



**Joyful
Pentecostarion**
The Journey Continues
amidst the Light of the Resurrection
towards the Glory of the Last Times



■ † Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

Feeling and Reasoning*
Images of two sides of our life

The **tireless** women! They would not give sleep to their eyes nor slumber to their eyelids (cf. Psalm 131:4) until they found their Beloved One!

The men, on the other hand, as it were dragged their feet. They went to the Tomb, saw it empty, but remained in confusion as to what it could mean because they did not see Him.

Does this mean that they loved the Lord less than the women? No, but theirs was a “reasoning” love, afraid to err because the stakes were too high and the Object of love was so exalted. When they too saw and touched Him, then each of them, not with his tongue, like Thomas, but with his heart confessed: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). And thenceforth nothing could separate them from the Lord.

* * *

The Myrrhbearers and the Apostles are images of the two sides of our life: **feeling and reasoning**. Without feeling life is not life; without reasoning life is blind and bears little fruit, much of which is wasted.

We must combine both. Let feeling go forward and rouse us to action; let reason determine the time, place, and method, and in general implement what our heart prompts us to do. Within, the **heart** comes first, but in practical application, **reason** leads the way.

When our feelings are exercised in discerning good and evil, then perhaps it will be possible to rely on the heart alone.

Just as shoots, flowers and fruits grow from a living tree, so then will goodness alone begin to emerge from the heart, and will be rationally merged into the course of our life.



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

