

# 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 03/19/2023*

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

**Mark 8:34-38** *(New King James Version)*

### **The Way of the Cross**

**34** Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: **“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”**

Here Christ tells us we must deny ourselves and follow him. Adam being the first man, did not restrain himself and love God first, but gave in to his passions and self-love and ate from the tree, which caused him to be kicked out of paradise. Here Christ is telling us how to get back to paradise: to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him. What is our cross? Our bodily suffering is our cross; whether physical, mental, or spiritual, anything that separates us from God is our cross because it is different for every person. Our body is in the shape of a cross and is common to all of us. Although our crosses are similar visually to each person, they are different based on our struggles. This cross that we must carry seems overwhelming to all of us. Jesus says follow me: He will be with us every step of the way, leading us and helping us through the tough times.

**35** **“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”**

In this sentence, Jesus is not telling us to lose our life as to kill ourselves. He is telling us to give up the things of this world and focus on him, the Christ. Because whoever does this will save their life, meaning save their soul so they can enter paradise from where Adam was expelled. When Christ says to follow him, it is not a burden because he is helping us to do the task. Where are we to follow him? We are to follow him everywhere. He has shown us through his actions. We are to pick up our cross, carry it, and, when we die, even follow him to heaven. Through his example is how we are to walk. He walked in humility and charity. This is the first steps we must take to follow him.

**36** **“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”**

We can not have both the things of this world and our souls for the next life equally. We must forfeit one of them. God gave us the things in this world not for us to love them more than him but to remember him through his gifts. To honor God, we must put away the things of this world, like the love of money, deceit, adultery, corruption, power, and the things that separate us from God. We need to focus on the things Christ showed us as he 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. <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’** This is our example on how to live and show God we love him.

**37** “Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

Here he tells us that nothing is more important than our souls.

**38** “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Christ calls us to be like him and follow his example. He died a shameful death but was not ashamed because he knew what would come after his crucifixion. He knew the resurrection and his ascension to heaven. Just as He focused on heavenly things when he was in this world, so should we. When faced with an awkward situation, for example, in surroundings where you may be the only Christian, keep your faith strong in Jesus and remember Jesus will not be ashamed of you when he comes in his Father's glory. What is his Father's Glory? It is when he comes to take the Christians to heaven in the last days.

## **Mark 9:1**

### **The Transfiguration of Christ**

**9** And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

This statement points to the transfiguration of Christ to come and the transfiguration within each one of us. Six days after this statement, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a high mountain by themselves, where He was transfigured, becoming exceedingly white. Christ used this instance to show us he is God and to motivate us to follow him. Through following the teachings of Jesus and prayer, one can become united with the transfigured lord, even to the point of illumination. It is up to us to turn away from the things of this world and focus on prayer and the heavenly things of God and put them into practice.

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

**4: Play Cross of Christ game**