



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States**  
**Monthly Message for the Consecrated**  
**July 2022**

***And I Alone Have Escaped***

In the story of Job, we find the servant assigned by Job to serve his children coming to him saying, *“Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you.”*

How did Job feel when he heard his servant telling him that his children were dead, and he alone have escaped? What can God do when the servant He entrusted His children comes to tell Him that His children perished, and he alone have escaped?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in His prayer in John 17, said, *“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”*

In John 18, when the soldiers came to arrest Him, He said to them, *“I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,”* that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, *“Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”*

A true servant prefers to die rather than leaving his spiritual children perish.

St. Paul, the disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, has the same spirit of Him towards his children saying, *“For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”* (Romans 9:3).

Moses the prophet also had the same spirit in ministry, *“Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin, but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”* (Exodus 32:32).

A true servant cannot stand before His master unless he says with the Lord Jesus Christ, *“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”* (Hebrews 2:13).

Did God entrusted us His children to save ourselves alone? Can we boast before God while we stand before Him with empty hands having no fruits except our souls who were saved alone?

O servant, think well (I tell this to myself first) about this: if you want to save yourself alone, then God would not entrust you the souls, and you would not put yourself in the field of ministry. It would be better you would struggle as a served one rather than leading the souls of the children of Christ to perdition.

The question here is: What makes the servant do this?

### 1. Ego:

The servant's extra attention to himself makes him forget his children, and as God said in the book of Ezekiel, *"The shepherds fed themselves and did not feed my sheep."* (Ezekiel 34:8).

In one of the service parties, one servant stood boasting about his service compared to other churches, saying, *"We thank God that this certain church has 5 cases of addiction, and the other church has 7 cases and.... But we thank God, we have no a single case."*

Isn't this what Job's servant said, *"And I alone have escaped."*

If I hear that my brothers suffer and are in pain, am I happy because I have no pain like them? Are we not one body, but it is the ego that makes the servant glorify his service and does not make his service glorify God?

The servant is supposed to groan and labor for God's distant children to return to the bosom of Christ.

### 2. Laziness, laxity and the absence of the idea of accountability:

The Lord Jesus Christ, in the third service of the midnight prayer, describes the situation of this self-loving servant, saying about him, *"But if that servant says in his heart: 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk."* (Luke 12:45) In the parable of the talents, the Lord Jesus said to the slave, *"You evil and lazy slave."*

Jonah the prophet escaped responsibility by sleeping, *“But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.”* (Jonah 1:5). He had to pray and cry to His God, “Arise call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.” (Jonah1:6) but he fell asleep! He wanted to be unconscious and considered the situation not his and has nothing to do with him while his sleep was the cause of the disaster!

And so, some servants fall under the weakness of sleep and laziness, allowing not the zeal to eat them, and their spiritual conscience does not wake up in reaction to the expected harvest and the perishing souls!

O Lord, give us watchfulness to understand the exaltation of your call for us to serve. Amen.