

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



– *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:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Lk 18:1-8**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

- **Final Prayer**