

The life of Parumala Thirumeni worthy of emulation

By Mathews Barnabas Metropolitan

We who seek the blessings of Parumala Thirumeni often fail to follow his footsteps.

Let us see what kind of life he led from childhood and try to follow his examples.

He was a man of prayer and fasting. He had his own austerities and penance. He led the simplest life possible and gave maximum help to the poor and suffering.

In the days of Parumala Thirumeni something happened in a place called Mazhuvanoor, two miles north of Kolenchery. A group of people started smuggling tobacco. In the night they were visiting houses to sell tobacco. They were able to sell tobacco at a low price and earn money. During day time, they were sleeping. They stopped working during the day time. One of their landlords reported the matter to the excise department and the police caught hold of them red handed. Not only their business came to an end but also they were to pay a heavy penalty. They were in a helpless condition. No one cared to help them. At that time Parumala Thirumeni visited to Mazhuvanoor Church. These poor people went to Thirumeni and fell before him and cried for help. Hearing their story Thirumeni had pity on them and opening his box gave them Rs. 5 each. It was a huge amount in those days.

We who observe Parumala Thirumeni's festival should follow the life of simplicity and help the poor and the suffering?

There is an important incident that happened in the family of Parumala Thirumeni. This can be found from the letters Thirumeni had written to his elder brother. There was a suggestion to dig a canal between the compound of Thirumeni and at the compound of a neighbor. Both parties would be benefited by the canal. Hence it was only just that half the land was to be donated by each party. But the neighbor insisted the whole land was to be given by Thirumeni's brother. Hearing this Thirumeni wrote to his brother asking him to give the whole land needed for the canal, telling him that he would then win the whole-hearted love of the neighbor which was more valuable than any amount of money.

Following the example of Thirumeni is the most important aspect of celebrating his festival. Let us pray that Thirumeni may intercede for us so that we may be enabled to lead a godly life.