



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States

The Monthly Message
to the Priests' Wives
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The Repairer of the Breach

The expression of *The Repairer of the Breach* is mentioned in Isaiah 58:12. It is both a promise and a blessing offered by God to all those who walk in God's commandments and statutes: "*And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach*". Although it is a name given to the righteous yet it is also a mission and role required from every zealous Christian in general and from a priest's wife in particular.

The Breach is a word that prescribes any cracks or fissures in a wall or a building that may lead to its falling down, any hole in a ship that can lead to its

drowning and also any dysfunction in the army's ranks that allows the enemy to insinuate into it leading to its defeat.

Actually the **Real Repairer of the Breach** is the Son of God who presented all humans and interceded for them before the Father completing what man failed to achieve regarding his salvation. He is also the Holy Spirit who helps in our weaknesses and makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered as long as we do not know what we should pray for as we ought.

The Repairers of the Breach in the Holy Bible are many. When Saint Mary realized that there was a shortage in wine in the wedding of Cana of Galilee she initiated help to fulfill this shortage. When Nehemiah heard about the destruction of the city of his fathers' tombs he proceeded quickly to build it.

Moses the prophet was able many time to quench God's wrath against His people. Zipporah, Moses' wife, when the Lord met him and sought to kill him, cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet so he let him go. St. Joseph the Carpenter when he found out that St. Mary was pregnant, did not want to make her a public example and was minded to put her away secretly.

The priest, like any other human being, has some breaches whether in his personal attributes, in his relationship with others, in his service or even in his relationship with his wife and children. He may for example has a weak nominal memory, may feel impatience towards the nagging people or may not have enough time to fulfill his wife and children emotional needs. Here the priest's wife is free to choose between adopting Sham and Japheth behavior who repaired their father's breach by covering his

nakedness and therefore got a blessing, or to adopt Michal's attitude who despised David, her husband, in her heart and therefore acquired to herself a curse and was like a one who widen the breach instead of repairing it.

A priest's wife has a crucial role in repairing the breach not only in what concerns her husband but also in what concerns the service in general. The virtuous wife, as prescribed by the Bible, "watches over the ways of her household" (Proverbs 31:27) in order not to judge and condemn them but to initiate fulfilling their weaknesses and shortages. For example, if a priest's wife discovers a need or a shortage here or there, she, in a silent humble positive way, brings her husband priest attention to these breaches or she handles the situation by herself when applicable. May be Abigail offered to us a wonderful

example in repairing the breaches and foolishness of Nabal her husband and thus saving herself and her household from destruction by preventing David from revenge.

The service of repairing the breach requires a lot of virtues:

- 1) Vigilance and watchfulness without which one cannot discover the breaches.
- 2) The virtue of discernment that helps one to identify the enemies' snares and deceptions.
- 3) Holy zeal and spirit of positivity that push the person to initiate help without finding various excuses to forsake giving help.
- 4) The virtue of wisdom that helps one to handle the situation in a wise way that helps remedy and not in a foolish way that widen the breaches and cracks.

- 5) The spirit of humility as most of the repairers of the breach in the Holy Bible worked silently from behind the scene without being noticed.
- 6) Being guided by the counsel of the Holy Spirit through constant prayers during which one is instructed what he must do.
- 7) The spirit of meekness that follows the apostle's advice saying: "*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted*" (Galatians 6:1)