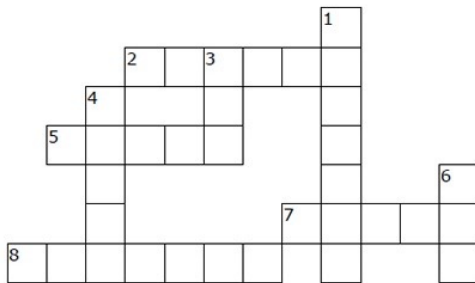


ST. JAMES OF NISIBIS

On the Saturday before the fourth Sunday of Advent, St. James of Nisibis is remembered in the Armenian Church. St. James of Nisibis was beloved and prominent saint not only to the Syriac Church but also to the Armenians. He was born, raised, worked and died in the city of Nisibis which is today is known as Nusbyien a city in south eastern Turkey.

The life of St James is filled with incidents of miracles, which simply witnesses the fact of the broad popularity of this spiritual leader. He had been a disciple of the hermit Maroukeh and he in turn had been a teacher of St. Ephraem the Syrian, a great patristic writer. He was present in AD 325 at the Council of Nicaea where, according to tradition, he enjoyed great respect from the Emperor Constantine and the attendees of the council. He became one of the great champions of the orthodoxy of the Christian Church against Arius and Arianism, which were condemned at the Council of Nicaea. Two or three times he saved his city from Persian invasion with his prayers. Although subjected to persecutions and tortures prior to becoming a cleric during the persecution of Maximianos nevertheless he died peacefully at an old age in AD 338. His relics of which there are many, were taken to Constantinople in AD 970 and were of great honor in the imperial city.

FORGIVENESS CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. A statement given in reply to a question
5. The number that is equal to six plus one
7. The Son of God
8. To pardon someone for doing something wrong

DOWN

1. A male with the same parents as someone else
3. To break God's law
4. A fisherman who became one of Jesus' disciples
6. To seek an answer to a question

SEVEN	ASK	PETER	JESUS
BROTHER	FORGIVE	ANSWER	SIN

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.



Forgiveness

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Gospel Reading: Luke 17:1-10

When someone hurts you and comes, asking for forgiveness, saying he or she is sorry, usually we forgive them. When they do it a second time, we may be afraid to forgive them again, but maybe we do. But when they do it again and again and again and every time come and say they are sorry, what are we supposed to do then?

Jesus tells his disciples that if someone sins against them and asks for forgiveness, they must forgive them. This sounds strange to us, especially if we know that someone is just going to come back and hurt us, but this is not what Jesus is saying.

There are three important things to understand in this passage (Luke 17:3-4). First, When Jesus says if a brother sins or hurts you seven times, He does not necessarily mean doing the same sin seven times. That, naturally, would be silly for us to think we should forgive someone for purposely hurting us. Rather, if someone accidentally or purposefully hurts us we must be ready to forgive them if they ask for it.

Second, the words Jesus uses is "repent". This is a tricky word today, but in Greek and also in Armenian, it has the meaning of changing our minds and lifestyles. That is to say, if someone hurts you and comes asking for forgiveness, with the intent of changing how they act, we must forgive them (or better said, we must give them a chance to change).

Third, this does not mean we only have to forgive people seven times and the eighth time no more forgiveness. Rather, seven was and is a holy number and shows completion. This means that every time someone comes apologizing and being willing to change, we must give them the chance to change and be a better person.

ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

ապաշխարութիւն => ab-ash-kha-roo-tyoon => repentance

Եդիր ի վերայ նորա **ապաշխարութիւն** փրկութեան:

Yeteer ee vera nora **abashkharootyoon** prgootyan.

[You] have laid upon him **repentance** to salvation.

(An example is on page 14 in the Liturgy Book)

FORGIVENESS DECODER

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	B	U	M	Y	J	E	L	F	P	S	G	V	K	C	D	Q	T	X	I	N	O	R	A	H	Z

- 11-20-21 _____
- 9-22-23-12-20-13-7 _____
- 24-11-14 _____
- 24-21-11-1-7-23 _____
- 10-7-18-7-23 _____
- 2-23-22-18-25-7-23 _____
- 11-7-13-7-21 _____
- 6-7-11-3-11 _____

FORGIVE
BROTHER

SIN
ASK

JESUS
ANSWER

SEVEN
PETER

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

True love is loving those people who have done nothing to earn our love; just as God loved us, even though we had done nothing to earn His love.



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“And if he sins against you seven times and seven times turns to you and says, ‘I repent (I’m sorry), you shall forgive him.”

Luke 17:4

«Եւ եթէ եօթն անգամ մեղիցէ քեզ, եւ եօթն անգամ դարձի ի քեզ եւ ասիցէ. Ապաշխարեմ, թողցես նմա:»

Ղուկաս ԺԷ.4