

RCIA: Symbolon Lesson 5: Who is Jesus? We Believe: Chapter 3 – Jesus Enters Our Tradition



– Basilica of Saints Cosmas and Damian, Rome

- Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us tonight as we come together to grow in our knowledge and love for you. Open our hearts and our minds to understand the great love you have for us as you call us here tonight to learn more about you - both your divine and your human natures. Through this knowledge, help us grow in love for you and seek to do your most holy will in our lives. Amen

Opening Song: I am the Bread of Life

- Reflection: Christianity is Christ.

“The founder of no other religion is absolutely essential for that religion in the same way that Christ is essential for Christianity. It is true that the founder was necessary for the founding, but the believer in a particular religion does not enter into the same kind of an encounter that a Christian enters into with Christ. It is the personal relationship to him which is decisive. Christ, therefore, occupies a different place in Christianity than Buddha does in Buddhism, than Confucius in Confucianism, Mohammad in Islam, and even Moses in Judaism. When you come to Christ, Christianity demands the personal, intimate bond. We have to be one with him, one with him in such a way that we cannot in any way claim to be Christian unless we reflect the person, the mind, the will, the heart, and the humanity of Christ.”

- Archbishop Fulton Sheen

- **Questions for Discussion:**

- What makes Jesus different from other religious leaders throughout history?
- What were some of the ways Jesus referred to Himself that indicate He is the Son of God?
- What did C.S. Lewis mean when he said Jesus forces us to make a choice based on His claim to divinity?
- If we say we believe Jesus is the Son of God, what response does that require of us? If we do respond, what does God promise us?
- How have you experienced the joy that knowing Jesus has brought to your life? Has it been all 'joy' or have there also been some challenges?
- What does it mean that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine (what they referred to as the hypostatic union)?
- Why did Jesus become man? If one reason was to teach, what did He come to teach us?
- Throughout Sacred Scripture we find the image of marriage or a wedding feast. In what way does Jesus becoming man represent 'marriage'?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time [Mk 10:35-45](#)

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him,

"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

They said to him, "We can."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them,

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them,

and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

For the Son of Man did not come to be served

but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."