

Lesson Seven –The Saving Mission of Jesus (Chapter 8)

- *Last week we learned about the Incarnation, heresies, and the Virgin Mary.*
- *Today we will learn about the Saving Mission of Jesus Christ and His role.*

Review of Last Week's Lesson

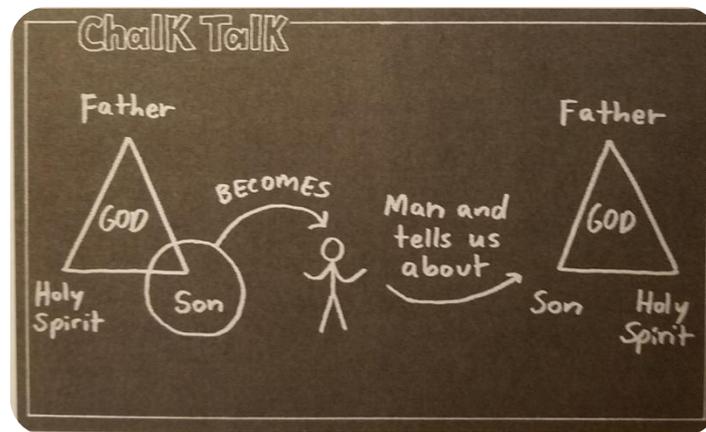
- **Incarnation means** → The Word made flesh or that the Son of God, being God, took to Himself a human nature, that is, a body and soul like ours. Jesus Christ is True Man and True God! → **Hypostatic Union!**
- Jesus became the incarnation through the Virgin Mary.
- Mary was born without the stain of original sin → **The Immaculate Conception.** Most protestants no longer believe this.
- The Church has always taught that Mary was an ever Virgin.
- Jesus' public life began with his Baptism in the Jordan River by Saint John the Baptist.
- Jesus referred to Himself as "I AM" → GOD!
- From the very start of Christianity **heresies** or errors about the incarnation have been taught by various people. Two early heresies were:
 1. **Docetism** was the first heresy. It taught that Jesus was not human only that he seemed to be human and that God being greater than man would not take a human form.
 2. **Arianism** was started by a priest who taught that Jesus was not the same substance as the Father. Arians believe that Jesus was a great messiah, but that he was not God.
- The early Church called together its first Church Council the Council of Nicea (325AD)
- The Nicene Creed came about as a result of the Arian Heresy!

- Jesus is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are:
 1. **The Father**
 2. **The Son**
 3. **and the Holy Spirit**
- The Three Persons of the Holy Spirit are distinct from one another, but yet they are three in one. For example: the Father and the Holy Spirit while being God did not die on the cross for us. This was done by Jesus.
- Believe in the Trinity through FAITH. Our reason cannot fully understand this.
- Recall that in Genesis God says “let us make man in our image”. → Holy Trinity
- Saint Athanasius’ Creed describes the Nature of the Trinity perfectly.
- **THE ATHANASIAN CREED (296-373AD)** → One of the three approved creeds.

“For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. For such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, the Holy Ghost uncreate; the Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet, there are not three eternal, but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated, nor three incomprehensibles; but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet there are not three Almighty, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet there are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise, the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Ghost is Lord. And yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord. For, as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord; so we are forbidden by the Catholic religion to say there be three Gods or three Lords.”

1. Jesus and the Father

- God the Father sent his only Son into the world for our salvation.
- Jesus often spoke of his Love for the Father and His oneness with the Father.
- Jesus did everything out of Love for the Father and in obedience to His will.



2. Prophet (teacher), Priest, and King

- The Father sent Jesus to be His greatest Prophet, Priest, and King.
- This is called His Triple Office.
- Role of a Phophet:
 - Jesus

Apologetics – Protestants Objections and Errors about Mary

Objection: *The Immaculate Conception*

- Most if not all Protestants think that Mary was a sinner and deny the **Immaculate Conception**.
- As Catholics we believe that Mary was immaculately conceived without sin → The “**Immaculate Conception**”.
- Most protestants think this term refers to Jesus!
- They often quote the Bible especially Romans 3 :9-12 & 3:23 “all have sinned” & “none is righteous” and say that Mary couldn’t have been born free from sin and that believing so is against scripture. Is it? No!
- Paul is quoting the Old Testament here (Psalms 14:3 - “They have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good, no, not one.”).
- What about children? They have not committed personal sin.
- God created Eve who brought sin into this world and she was born without original sin → Since Mary is greater than Eve and since she gave birth to Jesus it is reasonable and correct to believe that Mary was not subject to original sin and that she did not commit any personal sins.
- “It is a sweet and pious belief that the infusion of Mary's soul was effected **without original sin**; so that in the very infusion of her soul she was also **purified from original sin** and adorned with God's gifts, receiving a pure soul infused by God; thus from the first moment she began to live **she was free from all sin**” (*Sermon: "On the Day of the Conception of the Mother of God," 1527*). → Written by Martin Luther the first reformer!
- The first reformers all believed Mary was immaculately conceived without sin. Protestants seem to forget history on this one!

- This belief was dropped because it was to Catholic!
- "And Mary said, '**My soul magnifies the Lord**, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, **henceforth all generations will call me blessed**; for **he who is mighty has done great things for me**, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Objection: *Mary was not an ever Virgin and she had other children after Jesus.*

- Mark 6:3 says, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses, and Judas and Simon, and are not His sisters here with us?" Protestants say "see Jesus had brothers so Mary was not an ever virgin. Not so fast!
- "And he (Jesus) appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons: Simon whom he surnamed Peter; **James the son of Zeb'edee** and **John the brother of James**, (Mark 4:14-19) **If either James here is the blood brother of Jesus and son of Mary then James should be the son of Joseph in this passage.**
- We need to realize a few things here about these "brothers and sisters": There was no word for cousin, or for nephew or niece, or for aunt or uncle in ancient Hebrew or Aramaic - the words that the Jews used in all those instances were "brother" or "sister". An example of this can be seen in Gen 14:14, where Lot, who was Abraham's nephew, is called his brother.
- "And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother." (Matt 12:49-50)
- "It is an article of faith that Mary is Mother of the Lord **and still a Virgin.**" (*Martin Luther, op. cit., Volume 11, 319-320*). → **Martin Luther**

Objection: *Catholics worship Mary*

- Catholics do not worship the saints, angels, or Mary. When we "pray" to them, we are simply asking them to pray to God for us. When Catholics use the word "pray" in the context of intercessory prayer we are using the word in a manner which means "to ask". The saints, angles, and Mary are all fully alive in heaven and they are part of our heavenly family. Catholics believe that God allows those in Heaven to hear our petitions to them. No Catholic prayer to the saints, angles, or Mary ever treats them as divine or equates them with being equal to God.
- Moses, Abraham, Job are examples of mediation and intercession between God and man; praying for one another here on earth is an example of mediating and interceding between God and man.
- All Protestants ask other people to pray for them. This no different than when we ask Mary or any other Saint to pray for us.
- Mary and the Saints are alive in Heaven and can hear our prayers.
- All of our prayers go to Jesus!

VIDEO – What does it mean that God is triune? (3MC – DVD #1 – Part 16)

Class Questions:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Church has always taught that Mary was conceived without_____. 2. Mary was _____conceived. 3. What does the term “incarnation mean? 4. Docetism and Arianism are both_____. 5. Jesus is the _____ person of the Trinity. | <p>Original Sin
Immaculately
God became man.
Heresies
Second.</p> |
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Next Week: The Saving Mission and Priesthood of Christ