

Jesus helps the Samaritan woman.

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN.



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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God is on our side!

Have you ever been in trouble?

Sometimes when we've done something wrong, we know we're going to hear about it from our teacher or our parents. Sometimes we might even try to hide, so we don't get in trouble!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about a woman who did some bad things in her life. When she talked with Jesus, she didn't *tell* him she did something wrong. He just *knew* it! He already knew all about her. Maybe she thought, "I'm in trouble now!"



Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman

But then, Jesus told this woman more about God. He told her how she can worship Him. Instead of telling her how wrong she was, Jesus showed her how He cared about her. He wanted her to come closer to God! He wanted to save her!

In another part in the Bible are some great words. We hear, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." That means that God didn't send Jesus here to tell us we're in trouble! God sent Him to save us. Just like for this woman in the story today, God wants to bring us closer to Him!

Sometimes it might seem like we're always doing something wrong, but our Lord is on our side. He wants to save us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

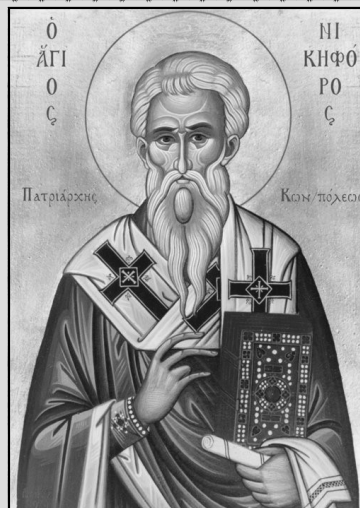
- Confessor
- Defend
- Gospel
- Icons
- Living Water
- Nikephoros
- Patriarch
- Salvation
- Samaritan
- Trouble
- Well

S Y X Z Z O A G T S N T C H F
 P A M W E L L H A D Z R O F H
 M F M A L F U L L N X O N A K
 O L C A I I V W G E L U F C L
 E T A P R A V E D F D B E X B
 M H Q W T I H I V E Y L S U G
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 U S O D L L W A S G O R O C B
 M N Z H F V V A N N W G R Z T
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 M C B S N T V W P R F K I E K
 S J T S D U S E T E P I M R R
 T Z H I P O L A L R J W L F T
 Q Z K X E Y P N J L S R N J P

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Nikephoros was the patriarch, and a bishop. That's why in his icon, he carries a Gospel, because bishops teach the faith.

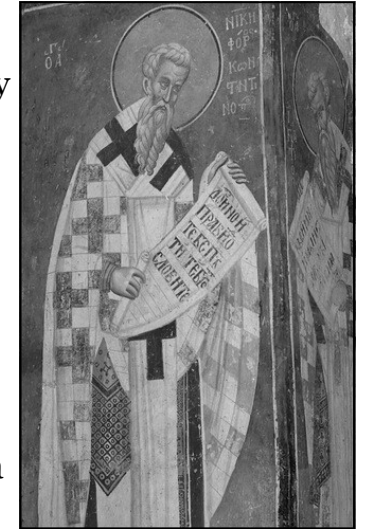
But Saint Nikephoros also knew that along with the Gospel, icons were another way we teach our holy Orthodox faith!



FIGHTING FOR ICONS

SAINT NIKEPHOROS THE CONFESSOR

Do you love icons so much that you would fight for them? If you saw somebody putting them down and stomping on them, would you fight for them?



Well, Saint Nikephoros did! Saint Nikephoros was born many years ago, in the year 758. At that time the emperors seemed to go back and forth between loving icons or hating them. For a few years the people would have an emperor or empress who protected icons, and then for a few years they would have a ruler who hated them and wanted them all destroyed!

Saint Nikephoros wrote three great works to explain why the Church must have icons! Later on, Nikephoros became the Patriarch of Constantinople, but unfortunately the emperor at the time was a terrible icon-hater. He hated icons so much that he punished people who defended them! Saint Nikephoros fought for icons, even though the emperor sent people to secretly attack and kill him. This didn't happen, but finally the emperor sent the holy saint away into exile, where he was forced to live away from his church flock. That way, the emperor wouldn't have to listen to his warnings and advice!

Saint Nikephoros died in exile, but our Church remembers his courage and how he loved icons so much that he fought for them!

We celebrate Saint Nikephoros today, Sunday, June 2nd (OC: June 15th).