

# St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Kansas City

2018 LENTEN STUDY SERIES

“THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT:  
THIRTY STEPS TO HEAVEN”

Week 4 – March 14, 2018



# Prayer Before Studying the Scriptures

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of our hearts, that we may hear Your word, and understand and do Your will. Hide not Your commandments from us, but open our eyes, that we may perceive the wonders of Your law. Speak unto us, the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom. We set our hope on You. O God, enlighten our mind and understanding, with the light of Your knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them. We offer praise and thanksgiving to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, now, always and forever. Amen.



## Recap - Weeks 1 to 3

“The Break with the World”

First Step to Heaven = Renunciation  
Second Step to Heaven = Detachment  
Third Step to Heaven = Exile



# Reflect on the following word:

## Obedience

- To a person/leader
- To follow
- Done out of love/fear
- Requires Sacrifice
- Discipline/Submission

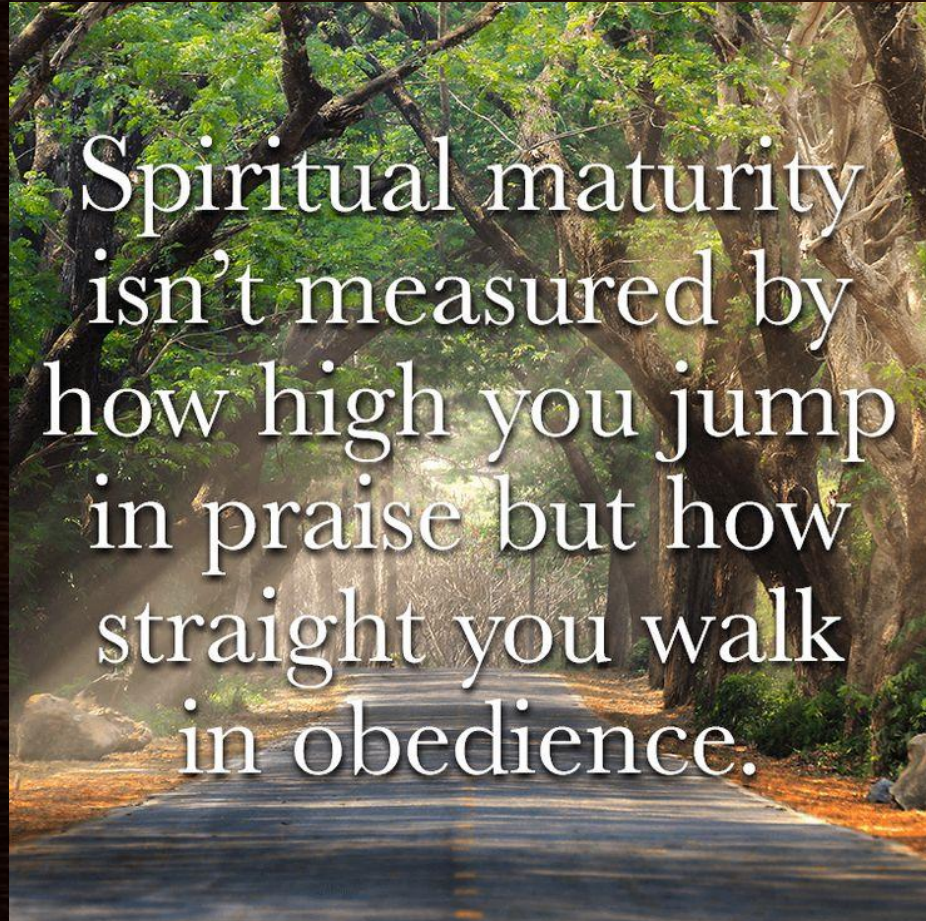
### Relationships where see examples of obedience:

- Manager/Employee
- Parent/Child
- Teacher/Student
- God/Us
- Husband/Wife
- Commander/Soldier
- King/Servant
- Siblings
- Priest/Parishioners
- Government/Citizens
- Jesus/Disciples

When there is obedience in the above relationships, There is benefit to both for a common good. There is also a sense of order.



# Reflection Image



Consider the image and reflect on what comes to mind

-Jumping can indicate an upward downward movement with no progress in position

-Walking indicates ACTION that is continuous and where progress can be seen

-Walking requires discipline, vigilance and persistence.



## Passages for Reflection

### 1) Acts 5:29-31

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”



## Passages for Reflection

### 2) Hebrews 11:7

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.



# Passages for Reflection

## 3) St. Matthew 7:21

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.



# This Week...

- Re-read the passages we discussed today and continue to reflect on Christ's teaching and words on how to **live in obedience**.
- Each day this week, reflect deeper on the relationships we have and where **obedience** can be practiced?