

Class Structure

02/19/23

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

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

2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

The Gospel for 02/19/2023

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

Matthew 25:31-46 *(New King James Version)*

The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on **the throne of His glory.**

Here Jesus says he will come with all the holly angels sitting on the throne of glory. He told us in the past few gospel readings about repentance and humility. Here we are taught to apply it through philanthropy.

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

Jesus will separate the sheep being good from the goats being evil.

33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

He will put the good or the obedient on the right and the bad or the disobedient on the left, not for some people but **all people in the world** and since the beginning of Adam and Eve. When Jesus comes, every knee will bow before him and confess he is Lord. Now is the time we must confess to Him. After He separates us and we are banished to hell, it is too late for confession. While we have the Church that Christ gave us and the sacrament of confession, we need to apply it with repentance. The beauty of confession is when the priest hears our confession with true repentance, Christ forgives us of those sins, and we can focus on following Christ's teachings and examples.

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

The ones on the right will be the good people who followed God's word and did what He taught us. In this Gospel, he says that if we do not love our brother, we will go to hell. He doesn't hide it in a parable but tells us to love our neighbor.

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?'

38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?'

39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

These examples, when done to your neighbor, are done to Christ. This is why Christ taught about philanthropy and mercy throughout the bible, but here he stresses the importance of it and tells us directly what will happen if we don't do it. All the saints you find in Orthodoxy have the traits of philanthropy and mercy. You can see this in their lives and how they lived. Some examples are St Basil, St Chrysostom, St Nektarios, St Paisaos, St Nicholas, and many more.

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Those on the left were the goats, and He said go to Hell because you followed the devil's evil ways and not what I taught you.

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

How many of us see a dog on the street shriveled up and hungry and thirsty, and we feed it and give it water, but we cannot see Christ in our neighbor and feed him or give him water. Let's remember this when we see someone in need. Let's go out of our way to help our neighbor to help Christ, not because he will judge us one day but because we genuinely love our neighbor as Christ loves us.

43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

What were the 6 things Christ said we must do to be put on his right side.

1: feed the hungry

2: give drink to the thirsty

3: welcome the strangers

4: cloth the naked

5: visit the sick

6: visit those in prison

In this gospel, Christ has identified one of these six things with everyone in this world. So when he says in **Mark 12:30-31** **30 “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.”** Our neighbor is everyone and Christ at the same time. So from this time forward, when we see our neighbor, we must see Christ in them and treat them with respect for Christ and help them if we can. If God is known as love and we get love from God, we need to return it to him through people in need to give it back to God.

3: *Read Creed in english with Class*

4: *Read the 1st page Creed in class with students one time the read line by line starting on page 2 in Greek.*