

Our Father Saint John Chrysostom

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- ✠ To learn from this great saint's life:
1. Christian Discipline.
 2. All things are possible with God.
 3. Steadfast in faith and moral living.
 4. Alms giving.
 5. The joy and sweetness of life with Christ.

Key verses

“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Heb 13: 7)

Lesson

- ❖ St John was born in the year **347 AD**, at Antioch (Turkey), as the only son of **Secundus** (commander of the imperial troops, died at an early age) and **Anthusa** who raised her son in a good Christian environment and gave him the best education and prepared him for a career in Law. But he decided to live his life for Christ and was ordained a monk at the age of 23.
- ❖ After the death of his mother, St John fled from the city life to the monastic solitude of the mountains south of Antioch, and there spent **6** happy years in theological study and sacred meditation and prayer. Monasticism was to him, as to many other great teachers of the Church, a profitable school of spiritual experience.
- ❖ He learned from the monks the blessing of preaching, which was loved by all except the Empress **Eudoxia**. Because when he was 49, he set up a campaign against extreme wealth which the Empress took as a personal insult to her and her royal court.
- ❖ The wife of the emperor had a great desire for wealth. She once forcefully took a garden which belonged to a poor widow. The widow went to St John for help. St John asks the emperor's wife to return the garden to its true owner. But because she did not obey him, he prevented her from entering the church and partaking of the Holy Communion.
- ❖ The emperor's wife summoned the council of bishops and proclaimed her displeasure with him and had St John Chrysostom **excommunicated**. He was exiled to the Island of **Thrace** for one night only. The people became greatly enraged with St John's exile and gathered around the emperor's palace demanding the return of their patriarch. A severe **earthquake shook the city** almost

Our Father Saint John Chrysostom

destroying it. Taking this as a sign of God's displeasure with the exile, the emperor's wife went to the emperor asking him to **return** Saint John.

- ❖ His life was full of struggle because he was never afraid to speak up against sinful deeds; he wanted to save his children from the traps of the devil.
- ❖ St John eagerly attacked the behaviour, dress and beautification of the upper class, particularly the women. Christians boldly attended races on Good Friday and games in the stadium on Holy Saturday. He constantly battled this immorality and sin and courageously preached against these behaviours openly in his sermons. Although a compassionate father of the sinner, he remained firm in *maintaining discipline*
- ❖ Saint John Chrysostom's name literally meant "**Golden Mouth**." He lived up to his famous name from a very young age.
- ❖ He is known for his eloquence in *preaching* and *public speaking*.
- ❖ The *Orthodox Church* and *Eastern Catholic Churches* honor him as a *saint* (feast day, *November 13*).
- ❖ He is recognized as a saint and a *Doctor of the Church*.
- ❖ He is known for not only for his great preaching, but also for his great writings. (Liturgy of John Chrysostom)
- ❖ Saint John Chrysostom's life gives us a sense of the awesome cost of Christian discipleship and of the truth that with God all things are Possible.
- ❖ He died on **407AD**, aged 60, while he was in his exile.

References

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Chrysostom#Writings
- <http://www.coptic.net/synexarion/JohnChrysostom.txt>
- HG Bishop Youssef - Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States:
http://www.coptic.org.au/modules/resources_literature/article.php?articleid=202

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.