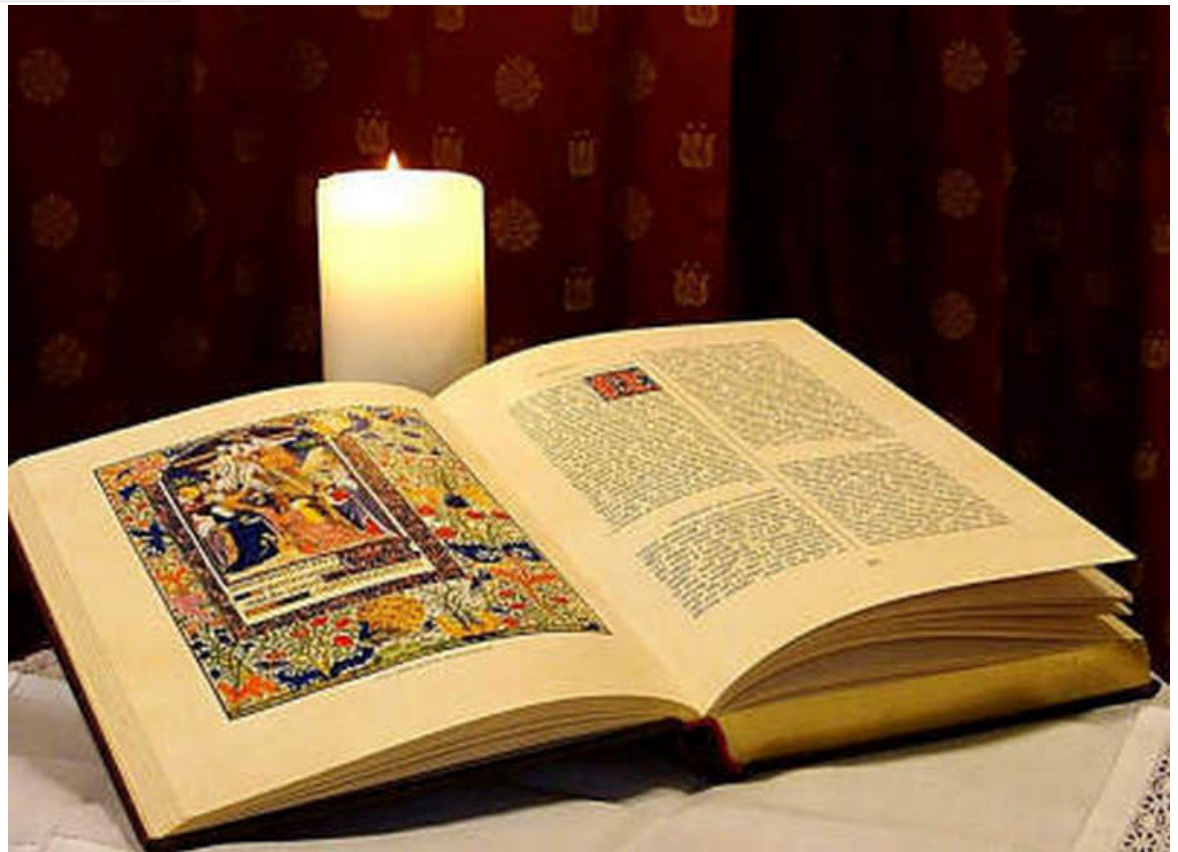


GOSPEL PEARLS

The effort of changing our life

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And coming to his hometown Jesus taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

(Matthew 13: 54-58)

Those who do not want to make the effort of changing their lives are annoyed by Jesus. They do all they can to diminish him, rendering in vain any attempt at conversion through Jesus' words or signs. However, without changing our life and habits, it is not possible to follow Jesus. The life of the apostles paid testimony to this fact when Jesus disrupted their lives forever. Without changing our life, religion remains at the level of empty and meaningless words or promises. Let us be careful not to sugarcoat the teachings of Jesus we find most uncomfortable.