



Class Structure

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation
- 3: Story about a Saint
- 4: Answer Questions in Class
- 5: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English
- 6: Left out the ecumenical councils to catch up from last week

The Gospel for 10-16-2022

Luke 8:5-15 *(New King James Version)*

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

5 “A **sower** went out to **sow his seed**. And as he sowed, **some fell by the wayside**; and it was **trampled down, and the birds** of the air **devoured it**.

6 **Some fell on rock**; and as soon as it **sprang up, it withered away** because it lacked moisture.

7 And **some fell among thorns**, and the **thorns sprang up with it and choked it**.

8 But others **fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.**” When He had said these things He cried, “**He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**”

The Purpose of Parables

9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “**What does this parable mean?**”

10 And He said, “**To you** it has been given to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of God**, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that “**Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.**”

The Parable of the Sower Explained

11 “Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**

12 **Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts**, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 But the **ones on the rock** are those who, when **they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.**

14 Now the **ones that fell among thorns** are those who, when they have **heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.**

15 But the **ones that fell on the good ground** are those who, **having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.**

The sower was Jesus which was the word of God, and he threw out seeds everywhere for everyone equally. That seed was the gospel. It landed on the ground of different people's hearts. Just like a farmer's land is not always in perfect shape for fruit to grow. So is the land, which the seeds from Christ fell and landed on our hearts, which is the same as farmers land. The land comes in four different forms, according to this parable. It is shown to us to fall by the wayside, it falls on rocky ground, it falls on thorny ground, and it also falls on good ground to symbolize the four types of people in the world. Three out of four of these people do not enter the kingdom of heaven; only one does and that is the one on good ground, which we should strive to be.

Some seeds were thrown on the wayside. Resemble when a person hears the word of God and like the birds of the air come and steal the seed from the Wayside, so do the demons come and snatch the word of God from that person's heart, and when the word is kept from their heart, they are also kept from God.

Some of the seeds are thrown on rocky ground. This resembles when a person hears the word of God and as rocks lack to hold the water, so does their heart lack to hold the water of the gospel. Their soul becomes dried up, lacks moisture, lacks the word of God, and becomes in want of something but don't know what it is.

Some of the seeds are thrown on thorny ground. That person, God, his commandments, and his knowledge are choked out of them. This happens because they turn from God to their passions, cares of this world, riches, pride, ambitions, sports, and whatever is keeping them from God. The thorny person is a difficult person to recognize because they can seem to be a Christian on the outside and do all the things like go to church, pray, have families, give alms, etc., but they do not have Christ in their hearts, and that becomes the downfall for them.

Some of the seeds fell on good ground. These people sprang up to be the Saints 30, 60 100 fold. Each producing according to what ground the seed fell on. If we are the ground and the word of God is the seed to become like saints, we must tend our souls (soil). The soil doesn't automatically become good; it is tended after being worked on constantly to make good soil. Just as a farmer works his soil, weeds it, gets the rocks out, and turns it so he can plant seeds to grow good fruit. We must do the same, so we can become Saints.

I know some of you are thinking, I can never be a saint; I don't have this or that quality. Our job is to tend the soil like the farmer. Make sure our seeds are in good ground. If they fall by the wayside, or on rocks or thorns, our job is to repent, get in the dirt, and revive it. Our goal in tending our soil is to grow closer to God, to "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." Luke 10:27 Don't try to judge your self or others; just have compassion on your neighbor and tend your soil. This means we need to till it to make the dirt usable, put a fence around it to protect it from animals (demons and the world), water it, and nurture it so when it produces fruit (a saint), it won't be choked out by the wayside, rocks, and thorns of this world, but produce fruit (a saint) for God.

Ask students questions how can we tend our soil. (get input from at least 3 kids or more

How do we show God we love him? (ask the Class)

St Iakovos Tsalikis (Photo Miracle)

Saint appeared 11 months after his death in a photo above from a journal.

Deacon went to see him in Oct 1992 but he reposed 11/21/1991

Give details about the picture. Need 15 feet of space to take the picture (Tell this story to the class)

Tell the story about his mom and the bread. (Tell this story to the class)

Tell the story about the angels in the altar on the small entrance. (Tell this story to the class)

“Saint Iakovos Tsalikis of Euboea (+1992) was born in 1920 in Livisi, Asia Minor into a pious and poor family. When he was **eight years old St. Parasceva appeared to him** and continued to appear and converse with him frequently. While still in the world he fasted strictly and nurtured the thought of becoming a monastic. He wanted to go to a monastery in the Holy Land, but first went to a local monastery dedicated to St. David to pray about it. On the way **St. David himself appeared to him and invited him to stay in his monastery.** Iakovos was tonsured and then **ordained a priest in 1952.** St. David’s relics began to pour forth miracles and Fr. Iakovos’ great love and zeal for God brought about a spiritual revival in the St. David Monastery and the surrounding countryside. Fr. Iakovos’ life bore an ascetic character almost unheard of in these times. The other world was as real to him as this one **demons attacked him physically, and angels and saints appeared to him and strengthened him** in his self-sacrificing labors for God and neighbor.” [Source: St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood 2004 Calendar, slightly edited]

The information below came from this webpage -> <https://orthochristian.com/108671.html>

ELDER IAKOVOS (TSALIKIS) OF EVIA CANONIZED BY CONSTANTINOPLE

Constantinople, November 27, 2017

According to exclusive information from the Greek-language Orthodox site [Romfea](#), the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate resolved today to officially number the blessed Elder Iakovos (Tsalikis) of Evia among the saints of God.

The meeting was chaired by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

St. Porphyrios said of the late Elder Iakovos, “Mark my words. He’s one of the most far-sighted people of our time, but he hides it to avoid being praised.”

He lived for the Divine Liturgy, which he celebrated every day, with fear and trembling, dedicated and, literally, elevated. Young children and those with pure hearts saw him walking above the floor, or being served by holy angels. As he himself told a few people, he served together with Cherubim, Seraphim and the saints. During the Preparation, he saw angels of the Lord taking the portions of those being remembered and placing them before the throne of Christ, as prayers. When, because of health problems he felt weak, he would pray before the start of the Divine Liturgy and say, “Lord, as a man I can’t, but help me to celebrate.” After that, he said, he celebrated “as if he had wings.”



He was a wonderful spiritual guide, and through his counsel thousands of people returned to the path of Christ. He loved his children more than himself. It was during confession that you really appreciated his sanctity. He never offended or saddened anyone. He was justly known as “Elder Iakovos the sweet.”

He always had the remembrance of death and of the coming judgement. Indeed, he foresaw his death. He asked an Athonite hierodeacon whom he had confessed on the morning of November 21, the last day of his earthly life, to remain at the monastery until the afternoon, in order to dress him. While he was confessing, he stood up and said, “Get up, son. The Mother of God, St. David, St. John the Russian and St. Iakovos have just come into the cell.” “What are they here for, Elder?” “To take me, son.” At that very moment, his knees gave way and he collapsed. As he’d foretold, he departed “like a little bird.” With a breath like that of a bird, he departed this world on the day of the Entry of the Mother of God. He made his own entry into the kingdom of God. It was 4:17 in the afternoon.

His body remained supple and warm, and the shout which escaped the lips of thousands of people: “Saint! You’re a saint,” bore witness to the feelings of the faithful concerning the late Elder Iakovos. Now, after his blessed demise, he intercedes for everyone at the throne of God, with special and exceptional confidence. Hundreds of the faithful can confirm that he’s been a benefactor to them.

The memory of **Elder Iakovos** will be celebrated on *November 22 according to the New Calendar*.

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