

Catholic Scripture Study Circle: *Living the Kerygma*

Week 8 (March 11, 2026): The Church and the Mission

Theme: Response and Mission
Scripture: Acts 2:42–47; Matthew 28:19–20
Key Theme: We are rescued to become rescuers.

Reflection Questions:

- Who in my life needs to hear the Gospel?
- What holds me back from sharing it?

NOTES:

- **** REMINDER ****
 - March 19: NO MEETING (*Spring Break*)
 - Week 9: March 26 (*Last Meeting*)
- **Opening Prayer:** Spontaneous and Personal (*volunteer*)
- **INTRO:**
 - **[*** image of the Cross ***]**
 - What difference does this make?
 - #1: Humiliate the Enemy
 - #2: Defeated Sin and Death
 - #3: Cancelled Sin
 - #4: Transferred Us to His Kingdom
 - #5: Given Us Access to the Father
 - #6: Recreated Us
 - #7: Given us Authority Over the Enemy
 - #8: Sent us on a Mission to Get His World Back
 - Summary:
 - Created us to live with Him for eternity
 - Captured by the Devil so he can enslave us forever
 - Rescued by God, sent Jesus, most incredible plan, rescue us
 - Christians/Catholics view/belief doesn't end on Good Friday
 - Focus on these two:
 - Transferred Us to His Kingdom
 - Recreated Us
- **TRANSFERRED US (to His Kingdom)**
 - What does this really mean?
 - We know that Jesus rescued us from sin and death, from the devil, and free us from original sin. OK? .. now what?
 - How will God protect us and ensure that we never to fall into the hands of the devil?
 - So the only way to protect us, not let us fall into the hands of the devil, and so that we can live with God for eternity ... is to adopt us into His family
 - God does it in these ways:
 - Baptism – Exorcism, Anointing Oils (Catechumen, Sacred Chrism), Baptism Water, Blessings
 - Confirmation – maturing gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Eucharist – give and sustain us with the life of Christ; on-going
 - These three are often referred to as the Sacraments of Initiation

- Sacrament of Reconciliation – divine grace of healing
 - Reconcile relationship with God and the Church
 - Finally, we are made heirs of His Kingdom
 - We now have the right to God’s divine blessings
 - .. the right to God’s divine life, eternal life
 - .. the right to all of God’s future glory
- **RECREATED US**
 - Yes, true that God wants to forgive us, and we want to be reconciled
 - Often times we think of God as someone who keeps on forgiving us even though we keep on sinning, but God is so merciful to do this.
 - This is not a biblical or a Catholic view
 - Does end with the reconciliation; God does more than that
 - Recreated Us “new” everyday; hold us, sustain us in His love
 - Isaiah 49:14-16 – hold you in the palm of his hands
 - Colossians 1:15-17 – hold all things in Himself
 - Romans 11:34..... Job 38:4-11
 - What does that mean? ^^ recreate us everyday
 - God wants to change us
 - ..to take on the virtues, the properties, and the qualities of Jesus
 - Image (example): iron rod and fire
 - Our weak human nature is like that iron rod and when we’re put in the furnace of the Holy Spirit: baptism -> sacraments -> prayer -> communion of saints and believers...
 - ... we become changed **over time**
 - ... we begin to glow with the love of God himself
 - ... make sacrifices like Jesus, love like Jesus, forgive like Jesus
 - It’s Jesus that changes our hearts and he is dwelling within us
 - This is the life of grace.
 - We begin to change more to be like God, to be **TRANSFORM!**
 - We are saints in the making, but not saints yet.
 - Do we long for this transformation?
 - Do we long for your soul to be healed?...like Jesus.
 - This is what it means to be living in full salvation.
 - God looks at us and delight in us.
 - What then should our responses be to – ALL THIS.. to ... God?
- **OUR RESPONSE:**
 - Two responses: internal and external
 - Internal: personal; God always desires a personal relationship with each of us
 - Worship – reverence, honor, devotion
 - Praise & Thanksgiving – in prayers and worships
 - Surrender – not about giving up control; entrusting; faith
 - Faith is not irrational, blind, or contradictory
 - Faith is a gift – personal, wholehearted connection
 - CCC 143; Surrender novena
 - External: relationship with others as it relates to God; community
 - We are not created to be alone