



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

29 Nov – 5 Dec, 2020

God is Mercy

**'The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in mercy' Psalm 103:38**

God is Mercy

- † **The disciples of Christ live in continuous repentance. They can never be condemned for their sins, since Christ took care of them on the Cross. He took the punishment, just as the repentant criminal on the Cross did not undergo judgment for his sins *(Lk 23:39-43)***
- † **The disciples of Christ are disciplined since our relationship with God is a Father – child relationship**

Mercy and Justice

- † ***'Neither is God's mercy without judgment, nor is His judgment without mercy' Saint Basil the Great***
- † **Christ treats penitent hearts with justice and mercy, whereas the heart that blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, the unrepentant heart, will be judged with justice only *(Mt 12:31-32)***

Chastisement of a Father *(Heb 12:4-17)*

- † **The Lord relates to humankind in many different ways; He is the Creator, the Sovereign, the Shepherd, and He is our Father**
- † **The Lord, our Heavenly Father, chastises which means corrects and disciplines severely. *'I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men' 2 Sam 7:14***
- † **The Lord is love and His discipline is love. *'God chastises out of love and affection, because He perceives that if He leaves us unchastised, we shall bring upon ourselves misery ten thousand-fold greater than we shall***

suffer by His slight rebukes, and the gentle blows of His hand' C H Spurgeon

- † Fear not His discipline. *'When you perceive that God is chastening you, fly not to His enemies...but to His friends, the martyrs, the saints, and those who were pleasing to Him, and who have great power in God' Saint John Chrysostom*

God's discipline is for our salvation

- † To protect them, God sent Adam and Eve out of paradise and He guarded the Tree of Life by the Cherubim
- † He chastens us so that we may be partakers in His holiness. *'Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty' Job 5:17*
- † His discipline reveals Him. It has no evil in it. It is pure love leading us to Him

So let us seek the Lord's wisdom and will in His chastening

- † *'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him' Heb 12:5*
- † Saint Paul endured the chastening of the Lord and did not consider it destructive when he got blind on the way to Damascus (*Acts 9:1-11*)
- † God is love. He loved the rich man and that is why He asked him to sell everything and give it to the poor. But the rich man lost both earth and Heaven when he despised the discipline of the Lord
- † When God rebuked King David, He gave him 3 options to choose from. *'And David said to Gad [the prophet], 'I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man' 2 Sm 24:14*
- † Jonah despised God's discipline for the people of Nineveh because Jonah knew God is love and mercy and He will save the people (*Jn 1-4*)

Bibliography

Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'He [God] chastens us for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness' Hebrews 12:10b

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ The Father disciplines me

My reaction

✝ Am I holding on to His discipline?

✝ Am I thanking Him for being my Father?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

During this coming week, we will the Maronite church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس إسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
لتنك مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
وأغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن خطئ إلينا
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد
إلى أبد الأبد
أمين

قانون الايمان نؤمن بالله واحد
آب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الآب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساو للآب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الله الآب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
ونؤمن بالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الآب والابن
الذي هو مع الآب والابن
يُسجد له ويُمجّد
لناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة في الدهر الآتي
أمين