

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.*
- [Pray a decade of the Rosary – The Glorious Mysteries](#)
- [Apostles Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's, 1 Glory Be, 1st Mystery \(The Resurrection\), Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, 1 Glory Be](#)

Review of Last Week's Lesson

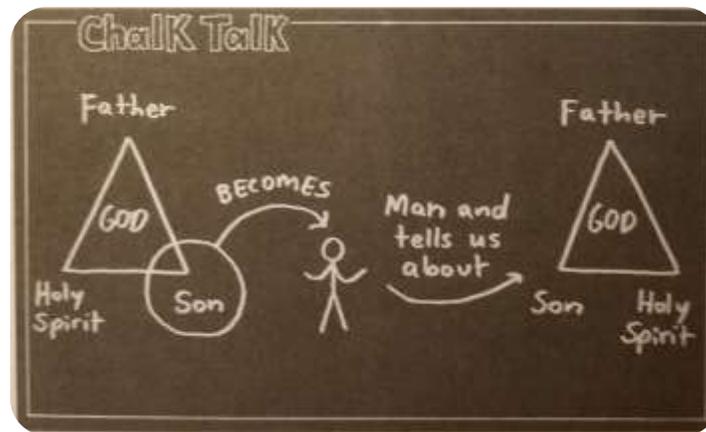
- **Incarnation means** → The Word made flesh or that the Son of God, being God, took to Himself a human nature, that is, a body and soul like ours. Jesus Christ is True Man and True God! → **Hypostatic Union!**
- Jesus became the incarnation through the Virgin Mary.
- Mary was born without the stain 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:
 - **The Father, The Son, 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 Almighties, 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 Prophet:**
 - What would Jesus teach as a prophet?
 - The Good News → How to get to Heaven!
 - Jesus taught his followers especially his Apostles.
 - Jesus continues to teach us today through the Magisterium.

- **Magisterium** → Teaching office or authority in the church exercised by the Pope and the Bishops united with him. All Christians are obliged to obey the teaching of the Church because they come from Jesus and not man.
 - "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven'" (Matt. 16:18-19).
 - Jesus later gave the other apostles the same authority, however Peter was to be their leader → Pope or head Bishop!
- **VIDEO – What is the structure of the Church? (3MC – DVD #2 – Part 55)**
 - Through baptism and confirmation we are called to share our faith with others!
 - Without baptism we cannot be guided by the Holy Spirit. Through confirmation the faithful are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened in their Christian life.
- **Role of a Priest**
 - Jesus is our one true priest whose sacrifice on the cross gave us the gift sanctifying grace.
 - Jesus offered Himself as the only true and worthy sacrifice to the Father.
 - Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb God promised Abraham he would send.
 - In order to give us grace Jesus gave His Church (lead by His Apostles) the **7 sacraments**.
 - Baptism, Confirmation, The Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation/Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.
 - We share in Jesus' priesthood in what we call "the common priesthood". We do this by attending mass, praying, spreading the faith, and by making good acts of faith, hope and love.
 - Priests share in the "ministerial priesthood" by dispensing the sacraments of the Church.

- **Role of a King**

- To be a King one must have a kingdom. → Jesus' Kingdom is in Heaven!
- "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his **kingdom there will be no end.**" (Luke 1:32-33)
- The Jews thought that the messiah would be a ruler or king in this world not the next.
- "Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." (John 18:36-37).
- Again..... if we want to be in God's kingdom (Heaven) what must we avoid? → SIN!

Lesson Seven cont. – The Priesthood of Jesus (Chapter 9)

1. Offering Sacrifices to God

- Offering sacrifices has been part of God's salvation plan since the days of Cain & Abel.
- God looks at what is being sacrificed but also at the heart and soul of the one making the sacrifice.
- A sacrifice is an act of worship which has four ends:
 - 1) Adoration
 - 2) Thanksgiving
 - 2) Contrition
 - 4) Supplication

- Every sacrifice must have a priest, a victim, and an altar.
 - Priest → offers up a sacrifice. In the OT (Old Testament) a priest was selected by God.
 - Victim → something to be offered. Example: Lamb, bread, dove, grain, etc.
 - Altar → somewhere to offer a sacrifice. In the OT the Altars were located in the Temple.

2. Jesus our High Priest

- All of the Jewish sacrifices were a preparation for the one perfect sacrifice. → Jesus!
- Jesus is called out high priest because he is the greatest Priest of God.
 - Jesus was sinless
 - He was the Son of God
- Other priests were imperfect and the sacrifices imperfect to.

3. Jesus our Sinless Victim

- Besides being the Priest Jesus was also the sacrifice.
- Jesus' altar or place of offering was the table at the Last Supper and the Cross on Calvary.
 - Two places: one priest (Jesus), one victim (Jesus), and one sacrifice.
- At the Last Supper Jesus offered Himself to the Father under the appearances of Bread and Wine. Jesus changed these into Himself with the words: " This is my Body" and this is the "Chalice of my Blood".
- On Mount Calvary the same sacrifice was made to the Father except this time it was a painful and bloody sacrifice.
- By His death Jesus offered up the only true and perfect sacrifice for sin.
- Unlike the animal and other sacrifices which had been offered before this sacrifice worked! It reconciled us to the Father!

- How can we be sure that the sacrifice worked? → Jesus was resurrected which showed that we had been freed from death and its cause sin!
- During every Mass the Priest offers up the same unbloody sacrifice of Jesus to the Father. It's not a new sacrifice but the very same one Jesus offered up during the Last Supper and on the Cross.

4. Jesus as our One Mediator

- Besides the offering of sacrifices the priest has the duty of praying for his people and asking God to look upon their offerings and forgive them their sins. This is called **mediation**. The priest was acting as a go between or mediator.
- As both God and Man Jesus is our one perfect mediator.
- Jesus bore the wounds of the Crucifixion for our sin and offered them to the Father for our sins.
- Protestants often accuse Catholics of having more than one mediator because we pray to Mary and the Saints asking them to pray for us on our behalf. Again, when we do this we are not trying to bypass Jesus as our sole mediator any more than when a protestant asks someone else to pray for them. It's the same thing except our prayers are going to a Saint who is already in Heaven and sees Jesus face to face.
- **[VIDEO – Why do Catholics call on the Saints? \(3MC – DVD #2 – Part 59\)](#)**

5. A Priest Like Melchizedek

- Christ's priesthood is foretold in the Old Testament in Psalms 110:4 which reads: The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchiz'edek."
- Melchizedek was a King and priest of Salem (Jerusalem) who offered Bread & Wine in sacrifice to God.
- Sound familiar!

Apologetics – Protestants Objections About Church Authority & the Eucharist

Objection: *The Bible is the Sole Authority*

- Belief first taught by Martin Luther during the reformation.
- Protestants reject the authority of the Catholic Church and believe that Christ established an **invisible church** which is made up of various churches all teaching different versions of the truth. Protestants also believe that we are each guided by our own personal interpretation of the Bible. This explains the thousands of different doctrines which are taught in non-catholic churches. These beliefs all stem back to the reformation. It is clear from scripture and sacred tradition that Jesus Christ established a Church with visible and invisible parts. This Church is infallibly guided by the Holy Spirit through the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Catholic's believe that the Pope is the visible head of the Church and that his authority to guide the Church is the same authority given to Peter by Christ to lead his Church. It is this authority that has been passed on for 2000 years through the laying on of hands that still exists in the Catholic Church today.
- By rejecting the authority of the Catholic Church they are unknowingly throwing out the baby with the bath water. → Without the Catholic Church they do not have the Bible.
- “And the **twelve summoned the body of the disciples** and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, **whom we may appoint to this duty**.These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:2-7)

- “I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.” (1Cor 1:10) → No two protestant denominations agree exactly with each other yet they claim to be Bible based.

Objection: *The Eucharist is just symbolic*

- The Catholic Church teaches that the Holy Eucharist (under the appearance of bread & wine) is the real body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. This belief is an **unchangeable Dogma of the Catholic Church**. How this divine "process" of transubstantiation occurs is one of the great mysteries of the Catholic Faith. It is something that cannot truly be comprehended by the human mind. Catholics accept this belief through Faith.
- "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died". (1 Cor. 11:27-30). **Sounds like pretty harsh words if communion is just a symbol as some believe. This verse also backs up the Catholic teachings that we should not receive the Eucharist if we are in a state of mortal sin or if we do not believe everything which the Church teaches.**
- Nowhere does scripture state that what Jesus is saying about his body and blood is to be taken symbolically. In fact it states the opposite of that.

[VIDEO – What is the structure of the Church? \(3MC – DVD #2 – Part 55\)](#)

Class Questions:

1. Catholics obtain God's grace by receiving the_____.
2. The teaching office of the Church is called the _____.
3. The _____ is the visible head of the Catholic Church.
4. True or False. At every mass Catholics offer up a new sacrifice of Jesus to the Father.
5. God the Father sent Jesus to be a _____ _____ _____.
6. In the OT Melchizedek offered _____ and _____in sacrifice to God.
7. Jesus offered _____ up as a sacrifice.

Sacraments
Magisterium
Pope
False – It's the same one.
Prophet, Priest, and King
Bread & Wine
Himself/His Body

Next Week Chapters 10 & 11 – Christ – Source of All Grace & Jesus Founds His Church