

Sunday of EXPULSION



The second Sunday of the period of Great lent is called the Sunday of Expulsion. The basis of the mystery of and the name of the day can be found in the Holy Bible, the Book of Genesis: "So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden and made him cultivate the soil from which he had been formed" (Genesis 3:23). Prehistory is the following. The human being, listening to the deceitful words of Satan, disobeyed the divine commandments and ate the forbidden fruit, As punishment the human being, the human being, of course, didn't die at once, but was deprived of the eternity granted by God.

SAY: If we had a large plate with freshly baked cookies, would you be tempted to eat one right now? **Temptation** - that's a pretty big word, isn't it? What does it mean? Temptation is something that makes you want to do or have something that you know you should not. Eating a cookie isn't necessarily a sin, but it could be wrong in certain situations. Let me tell you a story that might help us to see how eating a cookie could be wrong.

One day Aram walked into the kitchen just as his mother put the last of a freshly baked batch of cookies on a platter. "Oh boy! Chocolate chip cookies!" said Aram as he reached for a cookie.

"Put that cookie back!" said Aram's mother. "We will eat dinner soon and snacking will spoil your appetite. You can eat some cookies after dinner."

"Alright," Aram said as he put the cookie back on the platter. "I'm going to go outside and play with David." Aram and David played for a while and then went inside to get a drink of water. The cookies were still on the kitchen table. "Look," said David, "chocolate chip cookies! Let's eat one."

"My mother told me not to eat any cookies or it would spoil my dinner," said Aram. "Aw, come on," David pleaded, "one cookie won't spoil your dinner."

"Okay, I guess it wouldn't hurt to eat just one," Aram agreed. Just as they finished their cookie, Aram's sister, Susie, walked into the kitchen. "Mom made some cookies and they are really good. Do you want one?" So they all ate a cookie together.

That night at dinner Aram wasn't very hungry. His mother noticed that he wasn't eating. "You aren't eating your dolma. Is something wrong?" mother asked.

"No, I'm just not very hungry," Aram answered "You disobeyed me and ate cookies before dinner, didn't you?"

"Yes, but David said that it wouldn't really spoil my appetite and we only ate one... or two" Aram answered sheepishly.

"I am very disappointed," mother said. (After all, mother is responsible for Aram's health and good nutrition, right?) "Because you have disobeyed me, you can't go anywhere with your friends on Saturday. You will stay at home and help me clean the house."

Does that story sound familiar? It should, because it is very much like the story of Adam and Eve which we find in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible, and the theme of today's Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Expulsion. God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful home in the Garden of Eden. They had all that they needed, but God expected them to follow His rules. He told them that they could eat the fruit from the trees in the garden, "But you must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. If you eat its fruit, you will die." (From Book of Genesis)

Then along came Satan. "You won't die," he told Eve. "God doesn't want you to eat the fruit from that tree because he knows that if you do, you will be as wise as he is, knowing good and evil." So Eve ate the fruit and gave some to Adam. When God asked them if they had eaten from the tree, they began to play the "blame game." Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed Satan, but God still punished them for their disobedience. God made them leave the garden.

Did you know that Satan even tempted Jesus to do things that were wrong? When he did, Jesus answered him with Scripture. That is a good way to defeat Satan, isn't it? Read the Bible and when Satan comes around, just say, "No" to temptation.

Dear God, we want to be like Your Son Jesus. Help us to say, "No" to Satan when he tempts us to do wrong. Amen.