

CATHOLICISM

Study Program Lesson Summary

1-21-11

1. AMAZED AND AFRAID THE REVELATION OF GOD BECOME MAN

The strange and dangerous words of Jesus of Nazareth set up a drama that will culminate in a surprising battle between two kings and in the wake of this conflict an empire will be defeated and the world will be changed.

Father Robert Barron illuminates and explains the conviction of the Catholic Faith that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah and the revelation of God become man. He shows how Jesus fulfills the four tasks of the Messiah, according to the Old and New Testaments, and how the living legacy of Christ, God and Messiah, is proclaimed by the Church. Join Father Barron as addresses some of the most controversial questions about the life and identity of Jesus Christ and travels through the mysterious and sacred places of the Holy Land of Israel and the eternal city of Rome.

2. HAPPY ARE WE THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

The revelation of Jesus as God is accompanied by a stunning invitation to a unique new way of life, explained in the teachings of Jesus. To every generation, the words of Jesus have proven fascinating, disorienting, sometimes confounding, deeply transformative, and always unforgettable.

Father Barron highlights the Beatitudes, the path of non-violence and lessons of forgiveness, care for the poor and our relationship with God as presented in the parables. Jesus teachings are illuminated during Fr. Barron s pilgrimages to Poland, Germany, Spain and New York City. Commentaries at these sites also show how the Catholic Church is a living culture, which gives witness to the inviolable dignity of the human person.

3. THE INEFFABLE MYSTERY OF GOD - THAT THAN WHICH NOTHING GREATER CAN BE THOUGHT

Father Barron considers St. Anselm s description of God as that than which nothing greater can be thought, and goes on to explain St. Thomas Aquinas arguments which support the claim that God truly exists. He also speaks from the Catholic tradition about the nature of God and the challenging question of evil and the existence of God.

To provide a vision of the ineffable majesty and mystery of God, Father Barron invites us to the heights of the Sinai desert and makes his way to mysterious Istanbul, walk the glittering streets of Paris and then captivates the viewer with the glories of the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

4. OUR TAINTED NATURE'S SOLITARY BOAST - MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

In this episode, Father Barron masterfully correlates the Catholic Faith's testimony to the revelation of God in Christ with the vivid practices of reverence offered to his Mother. Mary is explained as an on-going presence, an actor in the life of the Church.

Father Barron journeys to the humble remains of Mary's house in Nazareth, to the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus and to the great Marian shrines of Lourdes and Guadalupe to explain the Church's teachings about Mary as the Mother of God, the Immaculate Conception and the dogma of the Assumption.

5. THE INDISPENSABLE MEN PETER, PAUL AND THE MISSIONARY ADVENTURE

Father Barron calls Peter and Paul two indispensable men, the ones without whom the church never would have emerged and survived. In telling each man's story, Father Barron shows how the Holy Spirit worked through all the apostles and disciples to build the Church.

Following the trail of these apostles as they took the Gospel to the ends of the earth, Father Barron presents the foundations of the apostolic faith, particularly the revelation of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

6. A BODY BOTH SUFFERING AND GLORIOUS THE MYSTICAL UNION OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Clearly answering the question, What is the Church? Father Barron presents the reality of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. The Body of Christ can be seen on earth from the Church's center in Rome to the cities of New York, Sao Paulo, Manila, Namugongo and Uganda, while still escaping total understanding as the mystical union between Christ and his Church.

Father Barron also explores the Catholic conviction that the life and presence of Christ continues to embrace humanity in all its joys and sorrows through the presence of the Church.

7. WORD MADE FLESH, TRUE BREAD OF HEAVEN THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH'S SACRAMENT AND WORSHIP

Father Barron explores the ancient practices of the Church's worship that endure to this very day, and the notion that all value is summed up in the liturgy, the supreme act by which we commune with God.

Considered by the Catholic Faith to be the source and summit of its identity and mission, the Eucharist is the central practice of the Church's culture. Father Barron describes all the parts of the Mass, and shows how the Sacred Liturgy embodies the whole of the Faith in such diverse places as Jerusalem, Rome, Chicago, Orvieto and Mexico City.

8. A VAST COMPANY OF WITNESSES THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

The story of the Church is told in the examples of those men and women who dedicated their lives to knowing and serving Jesus Christ. The Catholic Faith is made visible in real human lives.

Father Barron gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and creative potential of the Catholic Church. Highlighting Katharine Drexel, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Father Barron tells the story of the Church as a vast company of witness who are called by Christ to be a Communion of Saints.

9. THE FIRE OF HIS LOVE PRAYER AND THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

In this lesson, Father Barron explores Catholic spirituality, which is centered on prayer. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and the heart to God.

On pilgrimage to the places where the great saints and spiritual masters lived, Father Barron explores the different types of prayer: contemplation; adoration; petition; and intercession. In telling the stories of Catholics like Thomas Merton, St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, Fr. Barron demonstrates how the human person can be transformed through prayer that manifests a deep, spiritual commitment centered in Christ.

10. WORLDWITHOUT END - THE LAST THINGS

Explore the Church's conviction that life here and now is preparation for an extraordinary world that is yet to come a supernatural destiny. Father Barron presents the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory as he journeys to Florence, Ireland and Rome.

The vision of the Church sees beyond this world and invites us to consider a world without end. Father Barron shows how this vision is supported by the mystery and truth of the Resurrection of Jesus.