



The Good News

CCA 7: The Good News: God Has Sent His Son
RCIA Class on November 13, 2022

God Promptly Responds to Sin

- After the fall of Adam and Eve, God immediately reveals His plan to redeem them.
- Genesis 3:15 - God tells the serpent that Eve's offspring will conquer its offspring.
 - Christian tradition understands that Eve's offspring ultimately refers to Jesus.
- God immediately promises to do something to restore the broken relationship between him and his beloved people.
- This idea is repeated constantly throughout the Old Testament.
- In fact, a major overarching theme of the Old Testament is demonstrating the period of waiting for this saving.



From *The Taymouth Hours*,
Made in the 14th Century



The Damage of Sin

Imagine you are a panel of judges in a court case. A man gets brought in by the bailiff. This person is accused of deliberately breaking his neighbor's window. After the evidence is presented, the defendant is clearly guilty of deliberately breaking the window. You order him to pay for the window to be repaired. However, he does not have enough money to pay for the window.

- What is a just decision for the judge to make?
- What is a merciful decision for the judge to make?



God: Mercy and Justice are United in Love

- God is just.
 - He must be repaid for the injustice, the crime, done to him.
 - Our sins however, are too severe for any of us to repay.
 - Because they were done to God, Who is divine.
 - Even if every one of us on earth offered to repay God for one sin, it would not enough.
- God is merciful.
 - God truly loves us.
 - He wants us to return to full relationship with Him.
 - He wants us to be reconciled to Him.
 - “To reconcile” literally means “to go back to being eyelash to eyelash”.
- The problem: God needs to both forgive us and ensure justice is done.
- How do you think God can resolve this problem?

God's Solution: Become Man

- Someone with a human nature must be the one to pay the price for sin.
- Yet none of us are capable of this.
- **The solution: God must become man and then pay the price for sin.**
 - The price: death.
- Jesus is God incarnate.
- Jesus is the solution to sin that satisfies both mercy and justice.

Adoration of the Shepherds, by Gerard van Honthorst, 1622 AD.





Jesus Preaches the Kingdom

- Jesus' preaching and miracles often involve moral themes.
- But they also point to other key truths.
- A major theme is the Kingdom of God.
 - God's ultimate goal for humanity.
 - A sharing in Divine Life.
 - To be what Adam and Eve were supposed to be: Like God.
 - A state of freedom from sin.
 - A truly loving and joy-filled community.
 - Seen partially now on earth and fully in Heaven.
 - "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." ~Saint Athanasius.
- We enter this kingdom through Baptism.
 - We will learn more about Baptism later.



Jesus' Identity

- The Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) aim to show us who Jesus is.
- He is God.
 - Example: He performs miracles that only God can do.
- He is the Son of God.
 - Example: Jesus prays to and speaks of His Father in Heaven.
- He is man.
 - Example: He is born a baby, grows up naturally, and dies.



Confused? So Were Many Others

- Brilliant minds and spiritual masters of the early Church debated for multiple centuries about just who Jesus is.
- Some important points:
 - Jesus is fully God and man at the same time.
 - Fancy but common phrase: Jesus has two natures (human and divine) yet is one divine person.
 - Jesus is the “Son of God,” meaning He is the Second Person of the Trinity.
 - Jesus truly and fully died and also rose from the dead.



Why the Cross?

- Recall that God giving His life out of love is what redeemed the world.
- However, Crucifixion is considered the most horrific of all ways to die.
- Why did God's plan involve Jesus dying that way, instead of peacefully?
- Answer: Because it would be the most effective way for us to recognize His saving work.
 - If Jesus had died peacefully, we may not have known.
 - If He had died peacefully, His divinity could have been more easily doubted.
- Jesus' death reconciles us to God, and that He died on a cross further reveals the depth of His love.



Our Response

- That Jesus has redeemed us is certain.
- The final step of whether or not we are reconciled to God is now up to us.
- We must accept this redemption.
- For Catholics, accepting involves both heart and action.
- Part of this is realizing that Jesus died for all.
 - Thus, we are called to let people know this by our words and actions!
- Every human person is offered salvation and invited to join Christ's Body.
 - "The Body of Christ" is a common way of referring to the community linked by Baptism.
- Even after Baptism, we still have the potential to reject this new life and sin again.
 - We continue to pray for God's help to live good and holy lives.
 - We embrace the Sacraments as major gifts God gives us for help.



Remember!

- Jesus died to save us.
- But He is the author of life.
- Jesus rose from the dead.
- He also will raise us from the dead; the great punishment of sin is conquered.