

Class Structure

03/12/23

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

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

2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

The Gospel for 03/12/2023

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

Mark 2:1-12 *(New King James Version)*

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.

2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

Just in the those days when the people heard that Jesus came to their city they were excited and so many people came to see and hear him preach the word of God. This is an example of how we should be when a Bishop comes to our church to teach us about Christ. It should be packed where there is no room available.

3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

In this short little sentence, it revealed the man that was paralyzed. He was so sick he couldn't move and required the help of his fellow man around him to do anything. It also shows the belief that the four men and the paralyzed man, who had believed in Christ wholeheartedly, would do anything to get the paralyzed man in front of Christ. The reason the sentence specifically said four men and the person with paralysis was to point out that to heal our souls and bodies, we need the four gospels. We must read daily and contemplate practicing what we learn to heal our souls because the body cannot be healed, as we will see, until our soul is healed.

4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

Here we read they could not get the paralyzed man to Jesus. It took a lot of work as it takes us to acquire healing of our souls and bodies. We see the physical labor it took to dig through the roof and lower the paralyzed man. We must also work through fasting, prayer, reading the gospels, and loving our Neighbors. Just as the four men want to bring the paralytic closer to Christ, so will

these four church practices bring us closer to Christ. Where through his grace, he can heal our souls and bodies.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “**Son, your sins are forgiven.**”

It says when Jesus saw their **faith**. It shows us that sometimes we can't be healed alone. We need help from our neighbors, family, or loved ones to stay on the straight and narrow path, not to fall into sin, and not to stray from the church or gospel. We see here that the unity of our Christian family working together is what Christ responded to through his grace.

When he said **son**, your sins are forgiven. He called the paralytic man his son to show his love for this man. He didn't recognize him as a sick person but as a son, someone he loved unconditionally and had watched grow up from his youth, showing that God knows everything about us and watches over us as we would for our children. Then showing that Jesus was God, he forgave him of his sins.

This small direct powerful sentence Jesus said frustrated the teachers at that time because if he was not telling the truth, he was blaspheming God. After all, no one can forgive sins except for God. In confession, when the priest forgives a person's sin, it is not the priest who forgives the sin. It is God in the form of the father, son, and Holy Spirit that forgives sin through the confession service and prayers of the priest.

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,

7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “**Why are you thinking these things?**”

God knows our thoughts, so Jesus started by asking why are you thinking these things to prove that he was God. He didn't say what do you believe? But why are you thinking these things? Because they both knew their thoughts.

9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?

Then he asked them if it is easier to forgive sins or to heal a paralyzed person, which no one can do except for God. So to show that Jesus was the son of God God, He told him to get up, take his mat, and go home. Then the paralyzed man was healed.

10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man,

11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”

He said, "take up your mat and go home," to show that the paralytic was truly healed. The paralyzed person now had the strength to not only move a little bit but full strength that only comes from God to pick up the thing that carried him everywhere, his mat, and now he was carrying it to show the power of God through his word.

12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

The miracle was done to bring the viewers who saw this amazing miracle closer to God, so they would be more attentive or prayerful and believe with their whole hearts in Jesus Christ

As we can see, when the Bishop comes to visit, he represents Christ; He is the true teacher of the word of God. Let us be attentive and learn The holy things of the Orthodox Church, so this will motivate us to fast, increase our prayer and read the Gospels more during this Lenten season so that we may strive to accomplish the commandments of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ as stated in **Mark 12:30-31** ³⁰ which says “**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.’”**

3: *Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English*

4: *Play Cross of Christ game*