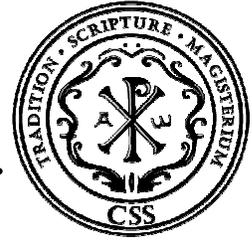


Lesson 1. . . Jesus: Son of David, Son of Abraham
Gospel of Matthew



Notes From the Podium

By Fr. Matthew Kauth

These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help document the main message of the lecture.

Matthew 1:1-25

I. Welcome

II. Genealogy

A. Genesis

1. God eternally begets
2. It is the nature of God to create
3. God communicates His life

B. Litany of Generations

1. In the image of the Father, we participate in giving ourselves to one another.
2. Through us God creates new life

C. God inserts Himself

1. Into history
2. Into these generations

D. The Messianic Line – A revelation to the Jews

1. The seed of promise come down from Abraham all the way to Joseph
2. Divine Providence worded through all these generations
3. God speaks with persons, places, events, and orders all history to His will without destroying finite freedom.
4. “Types” of Christ
 - a. Isaac
 - i. Untimely, miraculous birth to Abraham and Sarah
 - ii. A type of Christ born of normal human means
 - b. Jacob
 - i. Received the birthright that should have gone to Esau
 - ii. Esau was the first-born son who lost the promise
 - iii. Esau sold his birthright
 - iv. Jacob follows the one who lost the promise, grabbing on to his heel.
 - v. Christ descends, grabbing on to us.
5. Through these generations you can see the providence of God, keeping his seed through all the generations until we arrive at Joseph.

III. “...Joseph, the husband of Mary...”

- A. We are supposed to be jarred by this, the repetition of “the father of...” has been broken.
- B. Joseph is the rightful father of the Christ-child, chosen by the Father of heaven so why not give his lineage as the “father of Jesus”?
- C. Because Joseph is not the genealogical father – Christ is *eternally* begotten.
- D. Christ had only one Father, His eternal Father in heaven.

IV. The Line of David

- A. It must be established that this is a King that is to be born.
- B. Because it was of David’s house that God promised a reign that would never end.

Notes From the Podium (cont)

C. Christ's kingship must be established

V. Christ's Kingship

A. A different king

B. A descendent of Esau, not Jacob.

C. "Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ"

VI. Symbolic numbers

A. 14 (2x7 and 7= perfection)

1. 14 generations from Abraham to David

2. 14 generations from David to the deportation into Babylon

3. 14 generations from Babylon to Christ

B. 42 (total number of generations)

1. 6 is the number of imperfection

2. When 6 is multiplied by the number of perfection, 7, you get 42.

3. The Church Fathers loved to play with numbers like this.

VII. Circumstances Around the Birth of Jesus

A. Mary was "found to be with child of the Holy Spirit" during the period of her betrothal to Joseph.

1. Interesting, she is just "found" and there is no mention of "how" the event took place.

a. This is kept hidden, as it should be.

b. This is God's work.

c. When a man and woman give themselves one to another, neither of them has any idea that all of a sudden there are three persons in the room.

d. As it is with humans and conception, it is in the interior of a Woman, that the Father Himself, the Creator, the Holy Spirit, the Word, the Son creates.

2. "...of the Holy Spirit"

a. Remember, the annunciation is found not in Matthew but in Luke.

b. So this statement is not expected, it is astonishing news.

B. Joseph, A Just Man

1. "dikaios" (Greek word for "just")

a. To be just before God

b. Greatest of all Jewish virtues

2. "...being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly."

a. History and Tradition of the Church would suggest that Joseph did not suspect Mary of being unfaithful. He was a *just* man.

b. To be just means more than just keeping the law, because Joseph was about to transgress the law.

3. Justice means:

a. To realize your place and God's place

b. To know your duty before God.

C. Joseph is "*unwilling* to put her to shame"

1. "deigmatizo"

a. Greek word used in this passage, translated as "shame"

b. Not the same meaning as "paradeigmatizo", another Greek word with negative connotations

2. "deigmatizo"

a. An unveiling

b. A revealing

c. Joseph is "unwilling" to unveil this mystery. It is God's work.

Notes From the Podium (cont)

D. Divorce? Quietly?

1. “Apolusai” (Greek word translated here as “divorce”)
2. Divorce is a public act and cannot be done “quietly”.
3. It must mean then, that Joseph is going to walk away quietly.

E. Joseph, A Descendent of David

1. Keeper of the Temple

a. 1 Chr 17:1-15

i. King David wishes to build a temple for God to dwell in. God does not allow it, but promises that David’s descendent will build the temple and David may lay up the provisions.

ii. Further, God says, “...I, the Lord, will build you a house...” -1Chr 17:10

b. 2 things happening here

i. King David and his son, Solomon, and their descendents are building the temple of the Lord, where God will dwell with his people.

ii. At the same time, God is going to build for Himself a temple.

2. So the Jews are building two temples

a. Knowingly, through the Davidic line, the provisionary temple of stone

b. Unknowingly, by this same genealogy, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception.

i. She is the True Temple, foreshadowed by the provisionary temple

ii. Like the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, the temple built by Solomon was “overshadowed” by the Holy Spirit.

3. So here is St. Joseph

a. Heir to King David, Heir to the Temple, Guardian of the Temple

b. Standing before this great mystery and realizing that he is taking her as his wife? That she belongs to him? No, he is a *just* man.

c. He realizes that Mary does not belong to him, so he decides to release her quietly.

i. Like Elizabeth who says, “Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

ii. Like the Centurion who says, “I am not worthy that you should come under my roof...”

iii. Like St. Peter who says, “Depart from me, Lord, I am a sinful man.”

d. Joseph is a just and holy man.

4. “Joseph, son of David, do not fear.”

a. This the “fear of the Lord” that is “... the beginning of wisdom” –Psa 111:10 .

b. This is reverence.

5. Joseph sleeps

a. Like Adam before him

b. Like Joseph in Egypt

VIII. “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son...”

A. Emmanuel - “God with us”

B. God has rooted Himself, physically, into our history.

IX. Genesis renewed

A. King David

1. Standing before the temple

2. Guardian of the contents of the temple

3. Unwilling to expose the mystery, unwilling to lift the veil of the holy of holies.

B. Joseph

1. Standing before the temple

Notes From the Podium (cont)

2. Guardian of the Redeemer, the husband of Mary
3. Unwilling to expose the mystery...

X. Joseph Acts

- A. The head of the family
- B. The only sinner
- C. Husband of Mary, who is an adorer.

XI. "They will call Him Jesus."