

# **Class Structure**

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 3: Pick a Saint to talk about and Miracles**
- 4: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English**

## 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

*The Gospel for 12-17-2022*

*Ask a student who wants to read the Gospel*

Luke 14:16-24 *(New King James Version)*

### Worldly Entanglements, Poor Excuses

This Gospel, as with all, talks about many things. It shows us direct meaning from the story; it also shows us some things you need to pull out and, most importantly, how Christ wants us to live.

**16** Then He said to him, **“A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,**

In the story, who is this man, it is Christ himself. He is inviting us to his Church, which is heaven on earth, to receive the Lord's supper, his body and blood. He invited many, which is all people.

**17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’**

He sent his servants. This is everyone who follows Christ, his bishops, priest, deacons, and all the people that believe in him, to bring everyone to the Church. When it says all things are now ready, this refers to after the resurrection of Christ because he did his part to save us and sacrificed himself for us. Now it is our turn to give up some of our time to dedicate it to God and receive communion to be one with Christ. The 8th ode of communion prayer says, “Seeking refuge in your loving kindness, good Savior, I cry to you with fear; abide in me and, as you promised, let me also abide in you. For behold, trusting in your mercy, I eat your body and drink your blood.

**18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’**

Like today, all began to make excuses for not attending the great supper ( communion at Church). The land bought was probably part of Israel because the Jews were supposedly the Holy people. Here Jesus is telling us he first invited the Jews to come, but out of their greed for land and worldly things, they denied him.

**19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’**

In those times, the Jews would buy oxen to sacrifice in the temple to God, trying to follow the letter of the law, but Jesus was calling them to show them the love of the law, and they missed the point by not coming to the feast as people today miss it by not coming to Church.

**20 Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’**

Here it shows how people put others in front of God. Today people believe they know everything they need to know about God and focus on themselves and their likes instead of putting God and the Church first. Through the Church, we get closer to God, and in the end, if our goal is to go to heaven to be with God, we should start now.

**21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.*’**

When followers of Christ told him what had happened, he was upset. Jesus told his follower to go into the streets and city to invite the poor, maimed, lame, and blind. This shows us although he invited the Jews first. He invited the Gentiles as well.

**22 And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’**

**23 Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them to come in, that my house may be filled.*’**

When there was still room, Jesus told his follower to go into highways, which was the road to the rest of the world, and hedges, the outermost parts, to bring everyone to his Church.

**24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”**

Those who were invited to the Church (*heaven on earth*) and did not come will not be one with Christ. Jesus showed us in this parable how and what to do to get to heaven. In verse 16, he invites us to his Church (*heaven*) to lay aside all other things and to worship God with our whole being. He doesn't force us to go. It's our choice, as with everything; it's our free will. In verses 17 -21, he invites all people and their neighbors to come, no matter where they are from. By doing this, Jesus showed us in a parable his commandment in **Mark 12:30-31**, <sup>30</sup> **“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.’”**

**Ask questions about Gospel then explain it to the students**