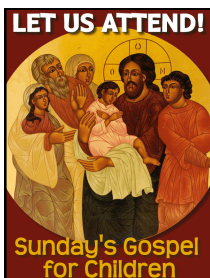
They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have anyone know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day."



courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In this Gospel, a father brings his son to Jesus. What problem did the boy have?
2. What happened to the boy when he was brought to Jesus? Had it happened before?
3. Who did Jesus tell to believe so that the boy could be healed? Did that person believe?
4. Why did the crowd think the boy was dead after Jesus healed him? Was he?
5. How did Jesus tell his disciples that this kind of demon could be cast out?
6. What things in your life are hard to believe that God can heal or take care of? Tell Him about them in prayer, and with the father in this Gospel, pray, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."



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Characters: Narrator, Man, Jesus, People,
Disciples

Narrator: At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him:

Man: Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.

Narrator: And Jesus answered them,

Jesus: O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.

Narrator: And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

And Jesus asked his father,

Jesus: How long has he had this?

Narrator: And he said,

Man: From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.

Narrator: And Jesus said to him,

Jesus: If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Narrator: Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears,

Man: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

Narrator: And when Jesus saw that a crowd came

running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it,

Jesus: You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.

Narrator: And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said,

People: He is dead.

Narrator: But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately,

Disciples: Why could we not cast it out?

Narrator: And he said to them,

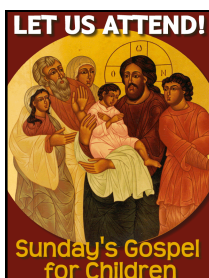
Jesus: This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.

Narrator: They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and after he is killed, he will rise on the third day.



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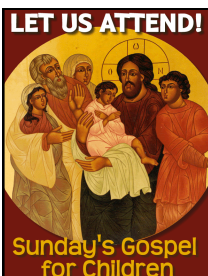
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courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What did we learn about the Son of Man when we read Matthew 25:31-41 (The Last Judgment) on February 23?
2. What does the Son of Man do according to that gospel? What does this suggest about the Son of Man?
3. Is Jesus doing any separating of one thing from another in today's gospel? If so, what is he separating and why is he doing it? If not, explain why you say this.
4. What does Jesus say will happen to the Son of Man?
5. Do these different sayings about the Son of Man present contradictory images of him or not? Why or why not?
6. How can the Son of Man be one who rules over all nations and peoples while at the same time being one who is killed by human hands? What does this say about him?



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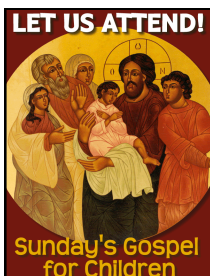
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What did we learn about the Son of Man when we read Matthew 25:31-41 (The Last Judgment) five weeks ago?
2. What does the Son of Man do according to that gospel? When does he do it?
3. What do we find out about the Son of Man in this Gospel?
4. Why is it significant that the one who separates the people one from another is also the one who will be mocked and killed by them?
5. The gospel from February talks about the Son of Man coming in his glory. What would it mean if his coming in glory were his being mocked and killed?
6. Who do we know did all these things? Do you think his death on the cross was his coming in glory? Why or why not?



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