

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

*Do We See Jesus?*

If you wish to honor the Eucharistic Victim, offer your own soul for which the Victim was immolated. Make your own soul all of gold. If your soul remains viler than lead or clay, what good does it do to have a golden chalice? Do you wish to honor the Body of Christ? Then do not disdain Him when you see Him in rags.

After having honored Him in church with silken vestments, do not leave Him to die of cold outside for lack of clothing. For it is the same Jesus Who says, "This is my Body" and Who says "I was hungry but you would not feed me. Whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me."

The Body of Christ in the Eucharist demands pure souls, not costly garments. But in the poor He demands all our care. Let us act wisely; let us honor Christ as He Himself wishes to be honored; the most acceptable honor to one whom we would honor is the honor which He desired, not that we ourselves imagine.

Peter thought he was honoring his Master by not letting the Lord wash his feet; and yet it was just the opposite. Give Him the honor which He Himself has asked for, by giving your money to the poor. Once again, what God wants is not golden chalices, but golden souls.

*Saint John Chrysostom*