

“Son, Your sins are
forgiven you”

Mark 2:5



**“O YOU WHO DO
MORE THAN WE
ASK OR UNDERSTAND!”**

--Liturgy of St. Gregory



THE PARALYTIC

- He received the honor of sonship, forgiveness, and healing of his infirmity
- His trust in the Lord along with that of his friends, the unity and love among them, and their perseverance are among the reasons behind these great gifts



ADAM

- He received the promise of salvation before being banished from the Garden of Eden.
- It is only the Lord's great love for man that moved Him to promise such a great and unthinkable salvation



SOLOMON

- “I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you”

1 Kings 3:12

- The reasons for these gifts:
 - His love for God
 - His thanksgiving
 - His sense of responsibility
 - His wise request



THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

- “For thus says the LORD God of Israel:
‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor
shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day
the LORD sends rain on the earth.’”

1 Kings 17:14

- She trusted God’s words and chose to serve
Elijah even while she was in need



ST. PETER

- “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” **Luke 5:10**
- Before this gracious call, St. Peter was just admitting his sinfulness and unworthiness to have the Lord in his boat: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” **Luke 5:7**



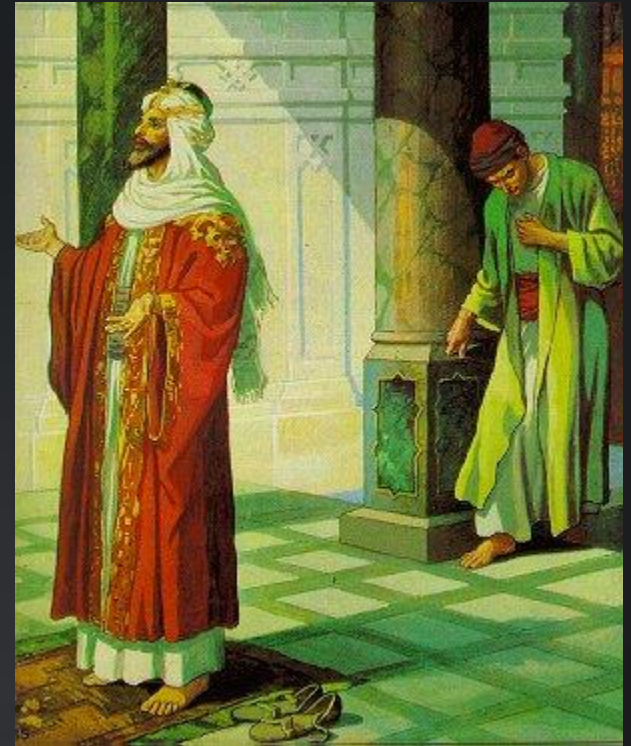
THE PRODIGAL SON

- “Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fattest calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry” **Luke 15:22-23**
- The reasons:
The son’s return, accepting responsibility for his actions, along with his willingness to bear the consequences.



THE PUBLICAN

- “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other”
Luke 18:14
- His humble approach to the temple gave him this favor in God’s eyes



THE RIGHT-HAND THIEF

- He received the promise of accompanying the Lord in Paradise after his request even without a word of rebuke or questioning his previous acts.
- His confession of his wrongdoing, his acknowledgment of the Lordship of the Master at the time of apparent weakness, and his only plea to be saved are some of the reasons behind the gift.

