Week 12: Jesus Responds to the Pharisees

Readings:

- Calling of Levi
  - Luke 5:27-32
  - Matthew 9:9-13
  - Mark 2:13-17
- Jesus is Questioned about Fasting
  - Luke 5:33-39
  - Mark 2:18-22
  - Matthew 9:14-17
- The Sabbath
  - Luke 6:1-11
  - Mark 2:23-3:6
  - Matthew 12:1-14

Resources:

- HH Pope Shenouda II
  - The Spirituality of Fasting: https://www.dropbox.com/s/ujgqs1ct6givkm4/The%20Spirituality%20of%20Fasting%20-%20HH%20Pope%20Shenouda%20III.pdf?dl=0
- HG Bishop Youssef
  - Luke 5 Part 2: https://soundcloud.com/his-grace-bishop-youssef/luke-5-27-39-bible-study
  - Luke 6 Part 1: https://soundcloud.com/his-grace-bishop-youssef/luke-6-1-26-bible-study-english-arabic
- Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty
  - Luke - https://www.dropbox.com/s/81uupstc71zfyd9/042_Luke.pdf?dl=0

Quiz:

- https://forms.gle/frDtScW9zet5BQe99

Material:

- Luke 5b: HG Bishop Youssef
- Why do we fast in the Orthodox Church?
  - The Lord was not against fasting... but rather, there is a time for it and the time of the Bridegroom is not it
  - This is why we are not even allowed to fast during the Holy 50 Days of the Resurrection - because the Bridegroom is with us
  - We see at the Transfiguration of Christ that two people appear next to Him: Moses and Elijah
    - Moses, Elijah, and the Lord Himself all fasted 40 days
    - It's a message for us that by conquering the body through fasting, the spirit becomes manifest and the body is transfigured.
  - Fasting is the earliest commandment known to mankind
    - God commanded Adam and Eve to refrain from eating a certain fruit from a certain tree
    - God set for the body certain limits beyond which it should not go
  - By abstaining from food, man rises above the level of the body and above matter
    - If the first man had succeeded in triumphing over his bodily desire for food, it would have proven that his soul had overcome his bodily desires
    - Nevertheless, his own body defeated him
    - "*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)
  - The Prophets Fasted
  - The Apostles Fasted
  - Whole Nations Fasted
  - Fasting is a Gift
    - Not merely a commandment, but a godly gift with grace and blessing
  - Fasting precedes every grace and service
    - Preparation for receiving every blessing
      - Before every feast, we fast
      - Before receiving the Eucharist, we fast
    - Precedes every Service
      - A priest fasts 40 days when he is ordained before starting his ministry
      - The Lord, Himself, fasted before starting His service
      - The Apostles fasted after receiving the Holy Spirit
  - Fasting unites us as a Church
  - There is joy in fasting - a spiritual person will find it
- As we are approaching the Advent Fast next week, let us take some practical steps to prepare ourselves for fasting...
  - Sit with your Father of Confession to arrange for the fast - what kind of spiritual canon will he give you?
  - Finish the meat and dairy that is in your fridge so we don't come next Wednesday and say "well I just need to finish what we have and then we'll start fasting"
  - Plan a Thanksgiving Dinner with your family for Sunday or Monday so you don't postpone the fasting until after Thanksgiving... and then until after we finish the

leftovers

- Luke 6a: HG Bishop Youssef (Sections titled: "Introduction", "Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath", "Healing on the Sabbath", "The Twelve Apostles")

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