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Bread of Life

Lesson 5: The Sacrifice of the Mass

Opening Prayer

LCE page #31-36

Part I—The Mass and Calvary

- 7 Last Words (Archbishop Fulton Sheen)
 - (1) “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”
 - (2) “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”
 - (3) “Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.”
 - (4) “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”
 - (5) “I thirst.”
 - (6) “It is finished.”
 - (7) “Into Your hands, I commend My spirit.”

- MASS
 - **Confiteor** (*I confess to Almighty God...*)
 - **Kyrie** (*Lord have mercy... Christ have mercy... Lord have mercy*)
 - **CONNECT TO #1—Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.**

 - **Offertory**—we offer what is broken. The gifts are brought up, and we offer the gift of ourselves to the Father.
 - **CONNECT TO #2—Today you will be with Me in Paradise.**

 - **Sanctus** (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)
 - **CONNECT TO #3—Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.**
 - Our Mother Mary intercedes for us, and helps us to be holy.

 - **Consecration**
 - Central part of the Mass
 - Where we commemorate the death of Our Lord.
 - **CONNECT TO #4—My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?**
 - Psalm 22
 - On the cross, Jesus is understanding the condition of the human heart. He understands our misery, our feeling of separation from God.

- **Agnus Dei** (*Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world...*)
- **CONNECT TO #5—I thirst**
 - He thirsts for union: for us to be in union with Him, and He with us.
- **Communion**
 - We receive the Resurrected Lord
 - ****The Mass is Passion, Death, and Resurrection all in one****
- **Dismissal**
- **CONNECT TO #6—It is finished**
- *Only in Latin Mass—Last Gospel*
- **CONNECT TO #7—Father, into your hands I commend My spirit**

Part II—The Mass and Oblation

- We can offer our Mass for someone's intentions, lifting them up in prayer.
 - Central part of the Mass—there is an oblation, an offering. We offer Christ to the Father, but we also offer ourselves and our own intentions.
 - We offer what we see as valuable. We want to give a good gift.
 - What we offer at Mass is of ultimate and infinite value: JESUS CHRIST.
 - We give the gift of ourselves to God. And we should nothing back.
 - Our children should see themselves as a gift, and that they can offer themselves as a gift with Jesus to the Father.

What is the Mass? (4 Things)

(1) Representation

- Jesus Christ presented/offered Himself to the Father on the cross
- Christ is truly and really present now on the altar and so He can freely offer Himself to the Father. He can no longer die, because He now has a glorified body. But the essence of His oblation remains the same.
- **Where is the Body of Christ?**
 - *In Heaven*
 - *In the tabernacle*
- At the Mass, we experience the presentation of Christ to the Father.
 - Same offering, but different manner.
 - **Cross—bloody sacrifice**
 - **Mass—unbloody sacrifice**
- **(2) Memorial**
 - Do this is *memory* of Me.
 - The events we are remembering and representing (the mystical presence of these events) are the Last Supper, Calvary, and the Resurrection.
 - We are **present at** these events and **participating in** them!

- **(3) Sacred Banquet**
- Mass is a communal meal, we are gathered around a table, united in the Body of Christ.
 - We call this **Communion**. Your children are preparing for **First Communion**.
- **(4) Application of the Merits of Calvary**
 - *Calvary*—side of Christ is pierced on the cross
 - If we pierce a bag of gold, all the treasure would spill out.
 - Our salvation, the payment for our sins, spill out of His side as blood and water flow out. We should run to gather those merits at the Mass.
 - *John 1:1-14*
 - Jesus is the source of all grace and truth.
 - At Mass, we apply those graces and merits to our life.
- The Mass is ALL FOUR of these!
 - **Representation**
 - **Memorial**
 - **Sacred Banquet**
 - **Application**
- **Our participation in the Mass (and thus the Last Supper, Calvary, and the Resurrection)**
 - Different levels of intimacy, so some get more out of it than others.
 - In the Mass, we are called to have real, actual, and active participation. We are not just spectators! We are there to offer, not just watch!
- **Sense of the Offerings (The Seven Elevations)**
- Continuous motion in the Mass: Everything is **offered up** to the Father, and it is all **presented back** to us.
 - We come in with a sense of humility, knowing that we need something.
 - Then we make an offering of ourselves to the Father, along with Christ.
 - The offering is acceptable to the Father, and then He offers His Son back to us.
 - We receive the Son, and are sent out to bring Him to the world.
- **(Elevation 1 and 2) The Bread and the Wine**
- **(Elevation 3 and 4) After Consecrations**
- **(Elevation 5) Doxology**
- **(Elevation 6) The Agnus Dei**
- **(Elevation 7) Communion**
- **So is the Mass just about #7 (Communion)?**
 - No! There is a lot more to the Mass than just communion.
 - The oblation, the offering of the gift of ourselves and the intentions of others, are all so pleasing to the Father, and acceptable through the merits of Jesus Christ.