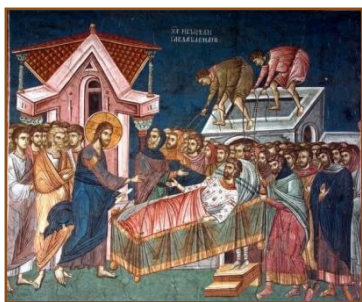




■ † Sixth Sunday of St. Matthew

Do We Have the *Mind of Christ*?*
The mind without faith is a fabricator



The Lord forgives the sins of the man sick of the palsy. One should rejoice, but the evil mind of the learned scribes says: “This man blasphemeth” (St. Matthew 9:3).

After the miracle of the healing of the man sick of the palsy—a confirmation of the comforting truth that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins—the people glorified God; but nothing is said about the scribes, probably because they continued to weave their deceitful questions even after such a miracle.

The mind without faith is a fabricator; it constantly hammers out its evil suspicions and weaves blasphemy against the whole realm of faith. As for miracles, it either does not believe in them or it demands a tangible one.

But when a miracle takes place that obliges one to submit to faith, such a mind is not ashamed to turn away from it, distorting or slandering the miraculous works of God.

In the same way does it confront irrefutable evidence of the truth of God. It is sufficiently and cogently presented with both experiential and intellectual proof, yet it covers even this with doubt. Sort out all that it produces and you will see that in this there is **only deceit**, although its own language calls

it cleverness, and you are involuntarily led to the conclusion that **cleverness and deceit are one and the same**.

In the realm of faith, the Apostles says: “We have the mind of Christ” (I Corinthians 2:16). Whose mind is outside of the realm of faith? One who is **evil**. That is why **deceit** has become his distinguishing characteristic. □

(* St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.