

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
RCIA Class Transcript
Jesus Christ
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Tonight's topic is a wonderful topic; it is on Jesus Christ. We'll be going through quite a bit about the person of Christ, the fact that He's a Divine Person, who has a human and a Divine nature. And we'll talk about the Lord's different titles that He has in Scripture, and why God sent His Son to come into this world.

Just to give you a little overview, we talked already about the Existence of God, that God, from all eternity, was a Divine Being of three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One God, one nature, one essence, one substance, and yet three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And we talked about how, in the Blessed Trinity, there's only One God; and yet, God as Father, God as Son, and God as Holy Spirit. Tonight we're going to talk about how God the Son became man, how God the Son came down to Earth, and we call Him Jesus Christ. Remember, since the Father is God, the Holy Spirit is God, and the Son is God, because they all share the same being, the same nature, the same essence, the same substance, we can say the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God.

Since God's Son became man, and that is Jesus Christ, we can say that Jesus is God. Yes, He is the Son of God, but we can also say that Jesus is God, because He's one with the Father, and one with the Holy Spirit. The Blessed Trinity was there from all eternity. The Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son, an incredible Being of beauty and truth and goodness and love. And God created the entire world. He created everything out of nothing.

Then about the fall of the Angels, how God created all these beautiful Angels, how some of them rebelled against God, turned against God, and sinned, and led this rebellion. And, the theologians speculate that one-third of the Angels turned against God. Two-thirds remained faithful; and one-third turned against God.

And then, God created our first parents, Adam and Eve. They were created with special gifts and graces. But then, they turned against God. The Devil, the fallen Angel Lucifer, tempted them, and they committed a sin of disobedience, a sin of pride, thereby committing a very grievous sin, and losing all those gifts that God wanted them to have. God did not leave the human race in misery, or in the lack of friendship with God. He decided to send His Son into the world, to redeem the world.

One of the Lord's titles is "The New Adam," or "The Second Adam." St. Paul says, "Just as in the first Adam, sin entered the world, and therefore death, so in

Christ, the New Adam, life entered the world.” Our salvation was brought about because of the work of the New Adam. What’s so wonderful about Christ is that He wasn’t just a great moral teacher; He wasn’t just a great prophet. He was certainly all of those things, but He was much more than that. He was the Son of God. And there’s many different titles for Christ in the Old Testament. One of them is “Emmanuel.” Whenever you see “el” at the end of a name, you know that means “God,” like Gabriel, Raphael, Michael. (Michael means “One who is like God.”) Emmanuel means “God with us.” And that’s who Jesus is, God with us – the eternal Son of God became man as Jesus Christ. Think of the humility of God - the fact that the God who created the Solar System, the Universe, became a little tiny baby - that the God of the Heavens and Earth became a little tiny embryo, a little tiny fetus, in the womb of our Blessed Mother. That’s incredible love for mankind, incredible humility.

Why did God do that? The theologians speculate that there are two main reasons why God came into this world as Jesus Christ, as the Son of God. And first of all was to save us from our sins - that, to save us from death, to save us from Hell, and to pay the price for our salvation. In other words, to redeem us and to pay the price so we could get to Heaven, but also, to show His love for us. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.” Not only did Jesus come into the world to die on the Cross and save us from our sins, but He came in to reveal the love of God for each one of us. And then also, of course, to give us an example of how to live, and to give us the power, and the grace, and the strength to live a Christ-like life.

What is so appropriate of the fact that God would reconcile the world to Himself through Christ? Some of the theologians put it this way – when Adam and Eve sinned, even though they were human, they were not infinite. They sinned against an infinite God, and they sinned against God’s infinite goodness. Therefore, even though it was a sin committed by finite human beings, mortal human beings, in a sense it was an infinite offense, because God is an infinite Person. If a person, for example, strikes the Pope, that’s worse than let’s say, striking me, because of the dignity of the Pope. If somebody shoots the President, that’s worse than killing someone else. Even though every human life is precious, every human life is sacred; when a person’s dignity is greater, the sin becomes greater. Therefore, when our first parents sinned against an infinite God, it was such a terrible sin.

Who alone could make up for a sin against an infinite Being? Ultimately, it’s only God Himself. Only God can make up to Himself the kind of sin that it was. The beauty of it is the fact that Jesus Christ is both God and man. So as man, He represents the human race making up to God, but since He is God, He can supply that infinite restitution, or reparation, made to the Heavenly Father. That’s why the Incarnation is so perfect, because it is a man (God who became man); so He’s representing the human race, offers the salvation to the Heavenly Father, representing the human race, since He is one of us. Because He’s God,

He can also make up for the infinite sin committed against an infinite Being. We talk about the fact that Jesus Christ is truly both God and man.

There are many different titles for Jesus in Scripture. We should go through some of these names, because the names of the Lord reveal something about His mission. For example, the name Jesus means "God Saves." What's neat is the fact that Jesus' name is also wrapped up in His mission. He is God who saves us. And then Christ means "The Anointed One," or "The Messiah." Christ is not His last name. Some people think His first name is Jesus; His last name is Christ. Christ is His title. He's Jesus, The Christ; Jesus, The Anointed One. His name means "God Saves," and Christ means "The Anointed One," the long-awaited Messiah. The Jewish people have been waiting for thousands of years for the Messiah, and Christ is the long-awaited Messiah.

Another word for Christ is "The Lord," which means "God, Yahweh." He has many other titles in Scripture. One of them is "The Suffering Servant." This is found in Isaiah the Prophet. And it was a foreshadowing of the fact that the Messiah was not going to be a political leader, or an earthly king, but He was going to be a Suffering Servant, that He would come to bear the weight of the sins of humanity. He would be like the scapegoat, that would take upon Himself the sins of the entire world.

I also mentioned He's called in Scripture "The New Adam." The first Adam was only man, and yet, he wanted to become like God. He committed that sin of pride, not willing to remain a human being. He did not humble himself, but committed a terrible sin of pride, wanting to become like God, to make the rules. And therefore, he committed a very grave sin, a sin of pride. The New Adam, though, is Christ, who was God, and yet, the Scripture says, "He humbled Himself, and took the form of a man, being born in our human likeness." The great quality of Christ is humility. Adam was filled with pride, The New Adam, Christ, was filled with humility, and He saved us because of His obedience to the Heavenly Father's will. The first Adam committed a sin of disobedience; The New Adam even gave His life, obeying unto death on the Cross.

Other titles of Christ are "The Son of God" and "The Son of Man." Son of Man was an Old Testament expression, referring sometimes to an Angel, also to the long-awaited Messiah. When Christ referred to Himself, He usually talked about Himself as The Son of Man, which meant He was fulfilling a prophecy. Though many people called The Lord "Master," they called Him "Rabbi," because He was a rabbi, a great teacher.

Another title for Christ is "The Good Shepherd," who lays down His life for His sheep. And that's at the heart of who Jesus is, The Good Shepherd. Jesus told the story of the lost sheep, and how the good shepherd will go and gather that sheep, and place it in his arms and bring it back to the fold. And that's what Jesus does for us.

Another title of Christ in Scripture is “The Prince of Peace.” Christ came to give us peace. Another title is “The King of Kings,” and “The Lord of Lords.” He’s also our “Mediator.” A mediator is somebody who stands between us and The Father, and the Scripture says there’s only one mediator between us and The Father, and that is The Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the one way to salvation. He is, as He says, “The Way, the Truth, and the Life.” He doesn’t just show us the Way, teach us the Truth, or point us in the direction of the Life; He is the Way, He is the Truth, He is the Life. He is the Mediator; without Christ we would not be saved. He is, as The Son of God, He says, “No one can come to The Father” except through Him. He is the Way to The Father. He’s our only mediator between us and the Heavenly Father.

Sometimes people say, “Why do you have saints? Why do you have The Blessed Mother?” We all pray for each other. We’re all interceding for each other – I can pray for you, and you can pray for me. We’re all in a sense mediators for each other. That does not take away from Christ, The One Mediator. All of our prayers for each other are in Christ, and with Christ; and He then takes them to The Father. Could I pray for you, and you pray for me? Yes, we mediate for each other. Moses mediated on behalf of The Chosen People. So did Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. But, our mediation that we do for each other as an intercessor, it comes under The One Mediator, Jesus Christ, who offers all of our prayers to The Heavenly Father.

The other great title for Christ is “The Redeemer.” He redeems us from our sins. Some of you might be old enough to remember “Green Stamps.” When I was a little kid, we used to collect Green Stamps and put them in a book. And then we would go and take it to the redemption store, and get a good toaster. They didn’t have microwaves back then, but we’d get a blender, or something in a crock pot, and we would redeem these stamps and get something else. Christ is our Redeemer. He gave His life for us. He took our place on the Cross. Because of Original Sin and our own personal sins, all of us deserve death on the Cross. And yet, Jesus said, “No, I will take your place on the Cross. You don’t have to go to the Cross and die. I will stand in your place.” Jesus gave His life as a ransom for the many. He died for each one of us, personally and individually. And the Church teaches He didn’t just die for Christians; He died for each and every person. He paid the price for everybody’s salvation, from Adam and Eve, all the way up to His time, until the end of the world, until the last people that ever live on the face of the earth. He died for everyone. Will everybody accept that? We hope and pray they do, but maybe not. Maybe people won’t accept it, but they’re still redeemed. Everybody is redeemed by the Blood of Christ. He paid the price for our salvation. We’re redeemed. Will everybody accept that Redemption in their life? That’s up to their free will and their cooperation with God’s grace. We hope and pray that they will, but it seems that some turn away from God, and don’t accept that.

These are some of the different titles of Christ. Scripture says He is our Intercessor. In Heaven, He stands at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. When Christ, 2000 years ago walked the earth, He proved that He was the Son of God. And He did this in many ways. First of all, by working miracles: raising people from the dead, raising Lazarus from the dead, raising the daughter of Jairus from the dead, the only son of the widow of Nain. And then His greatest miracle was His own bodily Resurrection. The Lord proved His teachings by working miracles to support what He was teaching.

Could Jesus have saved us in other ways, than having to die on the Cross? Yes, it's true, Jesus could have shed just one little drop of His Blood, and that would have redeemed the whole world. But He even went to the extreme of allowing Himself to be scourged and crowned with thorns, crucified, and that was to show the extent of His love, the depths of His love, which is amazing to think about. He didn't have to go through all that. He wanted to prove and to manifest and to get our attention. I would say, that's what the Scourging, and the Passion, and the Crucifixion, and the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crowning with Thorns are all about – that Jesus saved us from our sins.

His other great title, of course, is “The Lamb of God” – the lamb led to the slaughter. Again, He did not have to go to that extent of pain, and torture, and suffering to redeem the world. One drop of His Blood would have redeemed the entire world. And yet, He went to His death, I think, to show the incredible love that He has for each one of us.

Remember in Christ, when we study the topic of Christology, we know that Christ is one person, a Divine person. And when you say, “Who is Jesus Christ?”, you say “He is the Son of God.” He's a Divine person. But the key is that He has two natures. He has a human nature, and He has a Divine nature. But remember, Christ is not a split personality. He's only one person. He's a Divine person, the Son of God. See, person answers the question “who?”; nature answers the question “what?”. Who is Christ? He is God, the eternal Son of God. What is Christ? He's truly God, and truly man. Christ is both God and man. That's what makes Christ different than Buddha, or Mohammed, or any of the great people of history, because they were just ordinary men, ordinary people; and yet Christ is the eternal Son of God who became man. See, He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. When we ask, “Who is Christ?”, what's the best answer? Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, namely God the Son, who became man. And that summarizes the person of Christ, and the fact that He has a human and Divine nature.

The union of this human and Divine nature in the one person of Christ is called the *Hypostatic Union*. This would be a word worth writing down. “Hypostasis” in Greek means “the union of natures in the one person.” Again, it's a big theological word, but it's a word that every Christian should know – the Hypostatic Union. The fact that Christ is one person – He's not two persons; He's

only one person, but He has a human nature and a Divine nature united in the one person of Christ.

One of the other titles of Christ in Scripture is “The Word,” the Word of God. In the Gospel of John, it says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh, and made His dwelling among us.” The eternal Word is the Word spoken from the Father, the Son of God who became *Incarnate*. And that’s another very important word that all of you should know, the Incarnation. It comes from the Latin word “carn,” which means flesh. It means to become enfleshed. The Incarnation is when God took on a human nature, when God became Incarnate; He became one of us.

And isn’t that amazing to think of God’s great love for us? An analogy would be, let’s say, you had some dogs, and the dogs weren’t getting along, and say you had the ability to become a dog. That would be lowering yourself, right? Because you’d still have your human intelligence, you’d still have all your brilliance and everything; and yet you would have to become a dog. Instead of walking upright, you would have to walk on all fours, and try to get them to work things out. And then you’d have to eat dog food. You’d have to sleep where dogs sleep. You couldn’t talk; you’d have to bark instead. You’d have to put all of your intelligence into just the bark. For us becoming a dog is not nearly lowering ourselves as much as God becoming man. That’s pretty amazing! “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that those who believe in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life.” The Incarnation - when God became one of us. What an amazing thing!

When God became man He had a perfect human nature. See, Jesus’ human nature was not tainted by Original Sin. All of us inherited Original Sin. And remember, the three effects of Original Sin are a darkened intellect, a weakened will, and concupiscence, which is unruly passions. Christ had none of those weaknesses. He did not have a darkened intellect. He did not have a weakened will, and did not have unruly passions or desires. He had a perfect human nature. His human nature was absolutely without sin. And of course, Christ never sinned. He never could sin, because He is God.

Sometimes the question comes up, “What kind of knowledge did Jesus have?” I mean, if He is God, yet He’s also man, how do we talk about the knowledge of Christ? He had two kinds of knowledge, He had human knowledge, and He had Divine knowledge. In His human knowledge, of course, the teaching of the Church says He had, first of all, the Beatific Vision, which is the Vision of the Heavenly Father, which means He could see the Vision of His Heavenly Father at all times. He had the direct Vision of God the Father. He also had infused supernatural knowledge. This is what some of the prophets had in the Old Testament – they could predict future events. And then He also had acquired experiential knowledge. He learned by sense, experience, and by His reasoning power. His knowledge, even His human knowledge, was free from all error. And

Christ's human knowledge, since it was human, was not infinite, but He did have access to all knowledge if He wanted it. In referring to the human knowledge of Christ, He had the Beatific Vision, infused supernatural knowledge, and experiential knowledge. That's why the Scripture says, "And He grew in age and grace and wisdom before God and man," referring to His human knowledge. And of course, His Divine knowledge was infinite as God. But in His human nature, He would say things like, "Nobody knows when the Second Coming of the Son of Man will be, Only the Father in Heaven." In that case, He's talking from His human knowledge. Could He learn it if He wanted to? Yes, He always had access to all knowledge, but He didn't always choose to gain that access.

Remember, since Christ is both God and man, He had two wills. Christ had two wills. He had a *human will*, and He had a *Divine will*. There was a heresy in the early Church called the *Monothelite Heresy*, which meant the heresy where they said Jesus only had one will, and that was condemned by the Church. Remember, Jesus had two wills, a human will and a Divine will. But remember, the human will was always perfectly united to His Divine will. We see this in the Agony in the Garden. He prayed, "Father, let this cup of suffering pass Me by. But not My will, but Thine be done." Jesus did have two wills, a human will and a Divine will. But, in His life, His human will was always perfectly united to the Divine will.

We'll take a few steps back and talk about the promise of the Redeemer. And again, as you remember, our first parents sinned, and because of that reason they lost their friendship with God. God could have abandoned them, but He didn't. He decided to send His Son into this world to be the New Adam.

The first prediction that God would save the human race is back here in Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 15. And this is called the Protoevangelium, or the First Gospel. And this is where God told the serpent, or the Devil, who tempted Eve, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed, and she shall crush thy head." There are different translations of that. Sometimes it says, "He shall crush thy head," referring to Christ. Sometimes it's "She shall crush thy head," referring to Mary. But either way, it's a prediction of the Messiah, that God would not allow the human race to be without a Savior. He warned the Devil and told him that there would be enmity between the Devil and between the woman and her seed, and that of course is Christ. There's no doubt that it's Christ who crushes the head of the serpent, but Mary had a part to play in that as well. Just as in the fall of Adam and Eve, Eve played a part in the fall of Adam. Mary played a part in our salvation, because it was through Mary that Jesus came into this world.

In the Old Testament, we have the prediction of the Messiah, going way back to the first book of Genesis, that one day God would send a Messiah, and He would use The Chosen People, the Jewish People, through which He would send the Messiah. The Old Testament figures, the great ones, were Abraham, Isaac,

Jacob, King David; and many of them had promises that there would be a Messiah. For example, God promised, "I will make of you a great nation," talking to Abraham, "and in thee, all the kindred of the Earth shall be blest." God told Abraham that it would be from his line that the Messiah would come. And He even told King David the same promise, "He shall build Me a house to My name, and I will establish His kingdom forever." That's in the Second Book of Kings, Chapter 7. God promised the Patriarchs that He would send a Messiah, and then He also told the Prophets that He would send a Messiah. And, during the time before Christ, there were 70 prophets, more or less, throughout the Old Testament, and the last one being the prophet Malachi, who lived 450 years before Christ. There were no prophets between 450 years before Christ and the time of John the Baptist.

God chose the Jewish people, The Chosen People, and He sent His Son to save us through that. We know in the Old Testament, and these are some good quotes to look up if you wanted to do a little more research, Micah Chapter 5, Verse 2. What's interesting about Micah 5:2, is that this is the first time we find out the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, and God says, "And you, Bethlehem, are the little one among the thousands of Judah, that out of thee shall come unto Me the One who is to be the Ruler of Israel." And that, of course, is Christ. There are many Old Testament prophecies that we can see are all fulfilled in Christ. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, but He was born in Bethlehem.

Another one is Isaiah, Chapter 7, Verse 14. Isaiah 7:14, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be Emmanuel", which means "God is with us." What's unique about this prophecy is that it shows that it would be from the House of David, and that the Child to be born would be Emmanuel, which means "God with us." And, that it would be a virgin, who had not only conceived, but a virgin who would bear a Son, and remain a virgin. That's included in those Hebrew words that were chosen. Because that was the great sign, that was the great miracle, that it would be a virgin that would conceive, and a virgin would actually be giving birth to the Messiah.

Then we have in Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verse 3, the Old Testament says that, "Before the Messiah comes, there would be somebody to prepare the way for the Lord." Of course, that's John the Baptist. And the Scripture says, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness prepared the way for the Lord. Make straight the paths of God." Before the Messiah comes, there would be a precursor, or somebody to lead the way, and that was fulfilled with John the Baptist.

The Old Testament also predicts there'd be a star to announce the birth of the Messiah, and that He'd be adored by kings from distant lands. And this is in Numbers, the Book of Numbers, Chapter 24, Verse 17: "A star shall rise out of Jacob, and the scepter shall spring up from Israel." And then Psalm 71 predicts that, "The kings of Tarsus and the islands shall offer presents. The kings of the Arabians and Saba shall bring Him gifts."

The Old Testament also predicts, and again, looks at how all these are fulfilled in Christ, the Old Testament also predicts that the birth of the Messiah would actually bring about the death of others at that time. This is in Jeremiah 31, Verse 15: "A voice was heard on high of lamentations, of mourning and weeping, of Rachel, weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Remember when King Herod tried to kill the Christ Child? He escaped, but all the young male boys under two years of age in the surrounding area were killed. That was even prophesied hundreds of years before Christ, under the prophet Jeremiah.

We also know the Old Testament predicted that when the Messiah came, that He would work great miracles, and He would teach the people, that He would be a king of a nation that would not be destroyed. And we see this in Isaiah Chapter 35, Verse 5, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall dance, and the tongue of the dumb shall be freed." And that was fulfilled in Christ, who worked miracles. He raised the dead. He cured cripples. He opened the eyes of the blind. He cured lepers.

The Old Testament also predicts, from the Prophets, that the Messiah would enter into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, and Jesus did that on Palm Sunday. It also predicts that He'll be betrayed by somebody who ate dinner with Him, who ate at the same table with Him. The Old Testament, and the prophet Isaiah, says that the Messiah will be abandoned, mocked, beaten, spit upon, scourged, crowned with thorns, given gall and vinegar to drink. Then they would cast lots for His garments, that His hands and feet would be pierced by nails, and that He would die between two evildoers. Imagine that. All of that is in the Old Testament, and only one man fulfills all those hundreds of prophecies, and that is Christ. It's an amazing thing to see when you study the Old Testament and see how it's all fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

We'll wrap up now with the last few topics regarding the Divinity of Christ. I mean, sometimes you will meet people that don't believe that Jesus is truly God. For example, the Jews that you meet, or even Jehovah's Witnesses, will say that, "Oh, Jesus is not God. You can't call Jesus God." And we'll go through the reasons now on why we can truly say that Christ is God.

First of all, Jesus claimed to be God. And as C.S. Lewis says, "that if somebody goes around claiming to be God, they're either a liar; they're the Lord; or they're a lunatic." If you meet somebody in a state mental hospital who claims they're God, they're Napoleon or whoever, you know that they're either lying about it, they are who they say they are, or they're crazy. And C.S. Lewis, in his book Mere Christianity, takes us logically through these steps. And there's no doubt that Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God. He said, in Matthew Chapter 28, "All power in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me." And then in Matthew 26, when the high priest says, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us, are you the

Christ, the Son of the living God?" Jesus said, "I AM." If you saw the movie The Passion, you might remember that saying where Jesus uses God's name from the Old Testament. See, when God revealed Himself to The Chosen People of Israel, to Moses, on Mt. Sinai, God says, "I AM WHO AM." And when Jesus answered the High Priest, He used the name of God, Ego Eimi, in Greek or Hebrew, "I AM WHO AM", or "I AM". And that's why the Chief Priest ripped His garments, because he felt he heard blasphemy, and he felt that he had heard some sacrilege or blasphemy. Jesus answered, "I AM." He claimed to be God. In John Chapter 10, Verse 30, Jesus says, "The Father and I are One." See, only God could say that – "The Father and I are One." He would say things like, "Before Abraham was, I AM. Before Abraham ever existed, I AM." Christ claimed to be God; that's why He was crucified. He was crucified for blasphemy, as they said, for making Himself the Son of God.

The Lord also proved that He was God because He did many things. He forgave sins. He would tell people, "My son," or, "My child, your sins are forgiven you." The religious authorities thought He was blaspheming, because no one could forgive sins but God alone. That's exactly the point – it was God who was forgiving their sins, in Christ. Jesus claimed to be God. He worked miracles to prove it. He fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies. He had knowledge of supernatural events. Christ even predicted the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. in the future. And He claimed to be God by saying things like, "Before Abraham was, I AM," and healing people.

We also know that the Scriptures give us testimony that Christ is God. A good one look up is John Chapter 1, Verse 1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became Flesh, and dwelt among us." Paul writes to the Colossians, "In Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead, in bodily form." Perhaps one of the greatest testimonies of the Divinity of Christ is that the night of the Resurrection, when St. Thomas the Apostle says, "My Lord and my God." Then he falls to his knees and worships Jesus, "My Lord and my God." Jesus did not say, "No, I'm just a prophet." He didn't say, "I'm just a teacher; don't worship Me." He says, "Blessed are you, Thomas, but even more blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe."

Keep that in mind, that Jesus is the Son of God. He claimed to be God, and He acknowledged what Thomas said was true, when He said, "My Lord and my God." And also, St. Peter said to Him, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Remember, if somebody claims to be God, if they go around saying "Before Abraham was, I AM", "The Father and I are One", "No one can come to the Father except through Me", "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life", the person is either an egomaniac, lying about it, or they're crazy, and think that they're God. Look at this from C.S. Lewis. He says, "There's no doubt that Jesus Christ claimed to be God." That I just shared with you all those passages from Scripture that talk about the Divinity of Christ. Whoever claims to be God knows

that if they're not God, they're either lying about it, or they think they are God, and they're crazy.

Is it possible that Jesus knew that He wasn't God, but He fabricated and He lied about it? If that's the case, if Jesus knew He was not the Son of God, and went around claiming to forgive sin, and claiming to have existed before Abraham, He would be a deceiver. In that case, He would be a liar. He would be immoral, because He'd be going around lying. He would be an evil man. And I think it's pretty logical to rule that out, because Jesus, by His whole life (He lived a life of such great perfection, such great holiness, He forgave His enemies on the Cross) certainly, He would not be a liar. You see, if Jesus is not the Lord, then He cannot be a good person. It's illogical to say, "No, I don't think Jesus is God, but I think He was a good man." That's completely illogical, because you'll find out, if He's not the Lord, He's either crazy and thinks He's the Lord, but He's not; or He knows He's not the Lord and He claims He is. If He was lying about it, He would be deceiving people, misleading people; He'd be actually one of the most evil men of all history, if He wasn't who He said He was. Because, who else goes around claiming that He's the only way to Heaven, and that He and the Father are One? I think we can rule out, logically, the fact that Jesus was lying, because certainly, what we know of Him from history, He was not an evil person. He was not a bad person. He was the most morally good person ever to walk the face of the Earth. He forgave His executioners. He forgave those who spit on Him and who beat Him, and so we know He was not a liar.

The other option is that if He was not who He said He was; He had to be a lunatic. He must have been crazy, because who else would go around claiming to be God? If somebody thought they were God, and weren't, then they would be insane. Again we can rule this out, because of the great normalcy of Jesus' life. Jesus was stable, mentally stable, He had all the perfect emotions. The children came up running to Him. He would get mad at the Pharisees, and He showed His emotions perfectly to the people. There's no sign of eccentricity. He was respected as a great Teacher and as a great Orator. And there's no evidence that in the Lord's life that there was any mental instability. Of course, we know He was not a lunatic. Which leaves the only option: that He was who He said He was, namely the Lord. If you want more details about this, and you want to go through things that way, I'd recommend the book Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis.

The Scriptures said that Jesus is God. He Himself said that He was God. Even some of the enemies of Christianity have said that Jesus was more than a man, that He must be more than a man. On Napoleon's death bed, he said, "I know men, but Jesus Christ was more than a man. My men deserted me in the field when I was there leading them. Christ's army has been faithful for centuries. A leader, who has an army which functions though He is dead, is not merely a man." That's a quote from Napoleon.

Just to review the fact that in Christ, we only have one person, that He is a Divine Person. Jesus is not a human person. That might sound strange, but He is a Divine Person, but He has a human and a Divine nature. In the definition of a person, is a being that is intelligent and free, and responsible for his actions. That's the definition of a person. The definition of a nature is a substance that is complete in itself, as a source of activity. It differs from person, in that while person determines what an individual is; nature determines what an individual can do. Christ is a Divine Person, who has a human and a Divine nature.

We are going to go through a few of the people in the Old Testament and how they foreshadow Christ. And the first one is Abel. You might remember the story of Cain and Abel - how Cain murdered his innocent brother Abel. See, Abel offered a pleasing sacrifice to God. Cain did not. And so Abel is what's called a "type." I think it would be good to understand what this word "type" means. The word type means a foreshadowing, or a prefigurement of something greater to come. Like the manna in the desert was a foreshadowing of the Eucharist. The Ark of the Covenant was a foreshadowing of tabernacles. Eve was a foreshadowing of Mary; Adam a foreshadowing of Christ. Abel was a type of Christ, an innocent person who was killed by his brother out of the envy, out of jealousy. Just like Christ was killed for some of those same reasons, jealousy, and being considered blasphemous.

Another Old Testament figure that can help us understand Christ better is Noah. Noah was the one that God used to save the human race from extinction. And you remember the story of Noah and his Ark, that God used Noah to build this Ark of Salvation. Christ is like the New Noah who built His Church, which is the Ark of Salvation. And Noah was the one responsible for saving the human race in the Old Testament; Christ saves us today.

Then there's Isaac. Some of you know the story of Isaac and his father Abraham. Remember Isaac was going to be sacrificed and Abraham had him carry the wood of the cross up on the hill? That foreshadowed Christ – the innocent son who carried the wood of his own cross on his shoulders to his death. And as you remember the story of Abraham, as soon as he was about to kill his son Isaac, in obedience with God, the Angel stopped him and said, "No, you don't have to that, that was just testing you." Isaac is a type of Christ, a foreshadowing of Christ because Jesus carried the wood of His own sacrifice on his shoulders and gave His life freely for our own salvation.

There is also Joseph of the Old Testament. You might have heard of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, as Broadway talks about. Joseph was one of the great *Patriarchs* – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and then Jacob's son, Joseph. Joseph was the beloved son of his father, and he was sold for 20 pieces of silver in the Scriptures. He was sold by his brethren, again out of envy and out of jealousy; and he was placed in a cistern and then brought out, and taken to Egypt where he became Pharaoh's right-hand man. Joseph foreshadows Christ. The beloved

Son of His Father who was placed in the tomb, but then rose up, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father. Joseph prefigures Christ. And I think if I'm not mistaken, Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver, and Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. I'll have to double-check a bit, I think because of inflation over those of thousands of years, it actually went up a little bit!

Moses was the one that God used to deliver the Jews from slavery and lead them to the Promised Land. It's very easy to see how he represents Christ, foreshadows Christ, because Christ leads us from the slavery of sin to the Promised Land of Heaven.

Then there's David, King David. And David, as you know, was born in poverty, and yet became a great king. Jesus Himself was born in the stable, placed in the manger, and yet became the King of all Creation.

We will just end by saying how much we should respect the Holy Name of Jesus, that we should have great reverence for the Holy Name. We should never use God's name in vain, or Jesus' name in vain, because it's the most holy of all names. As we talked about tonight, Jesus is not just a mere man. Yes He is man, but He is God made Man. We should have the utmost reverence for the Holy Name of Christ. The Scripture says in Philippians, Chapter two, Verse 10, "At the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow, those in Heaven, on Earth, and under the Earth." Isn't that amazing to think about, that the holiest name in the world is the one that's used most in vain in our modern pagan culture? In TV, or movies, or books, the name of Jesus is used so poorly and so atrociously. And yet, we should always respect the Holy Name of Jesus. We should have the utmost reverence for the Holy Name.

There are different symbols for Jesus' name. You've probably seen this one: IHS. But it says, the IHS is the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus. Sometimes you'll see this on vestments, IHS. Some also say that it stands for Jesus, Humanity, and Savior. The "I" in the Hebrew language is also a "J," so Jesus, Savior, of the Human Race. It's a beautiful symbol for Christ.

We'll just end tonight by saying that we should always have the utmost respect for the Holy Name of Jesus. The name Jesus means "God saves," and Christ means "The Anointed One." And we should never use God's name in vain. It's the holiest name, especially the name of Jesus. If the Scripture says, "At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in Heaven, on Earth and under the Earth", how much more should we respect the Name of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior?

(A question). Yes, Jesus is a Divine Person, but He also had a human nature. And because of that, you're right, He did have a human soul and a human body. He had to eat. He had to sleep. He took walks. He wept. Scripture says when you looked at Him, you did not see someone glowing like a thousand-watt light

bulb when He walked down the street. He hid His Divinity. He hid His Divine Nature under His human nature. Once in a while, He showed forth His Divinity, like at the Resurrection, or at the Transfiguration, where Jesus showed forth the beauty of His Divine nature. That was only rarely. You're right; Jesus did have a human soul. We also know He had a Guardian Angel. He probably even had more than one. He even said, "Could I not ask my Father, and He would send 12 Legions of Angels to come to my rescue, if I wanted that?" Jesus' Guardian Angel certainly would have been one of the greatest of all the Angels, one of the highest of all the Angels. But you're right, He did have a human body and a human soul.

There were many heresies in the early Church that said, "Jesus wasn't God." And that would be called the *Arian heresy*, by a priest named Arius, who said that Jesus was not truly the Son of God. He was a great person, but He wasn't God. And this was condemned; the Arian heresy was condemned by the Church in 325, at the Council of Nicea. Then there were some other heresies that swung the other way and said Jesus truly wasn't man, like He was just a mirage, and this would be some of *Manichaeism*, or *Gnostic heresies*. The Gnostics (this word in Greek means "secret knowledge") said they had secret knowledge that nobody else had. The Gnostics would say things like, "Jesus was God, but He never was truly man. He was just sort of an image. God never became enfleshed in human nature." They believed that the spirit was good, and material things were evil. Therefore, God could never become man. They denied the Incarnation. And this, of course, was condemned by the early Church as well.

There are all sorts of heresies in the early Church. There's the *Monophysite heresy*. And I mentioned the Monothelite heresy, which said Christ only had one will, that was condemned by the Church. The Monophysite heresy said Christ only had one nature, and that was condemned. Because remember, Christ has two natures, human and Divine nature.

I don't know if any of your handouts have that list of all the Church Councils and the list of the heresies. It's actually well worth reading through that. It's a great course in history to learn why the Church condemned all these different heresies, because obviously they were all wrong and fraudulent, and they took us away from the fact that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man. One person used an analogy. Remember the old black and white TV's, where if you turned one button, it would make it dark; if you turned it the other way, it would make it white? Sometimes people do that to Christ. They turn up His Divinity so much that they lose His humanity. Or they turn up His humanity so much you can't see His Divinity, whereas Christ is truly God and truly man. For example, some people might say, "Oh, yeah, Jesus was God. He never suffered. He never knew what it was like to feel the Scourging, or the Crowning with Thorns, or the Carrying of the Cross. And that'd be wrong. Because as man, He did feel those wounds. And somebody might say, "Yeah, I think Jesus was just a man. I don't

think He was truly God.” They’re turning up that switch too much. They need to keep it perfectly balanced – truly God and truly man.

Don’t forget to take home these articles about the Holy Shroud of Turin. These are the most fascinating handouts. This one shows a history of the Shroud, how it got from the time of Christ to today. These other ones show all the reasons why the Shroud is authentic. And there’s no doubt in my mind that it’s authentic. The carbon dating that was done a few years ago, had so many errors in it that that’s been largely rejected by the medical and scientific community. You’ll see all the reasons on these handouts why the carbon dating was erroneous, and all the other thousands of pieces of information point to the authenticity of the Shroud. If you take a look here you’ll see quite a bit about the Life of Christ. You’ll see that He was about 5’ 10” or 5’ 11”, weighed about 185 pounds, perfect in every way. And you can see from the Shroud that the nail marks went through His wrists, and that He had one nail that went through His two feet on the Cross. And you can see all the scourge marks, about 120 scourge marks. You can see the Crown of Thorns, where they put the Crown of Thorns on the Lord, how He was beaten. And you can see the whole Crucifixion by looking at the Shroud. You can even see on the back of that the pollen tests that were done, showing that the Shroud originated in the Holy Land. That’s a very fascinating thing. And these pictures show a little more of the scientific evidence of the Shroud. I would highly recommend reading through it. For example, when somebody died and was placed in the tomb, they would place coins over the eyes. It was a Jewish custom, and they, through magnification, can read the inscriptions on those coins, and those date back to the time of Christ. Again, the more you read about the Shroud, the more you see how true it is. And again, please read through these, and you’ll, I think, be very impressed. I think it’ll bring you into a deeper understanding of just how much Jesus loves you - the fact that He died on the Cross and went through all this just for you.

We’ll do our closing prayer. In this prayer, the Hail Mary, what’s interesting is that this Hail Mary sums up exactly what we believe about Christ. The fact that He’s God, and the fact that He’s man. Because we say, “Holy Mary, Mother of God”, which means that Jesus is God, because Mary gave birth to a person who was God, not just to a nature. And then we say, “And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.” Jesus is the fruit of Mary’s womb. We acknowledge the Divinity of Christ by saying, “Mother of God,” and the humanity of Christ, the true humanity, by saying, “Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus”. When you pray the Hail Mary, it’s perfect Christology, acknowledging the Divinity of Christ and the humanity of Christ. That’s why those who are devoted to our Blessed Mother will always be true to the Faith, and they’ll not go astray theologically.