

**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*

**- 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:** 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time **Mt 21:33-43**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

"Hear another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,  
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.  
Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

When vintage time drew near,  
he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.  
But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,  
another they killed, and a third they stoned.

Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones,  
but they treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking,  
'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,  
'This is the heir.

Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'

They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.  
What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"

They answered him,

"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death  
and lease his vineyard to other tenants  
who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?*

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you  
and given to a people that will produce its fruit."