

Catholic Scripture Study Circle: *Living the Kerygma*

Week 5 (February 19, 2026): RESCUED – PART 1

- Theme:** God's Plan and Unshakable Confidence
Scripture: Isaiah 49:24-25, 26
Key Theme: Jesus is the Redeemer, the Warrior who comes to rescue us.
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NOTES:

- *** SCHEDULE CHANGES REMINDER ***
 - Week 8: March 12 – OOT – March 11th (Wednesday) TBD
- **Opening Prayer:** Spontaneous and Personal (*volunteer*)
- **INTRO:**
 - Half way there. Next three sessions on the Rescue is VERY crucial not only to our journey, but having a deeper understanding of our faith.
 - The Mass, Confession, all other Sacraments, Salvation history
 - How does our faith all fit together?
 - Preparing us to bring the Gospel to others
 - Excited for the timing of the next 3 sessions during Lent
 - Deeper appreciate and understanding of Lent...
 - ... especially Holy Week... even more special the Triduum
 - ... Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil
 - Stepping into the 3rd Movement of the Kerygma – RESCUED!
- **RECAP:**
 - Kerygma: Proclaiming the Gospel, the Good News – explosive!
 - Understand the Kerygma, will further understand and appreciate...
 - Your small group, your bible study group, your ministries
 - The Catholic Church – everything do or stand for the last 2000 yrs
 - Conflicts in the world; people fell or falling away from the Church
 - Better relationships with Jesus, the Church, all those around you
 - Prepare you to lead someone back to the Faith .. with confidence
 - You and I are born for this moment!
 - 4 movements: Created, Captured, Rescued, Response – CCRR
 - Creation: need to know who this God is.
 - There's only one God. He's all good and all powerful
 - Created the universe that is 94+ billion light years across
 - Created us – man and woman. Why? .. to be divinized. LOVE
 - Harmony with God, each other, creation, within ourselves
 - Give us free-will, freedom, capacity to love
 - Reckless Love: know that we may NOT choose God
 - Captured (3rd & 4th Week): something did happen. What went wrong?
 - Created these magnificent, pure intellectual and spiritual beings called the Angels
 - Far more superior than human beings
 - One superior angel is Lucifer meaning “light bearer”
 - When called to serve God by possibly serving human beings, pride and disobedience said “no” to God... rebelled against Him
 - ... immediately fell from Heaven along with 1/3 of the angels
 - Lucifer's sin is envy... of God and of us. Out to destroy us.
 - Lucifer's other names: Satan – accuser; Devil – divider.

- Out to destroy us not by killing, but by capturing and enslaving us
- Satan's Root Strategy: "we can't trust God"
 - Tree of knowledge of good and evil
- Satan's Tactics
 - He accuses, lies, divides, flatters, tempts, discourages
- Satan's Goal: to steal, to "kill", to destroy us
 - Adam/Eve – sold themselves and us into slavery to the Devil
 - Devil has a tight grip on us through unleashing two powers
 - Sin and Death – they are powers; they have dominion on earth
- Sin – separation from God
 - Everybody sins. Always being pull.
 - Know it's wrong, but does it anyway... concupiscence (disordered from Original Sin.. disharmony)
 - We either live in God's hands, or someone's else (the Devil's)
 - Baptism, Confession restore life
 - God's life – Heaven; Life with Satan – Hell
- Death – end of earthly life
 - Last enemy of humanity. No one escapes it.
 - Satan claims us through Sin and Death
- Satan got us; He is our only ENEMY... no one else in this world.
- He has captured us in his tight grip. This is like trafficking.
- Some statistics about trafficking:
 - Estimated 50 million people are force into trafficking each year
 - 28 million are sold into sex trafficking alone
 - 78% are women and girls
 - \$150 - \$236 billion dollars in annual profits
 - In US – all 50 states have reported trafficking
- The Devil got us in his trafficking: using us, controlling us, abusing us
- This is bad news, really really BAD NEWS!
- But can't appreciate the Good News, the Gospel, until we know and recognize the bad news.
- We need to be rescued! Have **hope!**

- **RESCUED – PART 1**

- If bad news is really bad, if we and the world are in such a mess... Question: *what if anything God has done about it?*
- Turning to ... Isaiah 49:24-25, 26
- God will rescue us
 - He didn't send an angel or a prophet
 - He didn't teach us new methods to fight and resist the Devil
 - He didn't tell us to go and start some Church programs
 - God ***himself*** will come and rescue us
 - Who did God sent? Jesus.
 - Recall Slido Poll: many answers... focus on "Redeemer"
- What does it mean that Jesus is the "Redeemer"?
 - Isaiah => your Redeemer, the Mighty One
 - Hebrew word for "redeemer" is ***goel***, intimate and relational term
 - "Goel" referred to a male family member who has an obligation to act on behalf of his relatives if certain things happened.
- The God, who made the universe that is 96+ billion light years across, will come to rescue us...
- God is telling us "I am your goel..."

- “I myself will fight for you because...
 - ... you are family, you matter to me, and I.. Love.. You!
- Jesus will fight against and destroy the power of death.
- Jesus will avenge and liberate us from the tyranny of sin.
- Brothers and sisters, how do we think of Jesus now, our Redeemer?
- We will hear this theme through out Lent.. Jesus’ the Redeemer
 - Readings, Stations of the Cross, Holy Week, especially the Triduum – the most holiest days of the Church
- [*** *Sacred Art: Trinity by Andrei Rublev, Russian iconographer* ***]
 - Three heavenly messengers: Abraham and Sarah (Gen 18)
 - For our Kerygma, we can also see that this represents the Trinity
 - Left – God the Father, Middle – God the Son, Right – Holy Spirit
 - Seem to be having a conversation
 - The Father looks at the other Persons of the Trinity as if to ask
 - *Who will go and get him or her back? Him/her – you & me*
 - *Who will go and bring him back home?*
 - The Son turning and speaking to the Father says...
 - *I will! I will go and get him. I will bring him home to us.*
 - The Holy Spirit seems to be looking downward, almost saddened
 - *... because he knows what it will cost the Son to do this: **his life!***
- God is a good God. He will NOT let his children be in the hands of the ENEMY.
- What is Jesus?
 - Yes: kind, gentle, compassionate, meek, mild, merciful, and loving
 - Jesus is more than that – He is unconquerable. He is the Lord!
- **Why does Jesus come?**
 - Why does the 2nd Person of the trinity come – specifically as a man?
 - CS Lewis wrote in one the most classic subject on Christianity called “Mere Christianity”:
 - Enemy occupied territory – that’s what this world is.
 - Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed – you may say landed in disguise as one of us...
 - “disguise”... what’s the disguise?
 - The disguise is flesh. Why?
 - The Incarnation, that is God becoming flesh born of the Virgin Mary, is the invasion of one kingdom, the kingdom of sin, death, hell, Satan, by a stronger Kingdom – the Kingdom of God.
 - Often times we think
 - Evil is stronger than good. That’s not true. It’s a lie.
 - Hell is stronger than God. That’s not true. It’s a lie.
 - Satan is stronger than Jesus. That’s not true. It’s a lie.
 - Jesus is the stronger one.
 - 1 John 3:8 – the Son of God was reveal for this purpose to destroy the works of the devil.
 - So God becoming flesh is an invasion in disguise.
- **What is the promise of Jesus to rescue us?**
 - Scripture again: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.... Luke 11:21-22
 - “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.”
 - Who is “strong man”? .. that is the devil, Satan, the accuser/divider
 - What is “his own palace”? ..that is this world

- What is “his goods”? ..that is us – all of us – you and me
 - When “one stronger”? .. that is Jesus
 - “takes away his armor” .. sin and death
- Jesus is the stronger one... not just the stronger one.
- Jesus is the one who picks the fight with Satan.
- God becomes man to attack the strong man to overcome him. Why?
 - ... so you and I can go free!
- In other words, God has become a man to fight for you, and for me
- That is how much you matter to Him.
- God leapt down from his royal throne in Heaven, born of the womb of the creature He made so He can go to battle just for you
 - ... because you matter. He sees you and He loves you.
 - ... He knows that you and I are powerless against Satan
 - So He comes to fight for us.
 - God brings the fight to Satan.
- So, is Jesus “kind” – Absolutely!
- Is He “gentle”? - Thanks be to God, He is.
- Is He merciful? - Oh yes, blessed be God that He is merciful.
- Is He compassionate? Yes – more than we realize.
- But is that all the Jesus is? .. absolutely NOT.
- What is Jesus?
 - Jesus is more than that – He is unconquerable. He has no rival.
 - He is the answer to our prayers.
 - Jesus is the Lord! There is no other.
- And Jesus has come to rescue you and me.
 - We are dust and ashes, broken, sinful, fragile, selfish
 - .. for some mysterious reason, we matter to God!
- Thank you Jesus!

- **Home Work**

- Beginning Ash Wednesday, and through the rest of Lent...
 - Pray to the Lord and ask for the **grace** of the Kerygma
 - Throughout Lent, ask the Lord to come into your life and **ignite** the grace of the Kerygma
 - Be attentive to the Lenten readings, prayers, Stations of the Cross
 - ... try to see all that, with the perspective of the Kerygma
- Next Week, RESCUED – PART 2
 - How is Jesus going to rescue us? We will meet in the Chapel (TBD).