



Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate  
St. Mina & St. Abanoub Coptic Orthodox Church  
Dayton, Ohio

Baunah 15, 1724 AM

June 22, 2008

Today is the third Sunday in the blessed Coptic month Baunah. The Holy inspiration informs us about the healing of the demon-possessed, blind, and mute man.

Dear beloved, Satan always searches for a victim from the children of God in order to change him/her to a case of demon-possessed, blind, and mute.

**First:**

***Demon-possessed:*** Satan will spoil the person and keep him away from the righteous Way of God when controlling his thoughts. Satan will keep him away from discretion and wisdom that comes from above. The person will then become demon-possessed. Satan might attack him by the thoughts of pride and the person will then become demon-possessed. He will think highly of himself and forgets that he is dust and ashes. He forgets that he is miserable, poor, is nothing and did not exist.

- *Nebuchadnezzar*, the king of Babylon, was stricken by Satan with the thoughts of pride. He said, “Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” (Daniel 4:30). He forgot that God rules in the kingdom of the whole earth. He then heard a voice from heaven saying, “They shall drive you from men and your dwelling shall be with the beasts, and your body will wet with the dew of heaven till your hair grows like eagles' feathers and your nails like birds' claws.”
- *King Herod* was possessed with the thoughts of pride. On a set day, he arrayed in royal attire, sat on his throne and gave a speech to the people. The people kept shouting, ‘The voice of a god and not of a man!’ Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died (Acts 12:21-23). Many are stricken by the thoughts of pride and greatness. They rely on dishonesty and think that they are righteous. Truly, if one wants to be wise, he has to be ignorant.
- Others are possessed by the thoughts of earthly desires and love to the world.
- Others are possessed by the thoughts of science and knowledge, philosophy, and atheism.
- Others are possessed by evil thoughts in denying the Only One who is capable over everything and does not die.

## **Second:**

**Blind:** Our eyes were enlightened through baptism. The prevision that was given to us by the Son of God is the most precious thing that we possess. We should be afraid from the spirit of darkness who defaces our prevision.

- The one who sees the truth and closes his eyes is an example of spiritual blindness.
- The one who sees his brother is in need and closes his door from not helping him is blind and poor.
- The one who does not see the danger of sin and its defilement and does not escape from it like escaping from a poisonous killing snake is blind and poor.
- The one who does not see his sins and his defile heart and relaxes his conscience like the Pharisees who looked at the sins of others and judged them, is blind and short sighted. He has forgotten to purify himself from his sins.

Repentance is the prevision that is renewed in us by the Holy Spirit. Through the church sacraments, we will observe the things that are given to us.

## **Third:**

### **Mute:**

The Holy Spirit renews us and frees our tongue. It makes us to utter new words and new hymns. The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples and the Holy Apostles as tongues of fire. This caused the disciples and the apostles to speak openly as witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ. They spoke with love to all the people. These tongues of fire prevailed in the church throughout all generations.

Without the Holy Spirit, the person will be mute and his tongue will be incapable to utter even if it said millions of earthly words.

May our Lord expel through His Holy Spirit any evil spirit from us, and uses our weakness for the glory of His Holy name.

To our Lord is the Eternal Glory in His Holy Church forever, Amen.

Fr. Angilos Antoun