

**Rev. Ilarion V. Felea, *The Parables of the Savior for Little and Grown, for the Learned and Unlearned*, edited by Justin Pârvu Foundation, April 2014, 264 p.**

After more than half a century, the manuscript of theological work of the one who is worthy to be remembered – the martyr Father Professor Ilarion V. Felea asleep in the Lord on 18 September 1961, in the prison of Aiud, first sees the light of day by the zeal of the congregation of Paltin Petru Voda Monastery in April 2014.

In order that Jesus' teaching reach all people grown and young, learned and unlearned, men and women he used in His preaching the Gospel parables (examples or parables) and similarities. A lesson told in parables, no matter how difficult, it is understood even by children. Sometimes parables were testing the comprehension of listeners, or told them meaningful teachings and then He explained to the Apostles.

Fr. Felea showed the importance of the words of Holy Scripture and he makes the exegesis (interpretation or interpretation) of biblical pericope, of the most beautiful parables and similarities that Christ the Saviour left in the Gospels and in our souls.

The book begins with a prologue followed by a proper interpretation of the parables. Thus, we may find in the pages of this book 68 expounded parables and similarities and Felea Father grouped according to the teachings of faith eleven directions of their contents.

After Fr. Felea shows us the context in which Christ the Saviour spoke the parables, he presents us the evangelical text of the pericope, which are explained according to the words of Holy Scripture and the teaching of the Orthodox Christian faith, in a manner in which it lights up our hearts with joy and makes us feel like the two apostles Luke and Cleopas, when they went to Emmaus with the Risen Christ, who explained them the Scriptures.

The first three presented parables are: the Fire of Gospel, the parable of the Sower and the house built on rock, in which we are spoken about the Word of God, showing the purpose and consequences in our life's work.

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Fifty pages of this paper are reserved to the analysis of the similarities of fifteen parables of the Kingdom of God, precisely because most of the Lord's parables are connected with it. According to Father Felea, The kingdom, which includes all Christians, has its own laws: the commandments of God; its servants: angels, prophets, apostles and their successors; its weapons: the word of God, fasting and prayer, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments and the seven virtues, moral and religious: wisdom, bravery, justice, temperance, faith, hope and love. To help us understand better the Saviour explained each one of the teachings by parables.

The following eight parables talks about salvation and its importance, about the Savior Himself, His redeeming work, about the certainty of salvation through the love of God and of neighbour, the struggle to guard the mind and purity of heart, and above all the grace of God, good faith and works.

The interpretation of the parables about prayer Fr. Felea shows us that prayer is a great blessing that comes from the joy of heart and soul when it meets with the Spirit of God and thus we have prayers of praise, founded on faith, thanksgiving, based on love and application, based on hope.

The Parables about Church are explained that Christ is the foundation stone of salvation and of the Church; heretics are like thefts stealing that that leap over the walls of the right faith; Church's ultimate goal: to gather all people in the Church, to be one flock - Church and one Shepherd - Christ that all may be one.

Referring to the parable about the Divine Grace, Fr. Felea signals that the Church is the seat of Divine Grace; the Grace gives life to the whole world. As bread is for all people, grace is for all nations; is the earnest of the Spirit, the baptism with fire.

Repentance is turning to Christ; it has the role of school to straightening for all; Apostles are given the keys to the remission and retaining of the sins. The sins are forgiven when they are expiated, when we show that we are better, when we fulfill our penitence.

The Holy Communion is the lifeblood that keeps us bound to Christ, He is Life itself is the bread of God, the true food and drink; it is commandment, mystery and evangelical law.

The Parables about life according to the Holy Scriptures shows us how to live, to be the light of the world, how to cast away our sins, how to be

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humble, to love and to forgive all.

In the Parables about wealth, Fr. Felea shows us that wealth is weaker than eternity; the wealth unjustly earned should be given as charity; greed hardens your heart, the waste will condemn you soul; we must chase the eternal wealth.

The interpretation of the parables about the coming of our Lord and the Last Judgment, Fr. Felea specifies the right evangelical teaching of the second coming of our Redeemer, the seven signs of its approaching and how we must prepare for the Last Judgment, because the biggest question is how we will answer at the Judgment.

In his conclusions, Fr. Felea demonstrates that the Savior's parables are words drawn from eternal life. If some of the parables talk about the kingdom of God, salvation and sanctification, the Church and grace, the coming of our Lord and the Last Judgment, ensuring us of the life in the Kingdom of God and eternal happiness, the other parables speaks of love of neighbour, goodness of heart, charity, fraternity and generosity. It shows us a whole range of moral and social virtues that make our life happy here on earth. So, words of eternal life make our life happy on earth and in heaven.

No matter how much the people will progress, they will still live in society and then they will all need kindness, love, justice, humanity, the Church of God and of all truths, virtues and the graces of the Holy Scripture.

The book ends with an autobiography and several testimonies about life and living in Christ and about the preaching of Prof. Father Ilarion V. Felea, testimonies written, among others, by Metropolitan Bartolomeu Anania and Prof. Fr. Dumitru Stăniloae.

This book is very attractive thanks to the author, a confessor in communist prisons, which presents it in a very vivid, exhilarating, exciting, clear and concise style and because of its content of the meaning and interpretations made on the text of the Scripture, made for the enlightening of the minds of all, to be closer to Christ in a special way, like Philokalic Fathers.

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