J.M.J.

A.M.D.G.

Bread of Life

**Lesson 4: 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 then 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.