



## **Introduction to class**

### **Explain the class structure**

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 3: Info on the Ecumenical Council of the week**
- 4: History / Story about a Saint**
- 5: History Answer Questions in Class**
- 6: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English**

The Gospel for 10-02-2022

## Luke 6:31-36 *(New King James Version)*

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

**31** And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

**32** “But if you **love those who love you**, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners love those who love them**.

**33** And if you **do good to those who do good to you**, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners do the same**.

**34** And if you **lend to those from whom you hope to receive back**, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners lend to sinners** to receive as much back.

**35** But **love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High**. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

**36** Therefore **be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful**.

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

In today's world, when someone does something mean to us, we are expected to do mean things back. We are taught by the world if we don't, we are weak, but on the contrary, when we express the love we are strong and are in the likeness of God. Jesus tells us, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,**’ and ‘**your neighbor as yourself.**” We must consider who we want to follow, the evil one of this world or our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus leads us by his example throughout the Bible, showing us his love to the point of dying on the cross for the salvation of our souls. In the Gospel, he points out 3 acts of being good, loving those who love you, doing good to those who do good to you, and lending to those to expect something back. The point in this Gospel is for us to do all these things expecting nothing in return because Christ did. When people take advantage of you or act toward you in a mean way, they are doing it because they want attention. Just as you can see toddlers picking on each other and creating problems for each other, so are we who are adults. The evil one tempts us to oppress others through

jealousy, pride, hate, envy .... etc., all for attention which is harmful to our souls. When someone does these things, they drift away from God, and most of the time, they do not realize it's happening. Then one day, they wake up, and they are mad at God and the whole world. Our job as Christians is to counteract this with the love of Christ because it is the only way to reverse these actions.

Once there was a man who bought a piece of land, and he was walking the border of it; he came up on his new neighbor, and he said hello, I am your new neighbor. The neighbor said back Since you bought this property, I will be suing you because I was suing the previous owner because his fence was on my property three feet. Usually, this type of interaction could create a feud for years, even generations, But the new owner told his neighbor, move the fence back as far as you want, and I will pay you for the material and labor to get it done. The neighbor was shocked and didn't know what to do. The neighbor never moved the fence, and they became best of friends through an act of love.

When people hear this example, they say that it is impossible it is just a story, but all things are possible with God. How do we bring God closer to us to love like this? Through daily struggles of carrying our cross. Each one of us has our own trials and tribulations that plague us. The way to fight them is to team up against them. With the help of a spiritual father, daily prayers, reading of the Bible daily, confession, and attending Church every Sunday, this is an excellent start to getting closer to God. When God is with us, and we can feel him, we will be able to express the love in the example above. When praying, we should pray for our enemies that God will have mercy on them. This is very hard for us since we typically demand justice, fairness, and our own rights. When we love someone, we expect to be loved in return, and we're hurt when this is not so. With the guidance and support of our spiritual father, he can lead us closer and closer to God. We all hate the errors we and others commit, but we continue to love ourselves. We need to learn to do the same with others. Jesus said, "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" To do this, we should hate the sin but love the sinner.

## Intro to the Ecumenical Councils

In the history of Christianity, the **first seven ecumenical councils** include the following:

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| 1 | the <b>First Council of Nicaea in 325</b>   |
| 2 | the <b>First Council of Constantinople in 381</b>   |
| 3 | the <b>Council of Ephesus in 431</b>  |
| 4 | the <b>Council of Chalcedon in 451</b>  |
| 5 | the <b>Second Council of Constantinople in 553</b>  |
| 6 | the <b>Third Council of Constantinople from 680–681</b>   |
|   | <b>Quinisext Council of Trullo held in 692</b> ( <i>not new but a continuation of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup></i> ) |
| 7 | the <b>Second Council of Nicaea in 787</b>  |

All of the seven councils were convened in Constantinople. (*modern-day Turkey*)

These seven events represented an attempt by **Church leaders** to reach an orthodox consensus, **restore peace and develop a unified Christendom**

## The First Council of Constantinople in 381 (*Short Facts*)

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| 1 | The <b>Second Ecumenical Council</b> took place in <b>Constantinople in 381 AD</b> ,  |
| 2 | There was a gathering of <b>150 mostly Eastern bishops</b> summoned by <b>Emperor Theodosius I</b> to confirm his earlier decree in support of <b>the doctrine of the Council of Nicaea</b>   |
| 3 | It is also known as the <b>First Council of Constantinople</b> .  |
| 4 | The heresies of <a href="#">Macedonianism</a> and <a href="#">Apollinarianism</a> , off-shoots of the <a href="#">Arian heresy</a>  |
| 5 | Expanding and adapting the <b>Nicene Creed</b> , in particular, developing the teaching upon the <b>Holy Spirit</b>   |
| 6 | Regarding the teaching of the <b>Holy Spirit</b> , the Council <b>affirmed him to be God</b> "even as the Father and Son are God: who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and together glorified." |
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## St Nicholas

Nicholas was born in the province of Lycia in the southern part of Asia Minor in the city of Patara to well-to-do parents. Having inherited his parents' estate, of a lot of money and property. He would constantly give gifts to people in need and became known for his generosity. As a youth, he made pilgrimages to Palestine and Egypt. While on his pilgrimage, he decided he did not want to leave and thought about staying as a monk, but he was visited by Christ, and he told him to go to Myra to be the light for the people, so he left. He was later consecrated Archbishop of Myra as the fourth century began. Nicholas was noted for his defense of Orthodoxy against the Arians. At The Second Ecumenical Council, there became a dispute between Arius and St Nicholas, and Nicholas slapped Arius in the face. After that, he was thrown in jail. During that time, if you hit someone in front of the emperor as clergy, you would have your hand amputated and be defrauct. During the night, while Nicholas was in jail, he was visited by the Theotokos and Christ. Christ handed him the Gospel, and the Theotokos gave him back his omoforia. That night three other bishops at The Second Ecumenical Council witnessed this in a dream. The following day Nicholas was restored to his Bishop seat and received no harm, and the Arian heresy was stopped. He died in Myra on [December 6](#) in a year uncertain, between 342 and 352.

## St Spyridon the Wonderworker

Our father among the saints Spyridon of Trimythous the Wonderworker (Greek: Σπυρίδων ca. 270-348) was a fourth century bishop who was present at the First Ecumenical Council. Spyridon was born in the village of Ashia, Cyprus (270 AD) and died in Trimythous, Cyprus. He was a peasant farmer and shepherd and was not educated. Spyridon was married and had a daughter, Irene. After his wife died, he and his daughter both entered into monasticism. He later became the Bishop of Trimythous (during the reign of Constantine the Great) and continued in piety for which he was greatly known.

Through simplicity and deep devotion to God, he worked miracles throughout his life and became known as a great wonder-worker, calling forth rain in the midst of drought, casting out demons with a single word, healing the sick and even raising people from the dead, in addition to having the gift of knowing something before it takes place.

During The Second Ecumenical Council, a lot of people had trouble understanding how one God in three persons could exist, it was above their imagination. While discussing the revelation of God as we understand it, St Spyridon showed an example. He picked up a

brick and held it in his hand and said in the name of the Father and fire came out of the brick, in the name of Son and sand came out, and in the name of the Holy Spirit water poured out of the brick. Just as this is one brick there is one God, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. After this miracle everyone understood God's revelation that he showed us.

When he arrived back home from Nicea a woman told him that she had given his daughter, who had died while he was away, some jewelry for safekeeping. Now that his daughter was dead, no one could find where she had put them. Spyridon went to his daughter's grave, spoke to her, and was able to restore the jewelry to its owner.

During a famine Spyridon changed a snake into gold pieces so that a poor man could buy food from a greedy merchant who had cornered the supply.

One day there was only himself and the deacon and readers in church at vespers, and the responses could be heard beautifully chanted by an unseen choir. The music was so beautiful that others, passing by, heard it and saw through the windows what seemed like a large congregation. Entering the church, however, they found only St. Spyridon and his assistants.

Today he still does miracles all over the world so much so that his shoes wear out every year on his corpse and need to be replaced. All you have to do is look up miracles of St. Spyridon on the internet to see how many are still being reported today.

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**Say The Creed as an exiting prayer with the class Eng & Greek**

Saints Holy People Bishops

To love your enemy is to give them God

Miracles in Christ

Talk about baptism

People act out for attention does for attention

He does evil to himself and withdraws himself from God

pray to god for him

They need love

Christ has demonstrated for us and calls us to a self-sacrificial love which serves as a means of casting aside our sinful nature and acquiring the Holy Spirit.

Our attention must remain fixed on our 'doing unto others'... showing compassion and Christian love. Whether or not others ever 'do unto us' in return is irrelevant.