

RCIA: Symbolon Lesson 3

The Bible

We Believe, Chapter 15

Symbolon 3 – The Bible

Opening Prayer:

*O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I might hear your word
and understand your will, for I am a pilgrim upon the earth.
Do not hide your Commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive
the wonders of your law. Speak to me the hidden secrets of your wisdom.
On you I set my hope, O my God, that you shall enlighten my mind and understanding
with the light of your knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written,
but to do them; for from you comes every good deed and every gift. Amen*
St. John Chrysostom

Song: In the Garden

Discussion of Prayer:

*“Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things
from God.”* St. Therese of Lisieux

Types of Prayer:

Personal prayer – praise, thanksgiving, petition, sorrow

Vocal prayer – common prayers or conversational/extemporaneous

Meditation – Lectio Divina (see below)

Communal Prayer – Liturgy (Mass/Liturgy of the Hours/prayer groups/etc.)

Why is it important to spend time in prayer?

Questions for Discussion:

- The Catholic Church believes the Holy Scriptures contained in the Bible are inspired by God. What does this mean? If the books of the Bible were written by men, how can the Church teach that God is the source, the author, of the Bible?
- How did the Church determine what books belong in the Bible and which ones do not? Why do Catholic Bibles have more books than Protestant Bibles?
- What does it mean that Catholics don’t interpret the Bible in a “literalistic” way, but rather interpret the Bible “literarily”?
- What is the one main story line that is consistently woven throughout the 73 books of the Bible?
- Is there a verse from Scripture that is particularly meaningful to you? How do you think God is speaking to you through that verse?

Weekly Gospel Reading: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Gospel Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.

And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died,

he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me.

Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.'

Abraham replied,

'My child, remember that you received

what was good during your lifetime

while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;

but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

He said, 'Then I beg you, father,

send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them,

lest they too come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets.

Let them listen to them.'

He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham,

but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Lectio Divina

1. **Lectio:** Read the passage slowly, perhaps several times. Let a phrase or two catch your attention.
2. **Meditatio:** Reflect on the meaning of the words you have chosen. How is God speaking to you through this reading?
3. **Oratio:** Raise your mind and heart to God, using the message of this reading.
4. **Contemplatio:** Rest quietly in the presence of God.
5. **Actio:** Resolve to change your life in some positive way.

Closing Prayer:

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