

# Class Structure

02/26/23

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation
- 3: *Forgiveness Vespers*
- 4: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English
- 5: Play Cross of Christ game

**1: Lords Prayer English & Greek** *(Pray with class)*

**2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**

*The Gospel for 02/19/2023*

*(Get a Student to Read) Ask who wants to read the Gospel*

## **Matthew 6:14-21** *(New King James Version)*

### **Forgiveness Sunday**

Today is known as forgiveness Sunday. Today we are suppose to forgive our neighbors as we are every day. We are reminded today, especially as a way to start lent.

In yesterday's Gospel, Matthew 6:5-13 Jesus tells us how to pray. He doesn't use parables. Jesus is direct to the point and says pray like this. Then he gives us the Lord's Prayer, which is how we should pray. The Lord's prayer says forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, which brings us to today's Gospel, Matthew 6:14-21 where 14-15, Where Jesus's words say again.

- 14** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
**15** But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Jesus is telling us to love our neighbor, just as he has said in the Gospels, since the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, which started September the first.

In this chapter, Jesus tells us directly, not once but twice, to forgive our neighbor and what will happen if we don't. He tells God the Father will not forgive us of our sins. This is why when we have a discrepancy with someone, we need to forgive our neighbor and work it out, first because it is not pleasing to God, and secondly, it jeopardizes our salvation if we do not show the love of God to our neighbors.

### **How to Fast**

- 16** “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they

have their reward.”

17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

18 “so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

In this next section, Jesus tells us how to fast. He says we must do things from our heart with love toward God, not for others to see. Fasting this way, we are keeping our focus on God constantly. When we act sad or depressed when fasting and trying to make others see us or feel bad for us, we are fasting for others, not God. We are a wolf in sheep's clothing. We miss the point of the fast trying to receive the honor for our deed, which is a form of pride. In the beginning, pride kicked the devil out of heaven.

What are other forms of pride should we be aware of so we can avoid during the fast?

- ◆ Pride a feeling that you are more important or better than other people.
- ◆ Pride the highest position or best place
- ◆ Pride is to be proud because of having (an ability, quality, etc.)

How do we counter pride?

We counter pride through humility being humble. Jesus showed us this through his actions. He was God in the flesh who was so humble that he died for us on the cross. He created the heavens and earth. He has the power to do anything, but he was humble to the point of death for our salvation out of humility for an example of how we should live. When tempted with pride, remember how Jesus showed us humility to avoid this evil action of pride.

## Trusting God Wholly

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20 “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

In this next section, Jesus told us to trust in God, not worldly things. Suppose you focus on things of this world like money, cars, job, friends, sports, etc. It's not bad, but when you put it in front of God, and it becomes more important, then you have a problem.

What are some examples of putting other things in front of God?

- ◆ Not fasting
- ◆ Not praying
- ◆ Not going to Church especially on Sundays
- ◆ Not preparing our self for church
- ◆

In this gospel, Christ shows us again precisely what he tells us in **Mark 12:30-31 30** **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”** So today, on forgiveness Sunday, let's focus on God and not the world so we can fast properly and help our neighbor throughout this lenten period.

### ***3: Forgiveness Vespers***

Explain to the class about forgiveness vespers and its tradition afterward and get the class to participate in the practice.

### ***4: Read Creed in english with Class***

***Read the 1<sup>st</sup> page Creed in class with students one time the read line by line starting on page 2 in Greek.***

### **5: Play Cross of Christ game**