

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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„The literary-linguistic image of the successful man in the books of the New Testament”

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The dissertation is the result of a literary study of the multidimensional concept of success as presented in text of the New Testament. The main objective of the dissertation is to present the New Testament as a fundamental source for the formation of values and norms that are responsible for interpreting success. It is hypothesised that on the basis of the New Testament pericopes, it is possible to define a comprehensive literary-linguistic image of the successful man, who presents the superiority of moral values over social prestige and material wealth.

The literary-linguistic image of the successful man is reconstructed by examining the motifs and symbols present in the New Testament pericopes. The literary-linguistic analysis constructs a picture of success based on man's strong relationship with God and full devotion in pursuit of God's will. In some New Testament texts, subtle differences can be discerned in the way in which the Apostles formulated their instructions on the pursuit of success; however, this depended on the individual formative aims of the author concerned. All the authors of the New Testament texts, however, emphasised the particular importance of community in achieving success in line with the teachings of Jesus Christ. The well-being of the community provides the basis for individual success. The post-humanist research perspective used in this paper has shown how biblical characters under the influence of their experiences undergo inner transformation. The combination of post-humanistic fluency with dialogical hermeneutics has broadened the interpretative possibilities of the biblical pericopes used in the analysis.

The dissertation analysed the essence of success from an interdisciplinary perspective, which made it possible to understand the complexity of the concept under study. The reference to philosophical content makes it possible to understand how certain groups of expressions reflect the moral values that build the literary and linguistic image of the successful man in the New Testament literature, this also highlights the changes taking place in the axiology of modern man. The study of specific definitions and terms related to success allows for the interpretation of biblical communicative contexts. Faith, hope and love as fundamental values paint a literary and linguistic picture of the successful man, which includes elements such as

trust or devotion and suffering, thus reversing the assumptions of modern success from power, prestige and material wealth.

An important role in the perception of the literary and linguistic image of the successful man presented in the New Testament texts is played by the Platonic philosophy shaping for many centuries the thinking of people about higher values having the character of ideas. The coincidence of Platonic considerations, which see material phenomena as a pale shadow of the spiritual, with the biblical exaltation of spiritual values above the material, inevitably leads to the conclusion that the influence of God's grace in the creation of the literary-linguistic image of the successful man is significant. The spiritual context of success thus implies a continuous improvement in following God and building a close and deep relationship with Him. The foundation of the literary-linguistic image of the successful man in the New Testament texts are the words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of St John:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch -- and withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire and are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you will get it (John 15:5).

The metaphor of the vine symbolises God as the source of success. Those who disconnect from him will fail. Abiding in union with God constitutes success and the strength to overcome difficulties in life. Jesus Christ is the icon of success depicted in the pages of the New Testament and foreshadowed since the Old Testament. The authors of the New Testament books, when describing the figure of Jesus Christ, use concepts such as these to create a comprehensive picture of his character. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, mercy, faith, humility and self-restraint appear as attributes ascribed to Jesus Christ - the literary and linguistic image of the successful man - in the biblical pericopes. They form an integral part of his being. Jesus' behaviour - full of mercy and understanding, which can be illustrated by facts such as turning the other cheek or proclaiming love for one's enemies - points to values that chart the path to spiritual success in the biblical texts. In the text of the Gospel of St Matthew, one sees a clearer emphasis than in the other evangelists on the importance of preaching love, love of peace or justice. The Sermon on the Mount presents a 'palette of colours painting' a picture of the successful man in the New Testament literature through human qualities such as purity of heart, humility, humility, faithfulness, which are pleasing in the eyes of God. The texts of St Mark's Gospel clearly emphasise the moments of Jesus' withdrawal, his seclusion necessary to build a perfect relationship with God which, according to the theological principles set out in the dogma of the Trinity, leads to the highest level

of perfect unity. In contrast to St Mark, the evangelist Luke shapes a picture of the successful man as full of compassion, understanding and willing to provide help and relief from suffering. St Luke therefore emphasises Christ's social and healing activities as the one closest to the path to success. Similar, but more faith-oriented, attributes of success are portrayed by St John in his gospel, exposing miracles and obedience in faith as markers of a person's spiritual success.

The values reflected in the literary and linguistic portrayal of the successful man in the books of the New Testament are still recognised and - despite the reign of the culture of consumerism - are building moral attitudes in a significant part of the Christian world. In many contemporary works of art inspired by New Testament texts, references can be found to the foundations of success having their origin in the Book of Books. As indicated in the various chapters of the work, many literary works, such as the Divine Comedy or Paradise Lost, refer to closeness to God as a key factor for achieving success in human life. Such a message flows unambiguously from the content of the New Testament pericopes. On the basis of the work, a proposed typology of success figures in New Testament literature consisting of three categories is proposed for use in further research:

- a) Fundamental Characters: Christ, Mary, Joseph - central, archetypal models of perfection.
- b) Witnesses and Apostles: Peter, Paul, Mary Magdalene - bearers of authority and credibility.
- c) Literary Personality Patterns from the Parables: Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son - didactic tools to illustrate Jesus' teachings.

An analysis of the literary and linguistic image of the successful man, combining literary studies with philosophy, theology and sociology, enables an understanding of the complex, multifaceted concept of success.