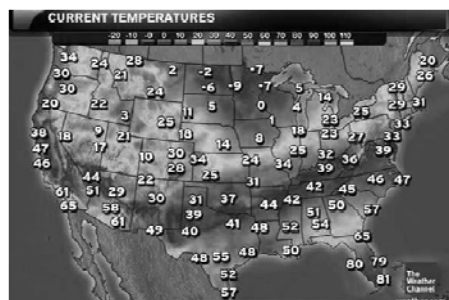


WHO IS JESUS CHRIST

Advent Series
December 11, 2013

FIRST, THANK YOU FOR BEING
HERE!!



IS CHRIST...

- A. 100% GOD, 100% HUMAN
- B. 50% GOD, 50% HUMAN

Think about this question...

We will come back to it

ADVENT SERIES

- GOD- CHRIST- CHURCH-

- ◉ Why is the COLYAM presenting this series now?
- ◉ How does all of this tie into Advent/Christmas?
- ◉ Who (is Advent/Christmas about?)
 - GOD
- ◉ What (did He do?)
 - Become human – CHRIST
- ◉ So what now?
 - Join the Church, aka Body of Christ on earth

SO BACK TO THE QUESTION...

- ◉ Is Christ
- ◉ A. 100% God, 100% Human
- ◉ B. 50% God, 50% Human

IS CHRIST...

- ◉ ANSWER
- ◉ A. 100% God, 100% Human

ADVENT

- ◎ By God becoming one of us, the Son of God definitely responds to the question of
 - *God's reality and his concern for humanity* right in our faces
- ◎ YES, God exists
- ◎ Yes, God cares for us – **by coming down to us to be one of us**
- ◎ How do we know this? **Because He came down as the Christ Child in Bethlehem**

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN ANYWAY?

- ◎ Hebrew – God Saves
- ◎ At the Annunciation, the angel Gabrielle gave the name “Jesus”
 - This is his proper name
 - This expresses his identity and mission
- ◎ “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

SO MANY NAMES!

- ◎ ~~JESUS – What does Jesus mean anyway?~~
- ◎ **CHRIST – Why is Jesus called Christ?**
- ◎ SON OF GOD – What does it mean to say that Jesus is the Son of God?

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WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN ANYWAY? CONTINUED....

- ◎ St. Paul:
 - Jesus is whom “God put forward as an expiration of his blood”
 - Evil spirits fear his name because it is the “name which is above every name.”
 - In his name, his disciples performed miracles, for the Father grants all they ask in his name.
 - “...Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man, “will save his people from their sins.”

CCC, no. 430, citing Mt 1:21

WHY IS JESUS CALLED CHRIST?

- ◎ “Christ” (*Christos*) comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Messiah*, which means anointed
- ◎ It became proper to Jesus...because he accomplished perfectly the divine mission that “Christ” signifies

CCC, no. 436

WHY IS JESUS CALLED CHRIST? CONTINUED...

- ⦿ Another Advent tie!
- ⦿ The Angel announced to the shepherds the birth of Jesus as Messiah promised to Israel
- ⦿ "To you born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"
- ⦿ From the beginning he was "the one whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world," conceived as "holy" in Mary's virginal womb

WHY IS JESUS CALLED CHRIST? CONTINUED...

- ⦿ Blessed Trinity tie!
 - **Father**
 - **Son**
 - **Holy Spirit**
- ⦿ Father – Old Testament concept of "God"
 - God the creator using his authority to confirm that Christ is indeed his Son.
- ⦿ God, the Father, anointed his son, Jesus, with the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus miracles and works are manifested in him as the "Holy One of God"
- ⦿ Jesus basically said – If you don't believe me, at least believe the works that I do!

SO MANY NAMES!

- ⦿ ~~JESUS – What does Jesus mean anyway?~~
- ⦿ ~~CHRIST – Why is Jesus called Christ?~~
- ⦿ **SON OF GOD – What does it mean to say that Jesus is the Son of God?**

WHY IS JESUS CALLED CHRIST? CONTINUED...

- ⦿ God told Joseph to "take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit"
- ⦿ So that Jesus "who is called Christ" should be born of Joseph's spouse into the messianic lineage of David

BLESSED TRINITY TIE...BACKWARDS

- ⦿ Holy Spirit
- ⦿ Son
- ⦿ Father
- ⦿ The Holy Spirit is the name of the power and wisdom Christ showed as proof of his claim to people who did NOT see his connection to the Father.
- ⦿ 1) The Holy Spirit was the power/wisdom in Jesus, the Son, to do his work (miracles) on earth.
- ⦿ 2) Where did the Holy Spirit come from? From God, the Father.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?

- ⦿ You hear people say "Jesus is the son of God"
- ⦿ What does this mean if all of us are sons and daughters of God, but we are not God.
- ⦿ HOWEVER...
- ⦿ While Jesus is the son of God, He is also GOD THE SON.
- ⦿ Jesus is God Himself!
- ⦿ What does Jesus mean? God saves
- ⦿ Christ is the Greek translation of the "Messiah" meaning "Anointed"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD? CONTINUED...

- ◉ God the Son, came down as the Messiah, to save us
- ◉ Again, 100% God; 100% Human

WHERE IS THE PROOF THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?

- ◉ At both these times in the Gospels, God the Father pronounced the same words: "This is my beloved Son"
 - Baptism (Matthew 3:17)
 - Transfiguration of Christ (Matthew 17:5)

TRANSFIGURATION QUESTION: HOW IS JESUS DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER PROPHETS?

- ◉ Moses and Elijah were also at the Transfiguration!
- ◉ Their presence at the Transfiguration demonstrates the superiority of Christ to those most important figures of the Old Testament
 - Moses – law giver (10 Commandments)
 - Elijah – greatest of the prophets
- ◉ By conferring with Christ, they demonstrate the Old Testament/New Testament continuity.

NAME REVIEW

- ◉ JESUS – What does Jesus mean anyway?
 - "God Saves"
- ◉ CHRIST – Why is Jesus called Christ?
 - "Christ" (*Christos*) comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Messiah*, which means anointed
 - He accomplished perfectly the divine mission that Christ signifies
- ◉ SON OF GOD – What does it mean to say that Jesus is the Son of God?
 - God the Son
 - Jesus is God Himself

WHERE IS THE PROOF THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD? TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

- ◉ Revelation of the Glory of God
- ◉ Testimony that Jesus Christ is truly both God and man
- ◉ Glimpse of the glories of heaven and of the resurrected body promised to all Christians
- ◉ After Jesus told His disciples that He would be put to death in Jerusalem, Christ along with Peter, James, John went up to the mountain in Galilee and in the Gospel of Matthew it says "he was transfigured before them. And his face did shine as the sun: and his garments became white as snow."

HOW IS JESUS DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER PROPHETS? CONTINUED

- ◉ At the Transfiguration, by Moses and Elijah disappearing after the Father says
- ◉ "This is my Son"
- ◉ They demonstrate Christ's superiority over them
- ◉ Moses and Elijah were not named God's Son
 - Christ is the only begotten Son of God

OTHER PROPHETS

- ◉ Moses – Moses predicted that God would raise up a Jewish prophet with a special message and anyone who did not believe this prophet would be judged by God. This is Jesus!
- ◉ Muhammad – Jesus claimed to be God; Muhammad claimed to be a mere man who was a prophet. Muhammad did not perform miracles, but Jesus did many. Only Jesus rose from the dead.

<http://www.bethinking.org/other-religions/intermediate/the-uniqueness-of-jesus-christ.htm>

OTHER PROPHET CONTINUED

- ◉ Hindu Gurus – Suffering people be left to suffer because it is their destiny (karma). Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself...But whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17)
 - Jesus teaching is morally superior

<http://www.bethinking.org/other-religions/intermediate/the-uniqueness-of-jesus-christ.htm>

OTHER PROPHETS CONTINUED

- ◉ Buddhism – Buddha sees life only as suffering and selfhood as something to be eradicated. The individuality of the soul is eradicated at the end of each life.
- ◉ Jesus taught that life is a gift to be enjoyed by all, individual should be honored supremely, and there is hope in the life to come.
 - Jesus said to the thief on the cross beside him “Today you shall be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

<http://www.bethinking.org/other-religions/intermediate/the-uniqueness-of-jesus-christ.htm>

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR JESUS TO BE TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN?

- ◉ “The unique altogether singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God does not mean that Jesus Christ is part God and part man, nor does it imply that he is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God...During the first centuries the Church had to defend and clarify this truth of faith against heresies that falsified it.” (CCC, no. 464)

WHAT THE CHURCH SAID ABOUT JESUS BEING TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

- ◉ Asserted that Christ's true coming in flesh; born of the Virgin Mary
- ◉ In a real body, he truly suffered and died on the Cross
- ◉ Council of Nicea (AD 325) reaffirmed the faith of the Church that Jesus was really God – “begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father”
- ◉ Council of Ephesus (AD 431): Since the one who was born of Mary is divine, Mary is rightly called “Mother of God”

IS BELIEF IN JESUS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?

- ◉ Now that we know who Jesus is, his difference as God and not a prophet, is belief in Jesus necessary for salvation?
- ◉ Note this was also the Question of the Week...
- ◉ “Is it enough for us to be baptized? What else is necessary? What does following Christ demand of us?”

IS BELIEF IN JESUS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION? CONTINUED

- ◉ Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God
 - Salvation from sin
 - Sharing in divine life
- ◉ Where is our full realization of the Kingdom of God?
 - Partially on earth
 - Permanently in heaven
- ◉ "That you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (John 20:31)

WHERE DID JESUS' TEACHING COME FROM?

- ◉ Again, the Kingdom of God
 - This is the presence among human beings calling them to a new way of life as individuals and as a community!
- ◉ Jesus died for us so that we can experience this Kingdom of God.

TOUGH QUESTIONS CONTINUED

- ◉ 7) How long was Jesus' ministry?
- ◉ 8) If Jesus was God, how could He pray to God? Was Jesus praying to himself?
- ◉ 9) Why did blood and water come out of Jesus' side when he was pierced?

IS BELIEF IN JESUS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION? CONTINUED

- ◉ What do we need to gain entrance into the Kingdom of God?
 - Faith in Christ
 - Baptism
 - Life in Communion with all members of the Church
 - Participating in Sunday Mass
 - Receiving the Sacraments
 - Through Christ's resurrection we participate in his divine life through the sacraments
 - ◉ They show us how to pray as we respond to each sacrament
 - ◉ Connect us with the living Tradition of the Church - Community of Christ!

NINE (9) TOUGH QUESTIONS

- ◉ 1) How can we believe in Jesus for our salvation if he couldn't even save himself on the cross?
- ◉ 2) Why should I believe in Christ's Resurrection?
- ◉ 3) Where was Jesus for the 3 days between His death and Resurrection?
- ◉ 4) Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?
- ◉ 5) What did Jesus look like?
- ◉ 6) What happened during Jesus' childhood?

1. HOW CAN WE BELIEVE IN JESUS FOR OUR SALVATION IF HE COULDN'T EVEN SAVE HIMSELF ON THE CROSS?

- ◉ Jesus needed to die to save us from our sins.
- ◉ Jesus had to die on the cross to pay for our wrongdoing, for our sins. The law required that mankind die for his wrongdoing (sins) because mankind violated God's law. We all violate God's law in some way or another, whether through deed, or thought, or both. God knew that man could not improve his behavior enough to satisfy the demands of the law or enough to merit going to Heaven to be with Him. So, He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our wrongdoing, sins (John 3:16).

2. WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN CHRIST'S RESURRECTION?

- There are 4 lines of evidence for Christ's Resurrection
 - the demonstrable sincerity of the eyewitnesses (and in the Apostles' case, compelling, inexplicable change),
 - the conversion and demonstrable sincerity of key antagonists- and skeptics-turned-martyrs,
 - the fact of the empty tomb, enemy attestation to the empty tomb, the fact that all of this took place in Jerusalem where faith in the resurrection began and thrived,
 - the testimony of the women, the significance of such testimony given the historical context;

4. DID JESUS HAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

- The Gospels are also very clear that Mary was a virgin at the time she conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt 1:18-25, Lk 1:26-38). Remember when the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary God's plan, she responded, "How can this be, since I do not know man?"
- After the birth of our Lord, although the Gospels do not give us many details of His childhood, no mention is made of Mary and Joseph ever having other children. Never does it refer to the "sons of Mary" or "a son of Mary," but only the son of Mary.
- "But he (Joseph) had no union with her (Mary) until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus" (Matthew 1:25).

6. WHAT HAPPENED DURING JESUS' CHILDHOOD?

- Other than in Luke 2:41-52, the Bible does not tell us anything about Jesus' childhood.
- Just that:
 - He was the son of parents devout in their religious observances; Joseph and Mary made the yearly pilgrimage for the Feast of Passover
 - Jesus' Finding in the Temple shows that he was not disobedient, but astonishing the Temple teachers with his knowledge
 - From here to his Baptism at age 30, all we know of Jesus' youth is that He left Jerusalem and returned to Nazareth with His parents and "was obedient to them" (Luke 2:51)
 - According to tradition, Jesus died at age 33!

3. WHERE WAS JESUS FOR 3 DAYS BETWEEN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION?

- Bible isn't entirely clear
 - What we can know for sure is that Jesus was not giving people a second chance
 - The Bible tells us that we face judgment after death, not a second chance (Hebrews 9:27)
- Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Jesus went to hell, the permanent place of final judgment for the lost
- Bible did say he went to Hades, which is the realm of the dead awaiting resurrection; this is temporary

5. WHAT DID JESUS LOOK LIKE?

- The Bible never gives any physical description of Christ. The closest thing we get to a description is in Isaiah 53:2b, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him." All this tells us is that Jesus' appearance was just like any other man's - He was ordinary-looking.
- Isaiah further describes the appearance of Christ as He would appear as He was being scourged prior to His crucifixion. "His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness" (Isaiah 52:14). These words describe the inhuman cruelty He suffered to the point that He no longer looked like a human being (Matthew 26:67; 27:30; John 19:3). His appearance was so awful that people looked at Him in astonishment.

7. HOW LONG WAS JESUS' MINISTRY?

- According to John's Gospel, Jesus attended at least 3 annual Feasts of Passover over the course of His ministry.
 - Based on this info, Jesus ministry lasted 2 years, at the least
- Scholars believe there was an additional Passover based on what Jesus accomplished and the places he visited, lengthening Jesus' ministry to at least 3 years.
- From his baptism to his ascension, the approximate time is 3-3.5 years

8. IF JESUS WAS GOD, HOW COULD HE PRAY TO GOD? WAS JESUS PRAYING TO HIMSELF?

- ⊙ Before Jesus took upon Himself the form of a man, the eternal Father and eternal Son already had a relationship.
- ⊙ When Jesus, the eternal Son of God, came down from Heaven in sinless humanity, he gave up His heavenly glory (Philippians 2:5-11).
- ⊙ Jesus Christ was no less God on earth when praying to His Father in heaven. He was depicting how even in sinless humanity it is necessary to have a vital prayer life in order to do His Father's will. Jesus' praying to the Father was a demonstration of His relationship within the Trinity and an example for us that we must rely on God through prayer for the strength and wisdom we need. Since Christ, as the God-man, needed to have a vibrant prayer life, so should the follower of Christ today.

9. WHY DID BLOOD AND WATER COME OUT OF JESUS' SIDE WHEN HE WAS PIERCED?

- ⊙ Pericardial effusion – fluid gathered in the membrane around the heart
- ⊙ Hypovolemic shock – term that refers to low blood volume
- ⊙ This explains why, after Jesus died and a Roman soldier thrust a spear through Jesus' side (probably His right side, piercing both the lungs and the heart), blood and water came from His side just as John recorded in his Gospel ([John 19:34](#)).

TAKE AWAY POINTS

- ⊙ 1. Jesus had a human soul.
 - Somehow in a way we cannot completely grasp, Jesus had human knowledge and human will, which always worked in harmony with the divine knowledge and divine will.
 - Christ's human will does not resist or oppose but rather submits to his divine and almighty will.
- ⊙ 2. Jesus is true God and true man in one divine person.
 - To profess Jesus as Lord is to believe in his divinity.
- ⊙ 3. As disciples of Jesus ("God saves") Christ ("anointed one"), we are called to be like him until he is formed in us.

PROOF THAT CHRIST IS A GATOR!

