

God's Story, Our Story

Lesson 21: Jesus – Infancy and Preparation

"Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa 7:14)



Gal 4:4-5; CCC 423

CCC 457-460

CCC 464

CCC 515-516; Jn 14:9

CCC 520-521

Gen 3:15

Lk 1:26-33; Is 7:14;
Jer 23:5; CCC 484-486

CCC 490-493

CCC 494-496

CCC 496-507

Lk 1:39-42

Lk 1:57-60; CCC 523

CCC 524

Lk 2:1-5; Mic 5:2; Is
9:6; CCC 525-526

1. "We believe and confess that Jesus of Nazareth... is the eternal Son of God made man."
2. The Word became flesh:
 - a. In order to save us by reconciling us with God
 - b. So that we might know God's love
 - c. To be our model of holiness
 - d. To make us partakers of the divine nature
3. A personal relationship with Christ is essential.
4. Jesus is not part God and part man. He became truly man while remaining truly God.
5. Christ: one person, two natures:
 - a. Person: *who* are you? God.
 - b. Nature: *what* are you? God and man.
6. Christ's whole life – his deeds, miracles, words, silences and sufferings – is a mystery that reveals God the Father.
7. Christ's life is a mystery of redemption. He is our model and example to imitate. We are called to become one with him.
8. The Protoevangelium announces the coming of a Redeemer.
9. Jesus is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
10. The Virgin Mary was saved from sin by Christ from the moment of her conception. She was free from original sin which is normally contracted through natural generation. This is called the Immaculate Conception.
11. By giving her free consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus. Mary is the Mother of God.
12. Mary remained a virgin all her life (Perpetual Virginity of Mary).
13. Mary immediately took the unborn Jesus to Elizabeth and her unborn child, John the Baptist (The Visitation).
14. John the Baptist is the Lord's precursor sent to prepare the way.
15. In Advent, the Church renews all of creation's expectation of the coming birth of its Messiah.
16. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the City of David, because he is of the house of David. Jesus – the Prince of Peace – is born in a stable, into a poor and humble Jewish family.

<p><i>Lk 2:8-16; Mt 2:1-2; CCC 528</i></p> <p><i>CCC 527</i></p> <p><i>Lk 2:25-38; CCC 529</i></p> <p><i>Mt 2:13-23; Hos 11:1</i></p> <p><i>Lk 2:51; CCC 517, 531-532</i></p> <p><i>Lk 2:41-49; CCC 534</i></p> <p><i>Mt 3:13-17; CCC 535-537; Ps 2:7</i></p> <p><i>Mt 4:1; CCC 539</i></p> <p><i>Mt 4:17; CCC 541-542</i></p>	<p>17. Angels announce Jesus' birth, singing: "Glory to God in the highest..." Magi and shepherds come to adore Him.</p> <p>18. The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world.</p> <p>19. Jesus' Circumcision is the sign of His incorporation into Abraham's descendants - the people of the covenant. It also prefigures the new "circumcision of Christ" which is Baptism.</p> <p>20. The Presentation in the temple shows Jesus to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the "light to the nations" and the "glory of Israel."</p> <p>21. Persecution against Jesus began at an early age. The Holy Family had to flee into Egypt to save Jesus' life. When it was safe, they returned to Nazareth.</p> <p>22. Jesus' hidden life was spent in submission to his mother Mary and foster father Joseph. His obedience atones for our disobedience.</p> <p>23. Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfills the fourth commandment perfectly and was the temporal image of his filial obedience to his Father in heaven.</p> <p>24. Jesus is found in the Temple listening and asking questions. This gives us a glimpse at the mystery of Jesus' total consecration to his mission as divine Son.</p> <p>25. The baptism of Jesus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Manifests Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God b. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners c. Prefigures Christian Baptism <p>26. Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan. Jesus fulfills Israel's vocation perfectly, totally obedient to the divine will</p> <p>27. Jesus begins his preaching by calling men to repentance for "The kingdom of heaven is at hand". The kingdom is the Church. It is the restoration of the Davidic kingdom.</p>
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Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Matthew see the genealogy in Mt 1 as such an important part of Jesus' heritage (refer to 2 Sam 7:8-17; Ps 89:20-37; Ps 132:11-12)?
2. What is the meaning of the word "Emmanuel" (Mt 1:22-23)? How is it important for the Jewish people who had been oppressed for over five hundred years?
3. Why did Jesus wait so long (30 years) before he began his public ministry? Why were these years of "silence" so important?
4. With Israel's exodus from Egypt as a background, what would be the symbolism of John the Baptist's taking people out into the desert and leading them through the Jordan River?
5. Consider Mary's obedience to the angel's message: how does she model for us the example of discipleship?