



“Go, call your husband,  
and come here.”  
– John 4:16



Do I delay my repentance?

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Holy Great Fast



# Why do I delay my repentance?

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1) Embarrassment

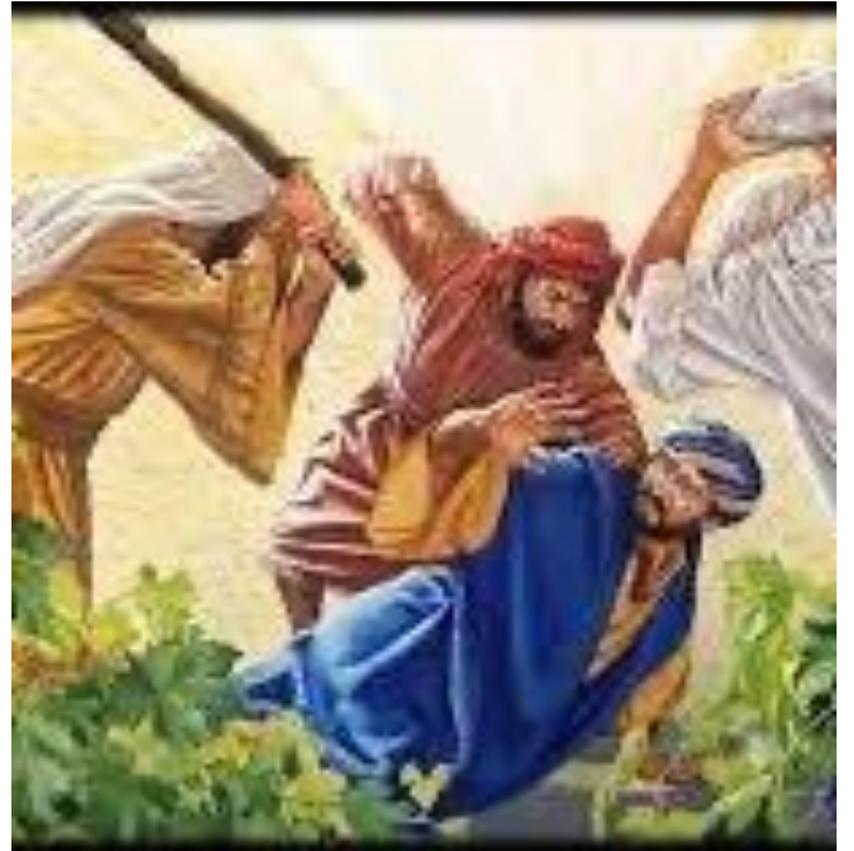
2) Time

- *“And when my soul departs my body attend to me, and defeat the conspiracy of the enemies, and shut the gates of Hades, les they might swallow my soul, O you, blameless bride of the true Bridegroom.”* (11<sup>th</sup> Hour Litany, Agpeya)

# Why do I delay my repentance?

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- 3) We feel we are owners and masters
- Parable of the Wicked Vinedresser
  - “But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. (Matt. 21:38-39)



# Why do I delay my repentance?

## 4) Popularity of sin

- “We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.”  
(Acts 5:29-30)

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to LIFE, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14



# Why do I delay my repentance?

5) When I'm surrounded my churchly people, who do not practice the Christian life

- EX: Scribes and Pharisees
- “Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.” (Matt. 23:3)



# Why do I delay my repentance?

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6) Misunderstand God as only merciful

- God is both merciful and just
- Universalism
  - Why the Church?
  - What about Judas?
  - Why does the Jesus speak about the Judgement and outer darkness?



# Why do I delay my repentance?

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## 7) Serving or Giving without confession

- Some believe that my service or offering can erase my sin
- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matt. 7:21-23)



# Why do I delay my repentance?

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8) The Praise of Others

9) Categorizing Sins

- I don't commit any "big" sins.
- EX: Achan the son of Carmi
- **"For the wages of sin is death..."**  
(Rom. 6:23)



# Lessons from the Lord's meeting with the Samaritan Woman

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1. The Lord does not want to shame us
2. The Lord is more concerned with the righteousness and purity of today and tomorrow, than the sins of the past.
3. Transformation begins with repentance/confession
  - EX: Zacchaeus
  - EX: The Lost Son
  - EX: The Samaritan Woman

