

## Homily: What world do YOU live in?

Matthew: 15: 21-28

2 Corinthians 6:16 – 7:1

### Today's Gospel lesson – last before we start our warm-up for Lent

#### Theme of Today's Lesson: What world do YOU live in?

- Gospel lesson: a woman leaves her own world (of idols and promiscuity) to seek Christ, because the ways of her world could not give her what she REALLY wanted (a healthy child)
- Epistle Lesson: we are God's temple; his people. Idols of the fallen world do not belong in God's temple. We must separate ourselves to keep ourselves clean

Can this world give YOU what you really want? **Only by redefining your desires.** By creating a world around you that tells you what you need and offers solutions for those needs.

- In social science this is called "cultural hegemony"
- In science fiction, it is called "The Matrix", a false world that keeps people fat and happy – but leads to a constant nagging sense that something is wrong. A nagging that it cannot fully address.
  - How does the fallen world deal with this longing for more, for better? FEED THE VOID. Redefine good (does not always work, not for the important things – so it tries to make the less important seem more real)
    - Real is a good relationship with spouses and family. Healthy children. Healthy self. World cannot provide these. So redefine what a good relationship is, or change the criteria for health.
  - How should we deal with it? **TAKE THE RED PILL.** Fill the God-shaped void in your heart with what it needs: Christ. Filling it with the idols of the world will only pollute it; God wants us to cleanse ourselves from this and perfect ourselves in holiness so that we might become his sons and daughters.
- How do you do this? How can you break free of the prison this world would impose on you?
  - Accept Christ, ask for his forgiveness and **put Him in the center of your life.** Grow in Him as He and the Holy Spirit grow in You.
- Join the saints in the real world God is creating for his "sons and daughters"
  - A world where relationships (built on love and sacrifice) build up our spiritual strength rather than drag us down.
  - A world where matter itself is transformed to assist in our perfection (waters of the Jordan, oil of health, bread and wine of the Eucharist). [Eucharist as the "Red Pill", increases our discernment]
  - A world where the cloud of witnesses join us in worship in this magnificent temple
  - Where guardian angels watch over you, and patron saints join your friends in praying for your health and salvation. Where illness, suffering, and even death are relics of a passing world, one whose complete transformation is at hand.
  - Where God is real. Where Everything he promises is true.
- This world is the REAL WORLD. And it is your inheritance as an Orthodox Christian. **Embrace it.**