



LESSON SEVEN

Jesus Christ: God Becomes Man

Opening Prayer

*God, you have called us into your presence to seek truth,
to find peace, and to hear the Good News.
As we begin this time of learning and reflection,
open our hearts to the mystery of Christ.
Help us to listen with reverence, to wonder freely,
and to encounter the One who gave his life for the world.
May this time draw us closer to you and prepare us to respond
with faith and love as you reveal yourself more fully through Christ.*

*“Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of God,
who redeemed us with his blood.”*

Amen.

Lesson Objectives:

- ❖ Grasp the divine identity of Jesus through Scripture and understand that he is fully God and fully man, as foretold in the Old Testament and confirmed by his miracles and teachings.
- ❖ Understand why Jesus cannot be viewed as merely a good teacher and appreciate his unique role as the mediator between God and humanity.
- ❖ Get to know the heart of Jesus' message as the Kingdom of God and reflect on what the Kingdom is and what it means to follow his teachings.
- ❖ Recognize the Incarnation as God's ultimate act of self-revelation and understand its theological significance.

BURNING QUESTIONS

❖ What if I believe in God but I'm not sure about Jesus being God? Does that matter?

What difference would it make if you believed that Jesus is truly God and not just a great teacher?

❖ What does following Jesus really mean? Will I have to change my life?

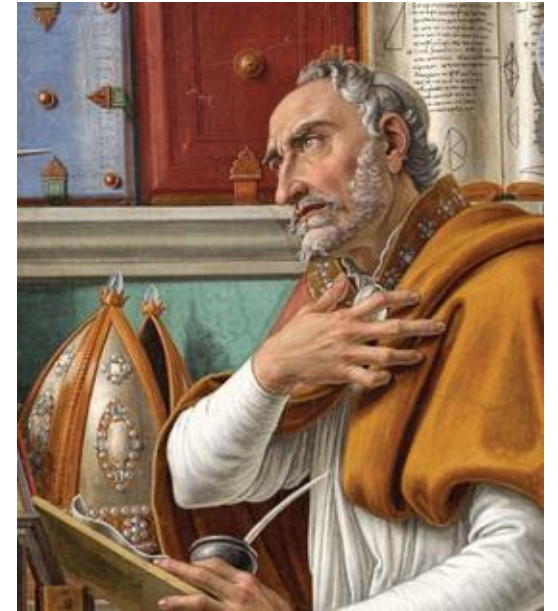
What does following Jesus mean to you? Do you anticipate changes in your life because of him?

St. Augustine of Hippo

Feast Day: August 28

AD 354-430 · Thagaste (present-day Algeria) · Patron of Brewers, Printers, Theologians

Augustine was a brilliant and ambitious man, drawn more to worldly success, pleasure, and philosophy than to Jesus. His mother, Monica, prayed for his conversion for decades. Everything changed in a garden in Milan, when he heard a child's voice say, "Take and read," and there he opened Paul's letter to the Romans and was converted. He was baptized by St. Ambrose in 387, and much later became Bishop of Hippo.



“You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.”

St. Augustine

Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

The Question Jesus Forces

Jesus did not leave the option of calling him merely a good moral teacher. He claimed to forgive sins, to be the Son of God, to be the way, the truth, and the life. Anyone who says these things is either lying, deluded, or telling the truth. There is no middle ground.

The Word Made Flesh

John's Gospel opens: "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" (John 1:1, 14). Jesus is fully God—the Second Person of the Trinity—and fully man. He is one Divine Person with both a human nature and a divine nature, able to mediate between God and humanity because he belongs fully to both (see CCC 456–457).

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

The Incarnation

Prophecies Fulfilled

The Old Testament contains hundreds of prophecies pointing to him, all of which Jesus fulfilled: born of a virgin (see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1), born in Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2; Matthew 2), healing the sick (see Isaiah 35:5–6), silent before his accusers (see Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12, 14), reigning forever (see 2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:32–33). These are only a few examples.

Miracles Confirm His Divinity

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus shows his divine nature by doing works that only God can do: authority to forgive sins (see Mark 2:5), power over nature (see Mark 4:41), power over death (see John 11:25). He identified himself as the great “I AM” of Exodus (see John 8:58), said “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30), and declared “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). These are not the words of a merely good teacher.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory.”

John 1:14

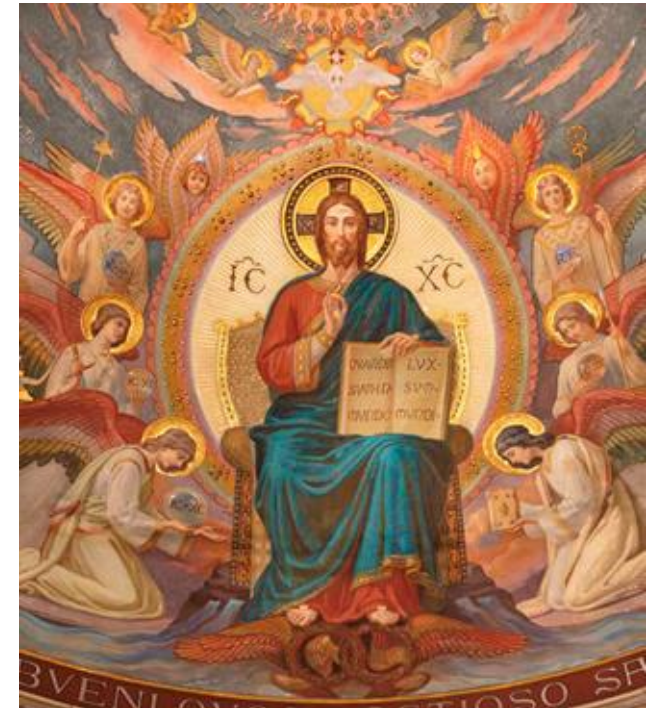
The Kingdom of Heaven

What Does Jesus Teach Us?

When asked which commandment is greatest, Jesus replied: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ... And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37–39). This is the heart of the Gospel. “To love is to will the good of another” (CCC 1766, quoting St. Thomas Aquinas).

A Kingdom of Mercy and Humility

We are called to live differently because this is a Kingdom of the spirit, not a physical one (see John 18:36), distinguished by mercy and humility. The parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15) shows this kind of radical forgiveness. Child-like humility is the posture of the Kingdom (see Matthew 18:3). Jesus himself is the model, “though he was in the form of God, he emptied himself” (Philippians 2:6–7).



“The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:15



Discussion Questions

- ❖ What makes Jesus different from other religious leaders or historical figures?
- ❖ How does knowing that Jesus experienced human life (though without sin) change the way you approach prayer and relationship with him?
- ❖ What would change in your life if you wholeheartedly said yes to following Jesus?

Faith and Fun

In Scripture, Jesus is called “Emmanuel.” What does this name mean?

a. Savior of the world

b. God with us

c. Son of David

d. Light of the nations

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Immanuel and Emmanuel are different spellings of the same name. Immanuel is derived from the original Hebrew; Emmanuel is derived from the Greek translation. The prophet Isaiah foretold: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). Matthew’s Gospel identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of this prophecy (see Matthew 1:23).

The Crucifix

The Central Image of Catholic Worship

Step into any Catholic church and your eyes are drawn to one central image: the crucifix. Unlike a plain cross, the crucifix bears the body of Christ. It reminds us not only of the victory of the Resurrection but of its cost—the total self-gift of Jesus, who suffered and died out of love for us.

Prayer with the Crucifix

When we meditate before a crucifix, we are reminded of what love really looks like: it is costly. Love lays down its life for the beloved (see John 15:13). This is not just something Jesus did long ago; it is how he invites us to live today.

“We preach Christ crucified ... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”
1 Corinthians 1:23–24



Living It Out:

Find a crucifix this week. Spend a few minutes in prayer before it. Meditate on how your life responds to the love and mercy Jesus showed on the Cross.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Jesus Prayer

Announcements / Reminders — add notes here