

Crash Course in Catholicism

Part Deux

Session I – Scripture

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St. Theresa of Lisieux, Billerica

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Overview – Session I

Scripture

- Opening Prayer
- Introductions
- Scripture
- Break
- Questions
- Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer

Scripture

A Reading from the Second Letter to St. Timothy (Chapter 3)

You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me. In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

But wicked people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known (the) sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

The Word of the Lord

Introductions

Who are we?

- Deacon Phil and Deb
 - Married 22 years
 - 21 years in Billerica
 - 5 children (19, 17, 15, 13, 5)
 - Live near the Elks club

- Deacon Phil
 - Ordained September 2004
 - Director of Engineering at a Route 128 High Tech company

- Deb, OWD
 - At home, home schooling mom for the last 8 years

Introductions

Who are you?

Who are you?

Why are you here?

Evening exercises!

What is Divine Revelation?

Our Profession of Faith --> Scripture

- *God's self-communication, ultimately in Christ*
 - *Dei Verbum (Vatican II)*

- *Through...*
 - **Scripture (God's word written down)**
 - *Tradition (God's word handed on in the life, doctrine, worship of the Church)*
 - *Teaching Authority (Bishops and Pope; Magisterium)*

What do we believe about the Bible?

Scripture

- Truly inspired by God...
 - ... in the telling of the stories
 - ... in the writers and transcribers
 - ... in the selection of the books (canon)

- Scripture comes ***out of*** community
 - The people ***need*** to remember their story!
 - "Family album" → **Who** and **Whose** we are!

- "The Historical Truth of the Gospel" 1964
- "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" 1993
 - No Gospel harmonization possible
 - Can and **should** analyze...
 - Historically, Critically
 - Rhetorically
 - Form-based
 - Redactively
 - Etc...

Saints and Scripture

Things Catholic --> Scripture

- *Saints*
- *Communion of Saints*

- Scriptural Interpretation
 - Different types of writings, different ways to interpret
 - Not literal
 - The church interprets scripture (people of God)
 - *Lectio Divina – can be used to pray with scripture*

- *Resurrection of the Body*

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Old Testament, New Testament?

Scripture

- “Old” Testament
 - Indicates it’s “not as good” as the “New” Testament

- But... we know that this is not true!

- So, let’s call them...
 - The Hebrew Scripture
 - The Christian Scripture

What is the Bible's role in revelation?

Our Profession of Faith --> Scripture

- Records Salvation History

- Hebrew Scripture
 - God's interaction with the Jewish people
 - God's Chosen people
 - Freedom from slavery
 - A personal God

- Christian Scripture
 - Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
 - God interacts with his people in a new way
 - ...to save **us**
 - Not new *ideas*, a new *way of life!*

How does Hebrew Scripture show us God?

Our Profession of Faith --> Scripture

- *God chooses the Hebrew people as his own*
- *God frees the Israelites from slavery*
- *God establishes a covenant*
 - *... freely given - based on Love*
- *God gives Israel a land (Canaan)*
- *God establishes a kingdom (David)*
- *God sends prophets*
- *God sustains his chosen people in exile (Babylon)...*
 - *... and restores them to Israel*

Hebrew Scripture - Overview

Scripture

□ Torah – Law – Pentateuch

- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers

□ Prophets

- Major – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations, Baruch
- Minor – Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

□ Books of History

- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1/2 Samuel, 1/2 Kings, 1/2 Chronicles, 1/2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

□ Wisdom Literature

- Psalms
- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Job, Wisdom, Sirach,

Hebrew Scripture - Overview (cont'd)

Scripture

- ❑ Septuagint – Greek translation
- ❑ Not studied as 'a bible'
- ❑ Torah is studied intensively
- ❑ "The people of the book"

Hebrew Scripture - Torah

Scripture

□ Let's Read!

- Calling of Israel as a people and into a land
- God's saving power
 - Exodus 14:13-31

- Covenant
 - Exodus 15:22-27

- The widow and the orphan and the alien
 - Exodus 22:20-24
 - Deuteronomy 10:17-19 and others

Hebrew Scripture - Prophets

Scripture

- Someone who speaks for God

- Let's read!
 - The call of the prophet
 - Isaiah 6:1-8 (Burning coal)
 - Ezekiel 1 through 3 (Eating the scroll)

 - The restoration of the people of Israel
 - Ezekiel 37:1-14

 - The care of God for his people
 - Jeremiah 29: 11-14

 - It's not always easy
 - Jeremiah 20:7-13

Hebrew Scripture - Psalms

Scripture

□ Overview

- Mostly by David
- Mostly sung at liturgy!

□ Let's read!

- Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd)
- Psalm 22:2-6 (Why have you forsaken me?)
- Psalm 63:1-9 (Longing for God)
- Psalm 139:1-8 (God searches and knows)

Christian Scripture - Overview

Our Profession of Faith --> Scripture

□ ***Gospels***

- *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

□ ***Acts of the Apostles***

- *History of the early Church*

□ ***St. Paul's Letters***

- *Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians and Philomen*
- *Probably not: Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1/2 Timothy and Titus*

□ ***Epistle to the Hebrews***

- *Jesus' priesthood*

□ ***Catholic Epistles***

- *James, 1/2 Peter, 1/2/3 John, Jude*

□ ***Revelation***

Christian Scripture - Gospels

Scripture

- Synoptic Gospels
 - Of 'one eye'
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke (John's is *different*)
 - Either a common source Q, **OR** Mark's Gospel itself

- Came out of community

- Should not be read as strictly historical

- Not Thomas, not Judas, not ...

Christian Scripture - Gospels (St. Matthew)

Scripture

□ Overview

- Gospel to Jewish Christian Community
- May not be the *apostle* St. Matthew
- Many references to Hebrew scripture
- 8 Beatitudes are balanced with 8 Woes (32:2ff)
- “Make disciples” not “proclaim the Good News”

□ Let's read!

- Matthew 1:1-2 (Jewish Genealogy of Jesus)
- Matthew 3:1-3 (Isaiah is cited)
- Matthew 11:28-30 (Come to me (uniquely Matthew))
- Matthew 28:16-20 (Great commission)

Christian Scripture - Gospels (St. Mark)

Scripture

- Overview
 - The 'urgent' gospel
 - 21 at once/immediately, 8 ran, etc
 - Perhaps a sub-community of St. Peter → Perhaps Peter was the source
 - Originally, no resurrection scene (stopped at empty tomb)

- Let's read!
 - Mark 1:12, 18, 30, 43 (urgency)
 - Mark 14:47-52 (naked man)
 - Mark 16:5-11 (end of the Gospel++)

Christian Scripture - Gospels (St. Luke)

Scripture

□ Overview

- The Physician
- Luke and Acts are a 2 volume set
- To Greek Christians → but profound respect for Judaism

□ Let's read!

- Luke 1:41-56 (Magnificat)
- Luke 3:23-25ff (Gentile genealogy)
- Luke 23:39-43 (Good thief)
- Luke 24:13-35 (Emmaus)

Christian Scripture - Gospels (St. John)

Scripture

□ Overview

- High Christology
- Not miracles, or “really good things,” but **SIGNS**
- 7 I AM sayings
- The number 3!

□ Let's read!

- John 1:1-18 (Introduction – High Christology)
- John 3:5-18 (Look for the “Book of Signs”, too)
- John 6:31-40 (The Bread of Life)
- John 21:14-18 (Peter, do you love me)

Christian Scripture - Acts (St. Luke)

Scripture

□ Overview

- How the early church got to Rome
- St. Luke, volume II

□ Let's read!

- Acts 1:1-5 (The beginning)
- Acts 2:1-13 (The coming of the Holy Spirit)
- Acts 8:26-40 (St. Philip and the Eunuch)
- Acts 9:1-9 (St. Paul meets Jesus)

Christian Scripture - Letters (St. Paul)

Scripture

□ Overview

- Strong introductions
- Strong words
- No one like St. Paul

□ Let's read!

- Romans 1:1-9 (Typical Pauline greeting)
- Philippians 2:1-11 (Phil's favorite 😊)
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (His grace is sufficient)
- Galatians 1:6-10, 3:1-5 (Strong Words!)

Break Time

Coffee and Goodies!!

Questions?



Any Questions?

Some Questions

Scripture

- ❑ Why does reading scripture matter in 2006 Billerica?
- ❑ What can I do to read scripture more prayerfully?
- ❑ What are my favorite parts of scripture?
- ❑ What parts of scripture do I struggle with?
- ❑ Is there a topic from tonight that you struggle with? ...an ***Imagine That!*** moment?

Closing Prayer

Scripture

ALL:

**Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and rekindle in them the fire of your love.**

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the Earth.

**O God,
on the first Pentecost
you instructed the hearts of those who believed in you
by the light of the Holy Spirit;**

**give us a taste for what is right and true
and a continuing sense of his joy-bringing presence and power,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Good night
and
Thanks!