"His parents said these things because they feared the Jews..." – John 9:22

Introduction

- Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

- "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk. 18:14)

- St. John the Baptist

  - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matt. 3:2)

We Need Change

WHY DO WE RESIST CHANGE?

What is Change?

- "And do not be conformed to this world, but <u>be transformed by</u> the <u>renewing of your mind</u>, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12:2)

What is the aim of our change?

- "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Cor. 3:18)
- We are called to be like the Lord Christ
- This is the work of the Holy Spirit

Why do we resist change?

1. Fear
   - Of People
   - Of Failure
   - Doubt

Why do we resist change?

2. Comfort in the status quo

► Complacency

► "For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil." (Prov. 1:32-33)

► "Who cares" mentality

► "The righteous perishes, and no man takes it to heart; merciful men are taken away, while no one considers that the righteous is taken away from evil." (Isa. 57:1)

Why do we resist change?

3. Pride

▶ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you our of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:15-17)

Why do we resist change?

4. Despise counsel

- "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise." (Prov.12:15)

5. Ignorance

- St. Paul
- St. Arsenius

6. Lack of trust