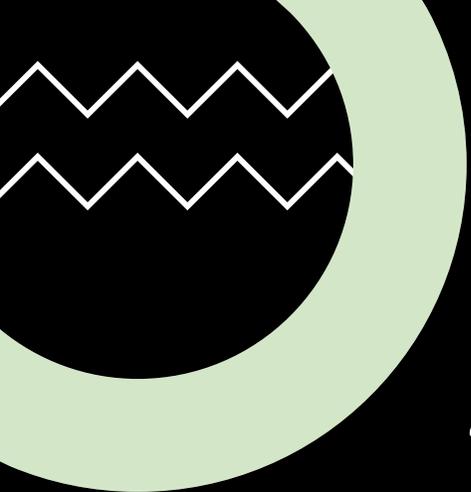




# Christology, 2021



‘Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.’

Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, Encyclical Letter, 25.12.2005, n. 1, cited in Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Apostolic Exhortation, 24.11.2013, n. 7.



Jesus Christ Pantocrator, 13th c. Hagia Sophia, Istanbul.

# What is Christology

- The theological study of the person and mission of Jesus Christ.
- The term 'Christology' is made up of the words 'Christ' & 'logos' (treatise), meaning treatise, or study of Christ.
- It helps us answer the question: Who is Jesus Christ?



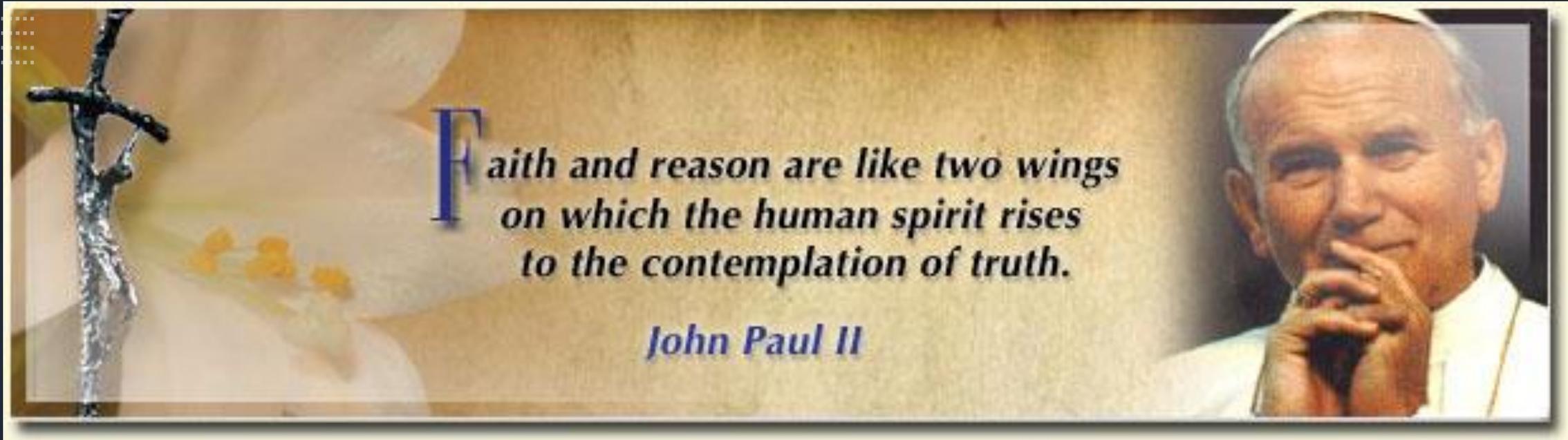
Jesus Christ Pantocrator, 13th c. Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

# Why Study Christology?

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*The Incredulity of Thomas, Caravaggio, 1601.*



**F** *aith and reason are like two wings  
on which the human spirit rises  
to the contemplation of truth.*

*John Paul II*

## Faith & Reason

Supernatural faith: to believe on the authority of God who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

At a human level we use faith all the time – we believe what others tells us when we judge it *reasonable* to believe them. No one works out everything for him/herself.

We trust the source.

Faith is one of two human ways of knowing – Faith & Reason.

# True or False? Why or Why Not?

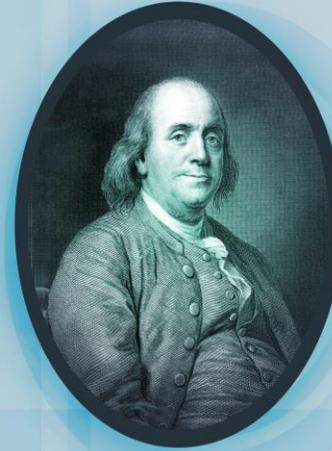
Though faith is above reason,  
there can never be a contradiction  
between faith and science because  
both originate in God. It is  
God himself who gives us the light  
both of reason and of faith.

— from the Catechism of the Catholic Church,  
CCC 159



V

THE WAY TO SEE BY FAITH,  
IS TO SHUT THE  
EYE OF REASON.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

**What Happens To Faith Without  
Reason?**

**What Happens To Reason  
Without Faith?**

***cf. Fides Et Ratio, n. 48***

**People have different  
understandings of the word faith.  
They are not necessarily  
understanding what we are saying  
– we need to clarify.**

# Sources

- Divine Revelation:
  - Sacred Scripture
    - Old Testament
    - New Testament
  - Sacred Tradition
- Magisterium
- God reveals Himself
- Faith is the response
- Faith seeks understanding



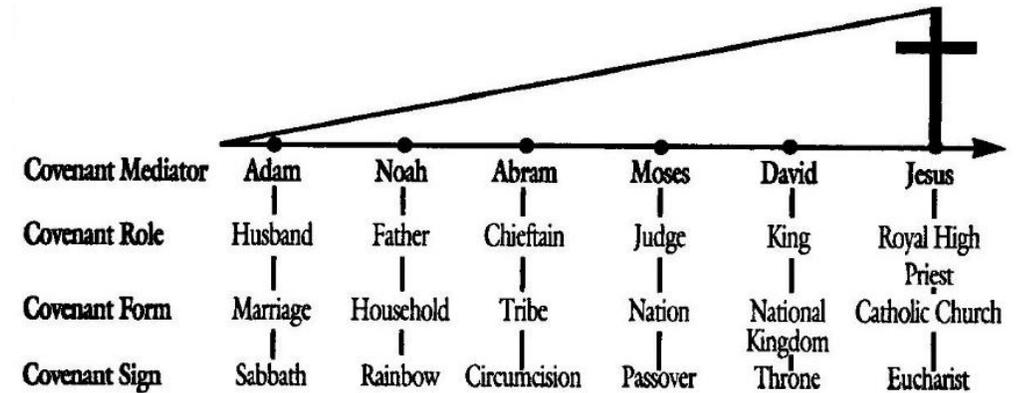
Duccio di Buoninsegna, *Christ Taking Leave of the Apostles*, c. 1308.

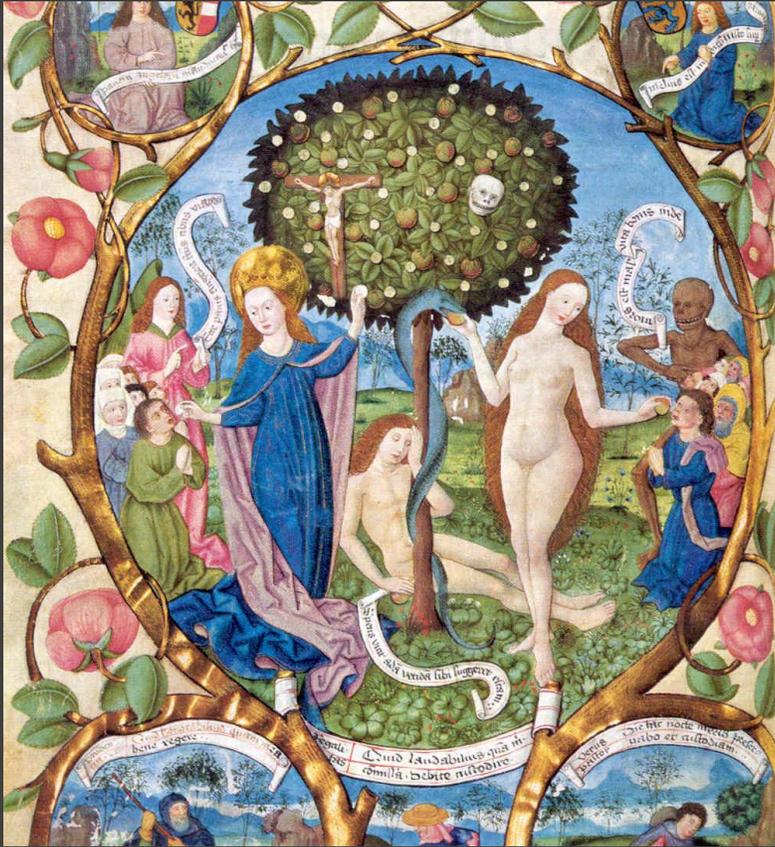
# Background: The Expected Messiah

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (Jn 3:16).*

Jesus is the expected Messiah

The Good News





The Protogospel.

The Lord God said to the Serpent:

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen 3: 14-15)*

# 1. Jesus Christ's Humanity

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Christ Pantocrator (Ruler of us all)

# The Existence of Jesus Christ: a Historical Fact



. Jesus Christ Pantocrator, 13th c. Hagia Sophia, Istanbul.

# The Historical Existence of Jesus



*The Calling of St. Matthew, Caravaggio, 1600.*

Testimonies:

1. The New Testament

# The Historical Existence of Jesus: Extra-Biblical Evidence

**Flavius Josephus** (1<sup>st</sup> century): *The Antiquities of the Jews*, “the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James’.

**Tacitus** (56-120): *Annals of Imperial Rome*.

Nero fastened the guilt & inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, & a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous & shameful from every part of the world find their centre & become popular. (*Annals*, Book 15, XV, 1, 4).

**Suetonius** (c. 120), *Vita Claudii*: the Jews were expelled from Rome because ‘under the instigation of a certain Chrestus they stirred up frequent riots’ (*Vita Claudii*, XXV, 4).

**Pliny the Younger**, Governor of Bithynia, reported to the Emperor Trajan (111-3) that a large number of people were regularly gathering ‘on a designated day, before dawn, to sing in alternating choirs a hymn to Christ as to a God’ (*Epistulae* X.96).



Modern statue representing Tacitus outside the Austrian Parliament Building.

# Jesus Lived in a Particular Place

The Roman Empire c.  
300 AD



# Judea at the Time of Jesus: Roman Domination

63 BC Judea becomes a Roman province.

37 BC Herod the Great appointed ruler of Judea by Rome.

The Roman Empire:

- At its material peak when Jesus was born (*Pax Romana*)
- Extended from Spain to Persia, Egypt to Scotland.
- Stability & order.
- Effective communications & transportation (not exceeded until the telegraph & railroad).
- Safe sea lanes in the Mediterranean.
- Extensive system of roads
- Effective administration
- Protection of the Roman Army
- Culture, architecture, arts, language (homegrown & borrowed from others, especially the Greeks)

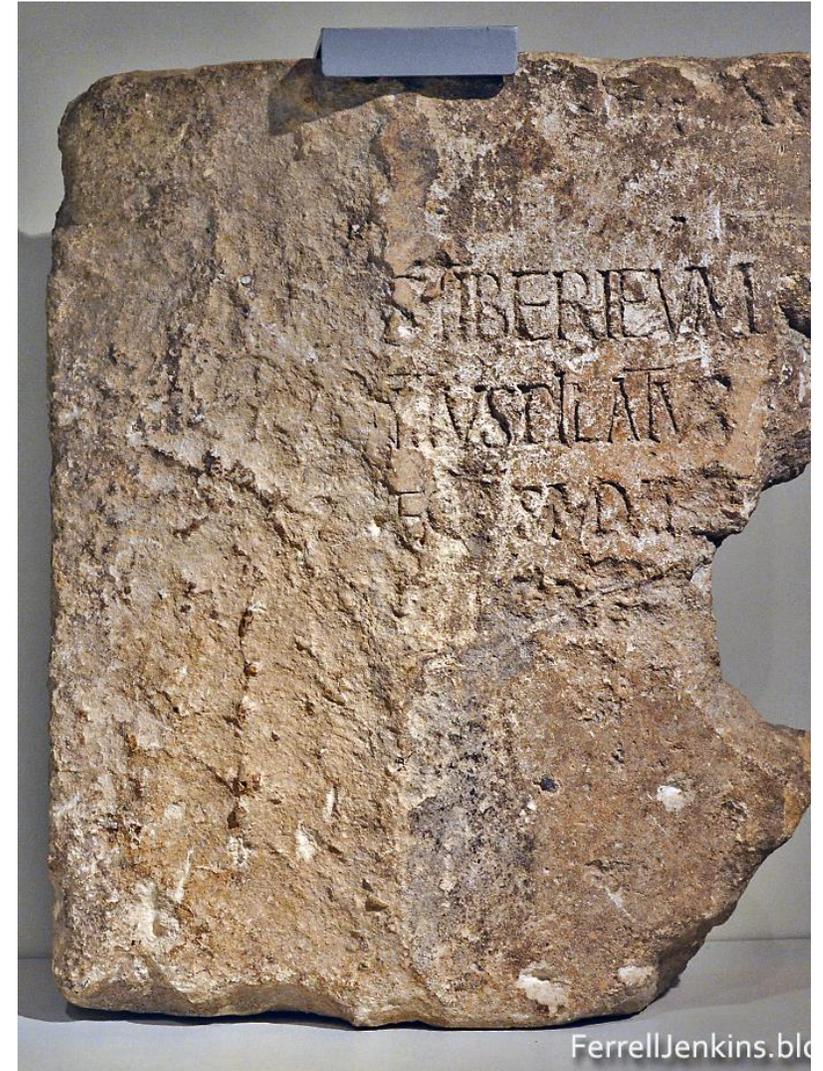


# Jesus Lived in a Particular Place



# When Did Jesus Live?

- Jesus was probably born @4-6BC.
- Dating Jesus' Birth:
  - Emperor Augustus (27BC - 14AD)
  - King Herod of Judea (37BC – 4BC)
- From Luke (3:1) we can date the beginning of Jesus' public life to @29 AD:
  - John the Baptist baptizing
  - 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Tiberius (14-37AD)
  - Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea (26-36AD)
  - Herod was tetrarch of Galilee (4BC-39AD)
- Caiaphas was High Priest (18-36AD)
- 3 Passovers: the Passion was probably 33AD.



The Pilate Stone, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, excavated 1961.

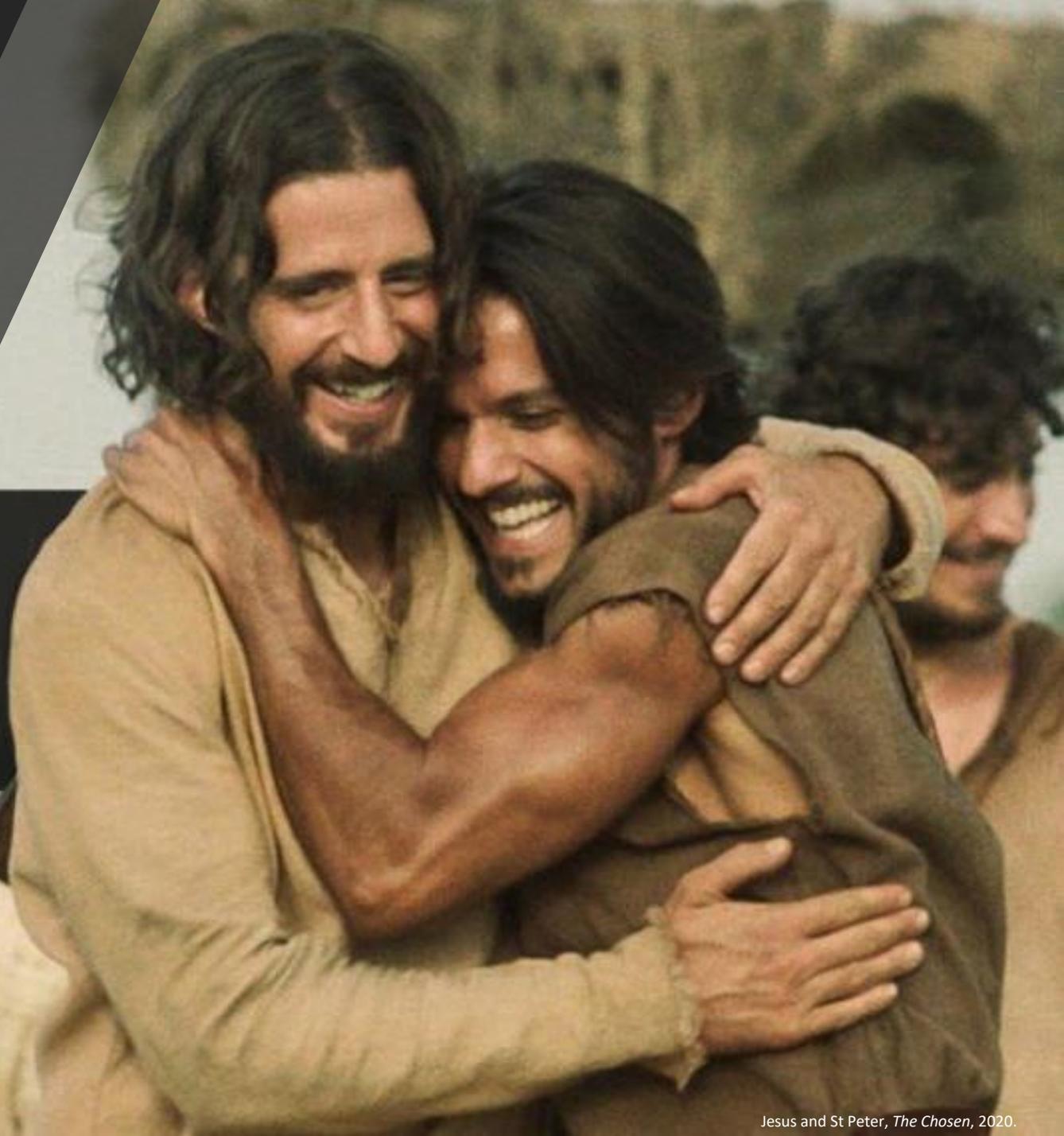
# The Humanity of Jesus

*I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, & was buried.*

Jesus is true Man

- human body
- human spiritual soul.

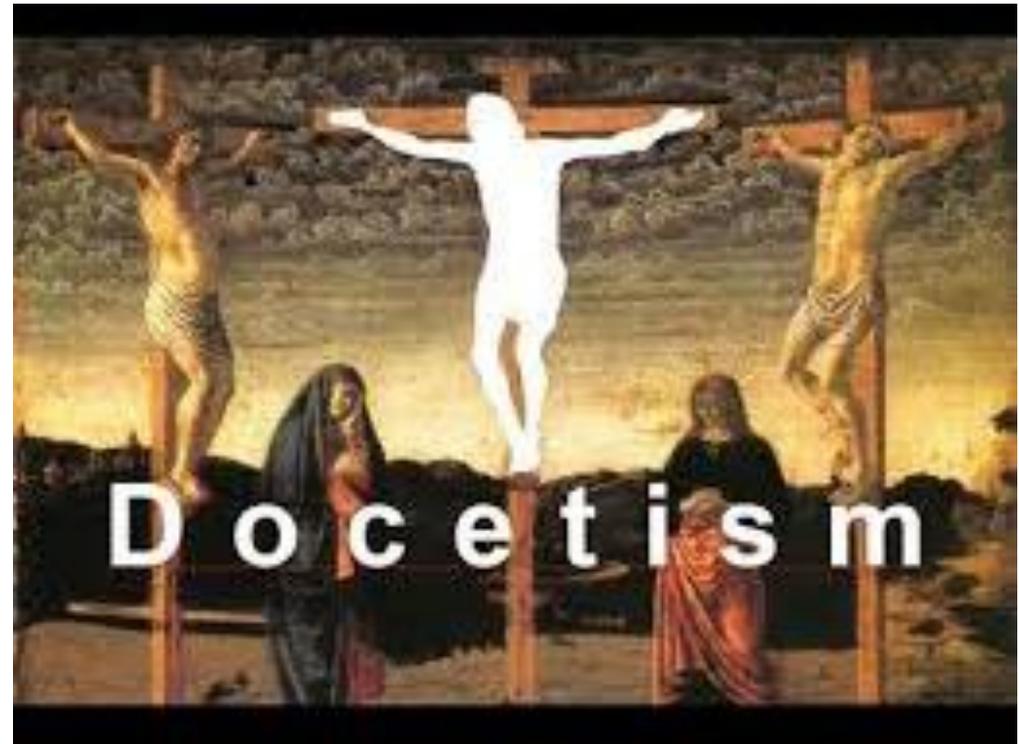
Why is this important?



# Docetism

The Docetists denied that Christ had a real human body, & that he suffered or died.

- Arose in the 1<sup>st</sup> century; survived several centuries under various forms (eg Gnosticism, dualism, Manichaeism).
- Dualist roots: matter is evil
- The Incarnation was just a manifestation of God in the apparent form of a man.
- Jesus' death on the Cross impossible & unworthy of the Son of God.
  
- Consequences for our Redemption (cf 1 Cor 15:14)
- Consequences for the Eucharist



# The Body of Jesus

St John lived to see & fight the docetist heresy:

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands. (1 Jn 1:1)*

*Many deceivers have gone out into the world, men who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh; such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist (2 Jn 7)*

*Every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God (1 Jn 4:2).*



# Jesus Christ Has a Rational Soul

- Spiritual
- Mentioned in the Gospels
- Faculties: Intellect & Will
- Arian & Apollinarist heresies denied that Christ had a human soul.



# Jesus Christ was Conceived & Born



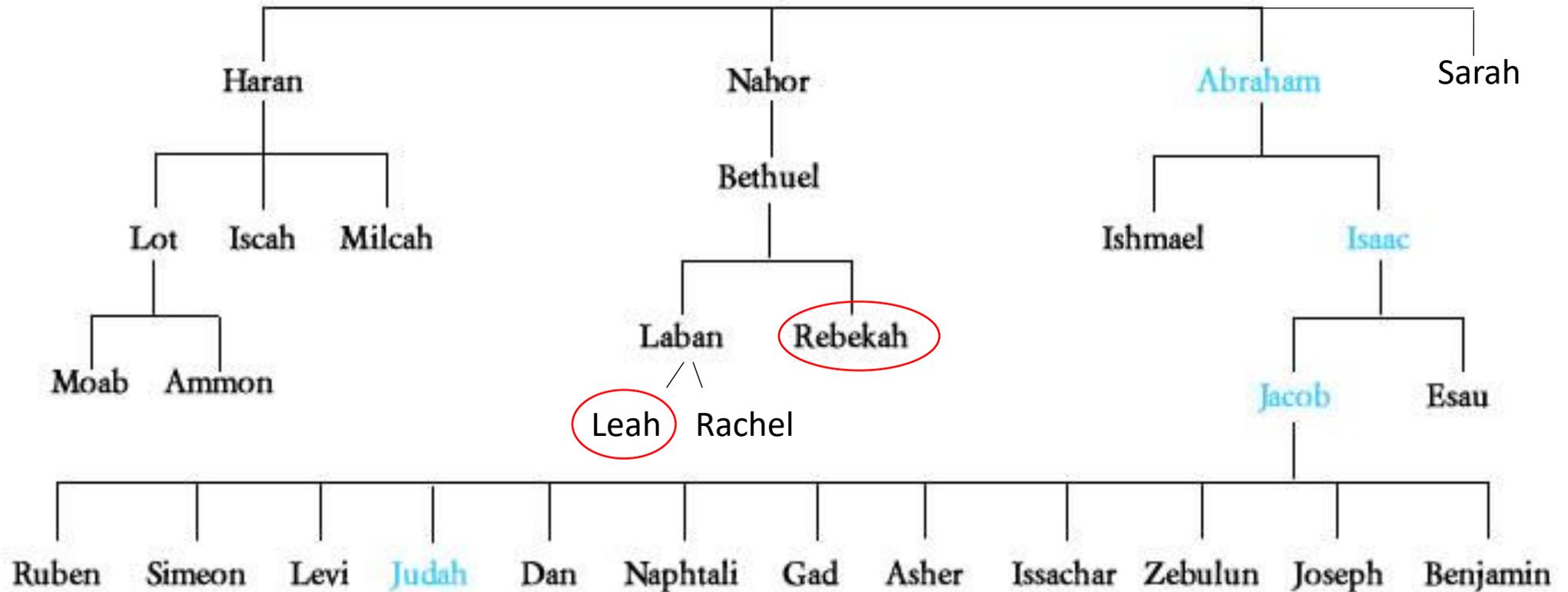
By His incarnation, he, the Son of God, has in a certain way united Himself with each man. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind, acted with a human will, & loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like us in all things except sin. (G&S, 22)

- The Incarnation: key event in salvation history
- Born of a Virgin
- Why wasn't Jesus just conceived in the normal way?
- Member of the human race: descended from Adam & Eve in common with all humankind.

Only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a figure of Him Who was to come, namely Christ the Lord. Christ, the final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father & His love, fully reveals man to man himself & makes his supreme calling clear... For by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man. (G&S, 22)

# The Chosen Line in Genesis

Terah



This chart indicates the chosen line found in the Book of Genesis.  
The names in blue are the lineage of the Messiah.

Genealogy  
of Jesus

# The Human Features of Jesus

- Christ has definite human features of his own which were easily recognized by his disciples even after he had risen from the dead (Lk 24: 30-35).
- What do the Gospels tell us about Jesus' physical features?
- What do the Gospels tell us about Jesus' spiritual features?
- Contemplating the Gospel in light of the teachings of the Church, to discover the humanity of Christ.
- Full of understanding and mercy.
- His immense love of the Father & for humankind.  
Examples in the Gospels





St John Paul II

## Your face, Lord, do I seek. (Ps 27:8)

‘Your face, Lord, do I seek. (Ps 27:8) The desire to see Jesus dwells deep in the heart of each man & each woman. ...allow Jesus to gaze into your eyes so that the desire to see the Light, & to experience the splendour of the Truth, may grow within you.

Whether we are aware of it or not, God has created us because he loves us & so that we in turn may love him. This is the reason for the unquenchable nostalgia for God that man preserves in his heart: “Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me” (Ps 27: 8-9). That Face - we know - was revealed to us by God in Jesus Christ.’

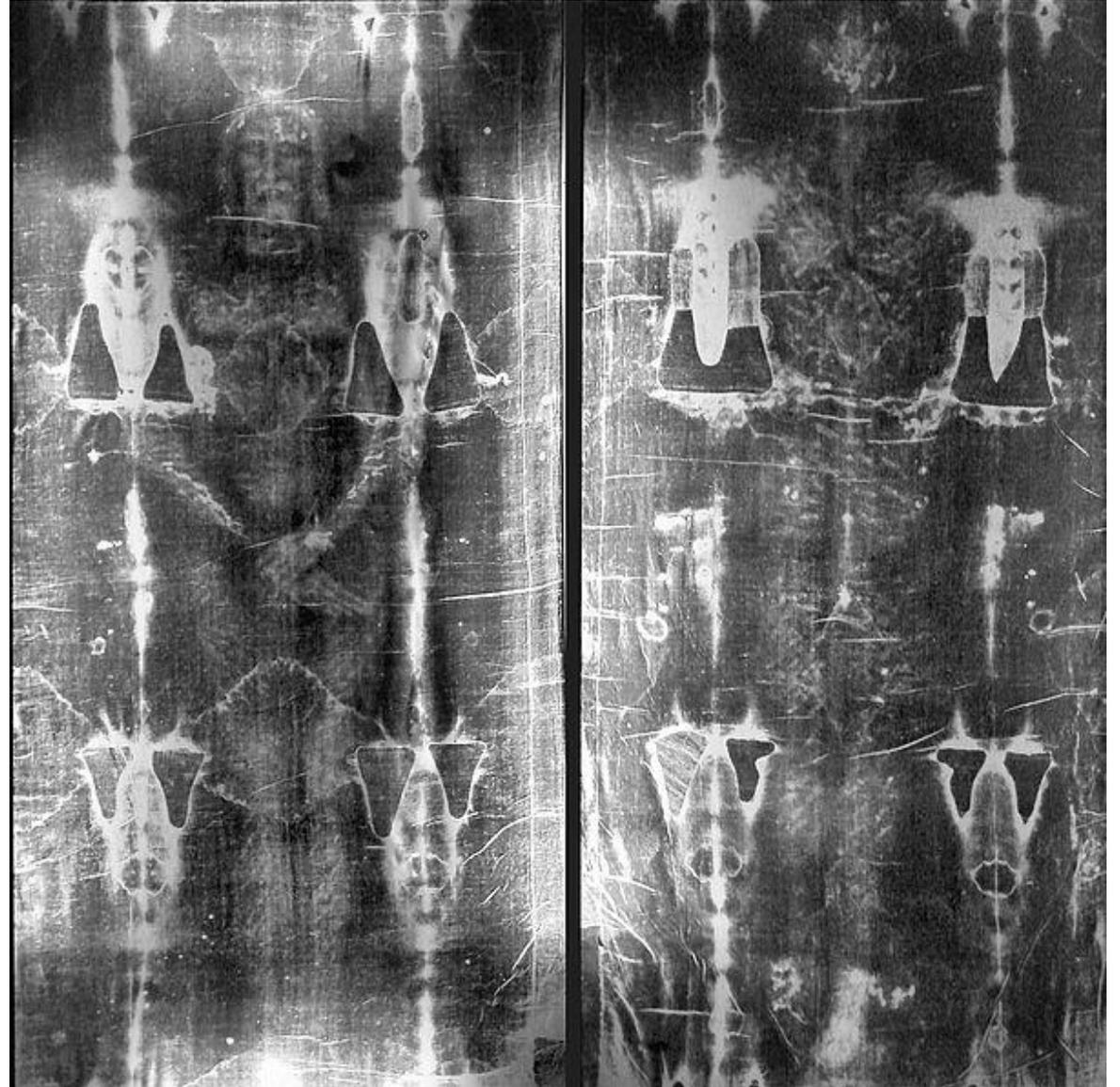
(St John Paul II, *Message to the Youth of the World*,  
22 February, 2004.)

# The Shroud of Turin

Venerated as the burial shroud of Christ but not declared such by the Church.

Pope John Paul II: The Shroud

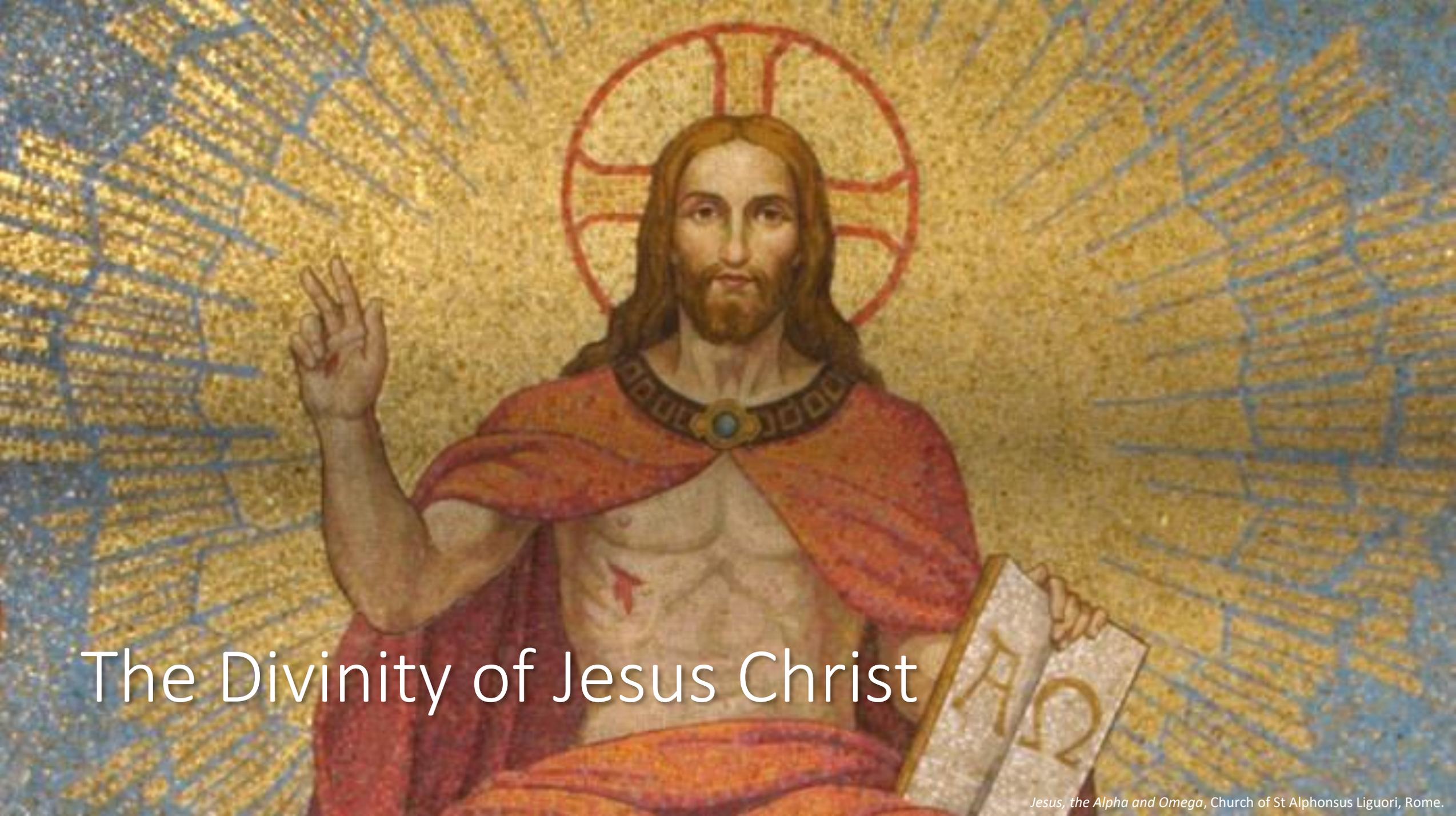
can help us better to understand the mystery of the love of God's Son for us. Since it is not a matter of faith, the Church ... entrusts to scientists the task of continuing to investigate... For the believer, what counts above all is that the Shroud is a mirror of the Gospel ... an image of God's love as well as of human sin. It invites us to rediscover the ultimate reason for Jesus' redeeming death. In the incomparable suffering that it documents, the love of the One who 'so loved the world that he gave his only Son' (Jn 3: 6) is made almost tangible and reveals its astonishing dimensions. In its presence believers can only exclaim in all truth: 'Lord, you could not love me more'.



*Full length negative of the shroud, venerated at Turin, Italy.*



# Christology, 2021



# The Divinity of Jesus Christ

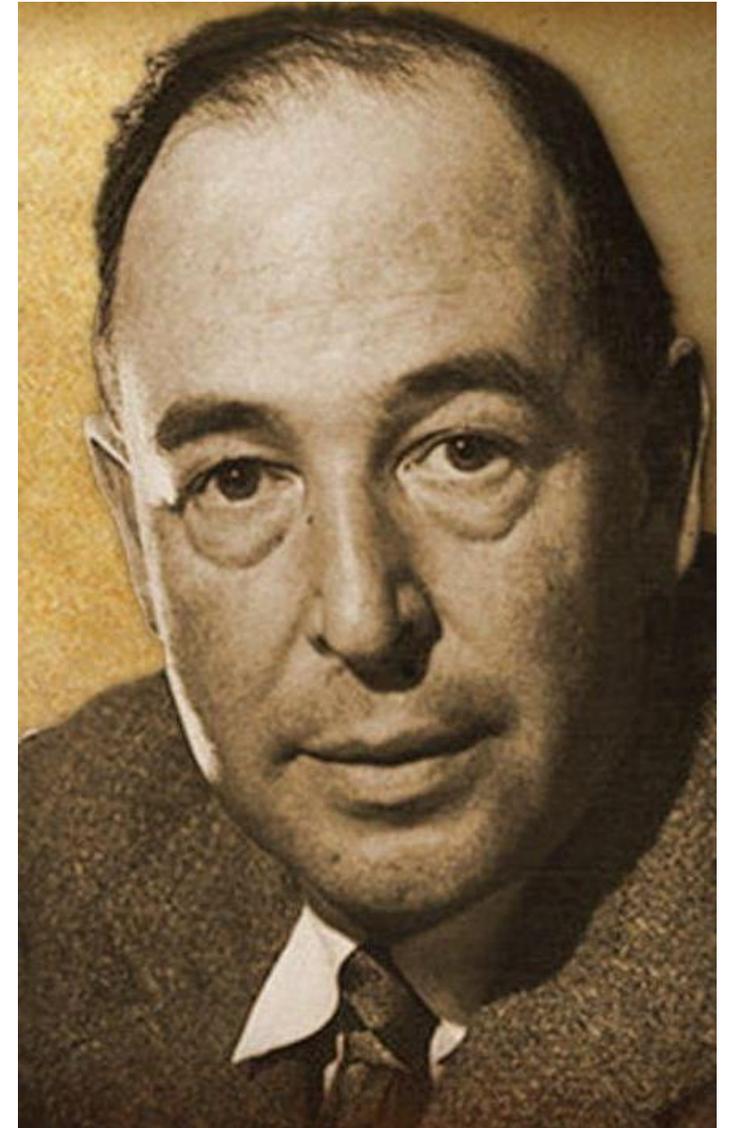
# The “Liar, Lunatic or Lord” Argument

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God”.

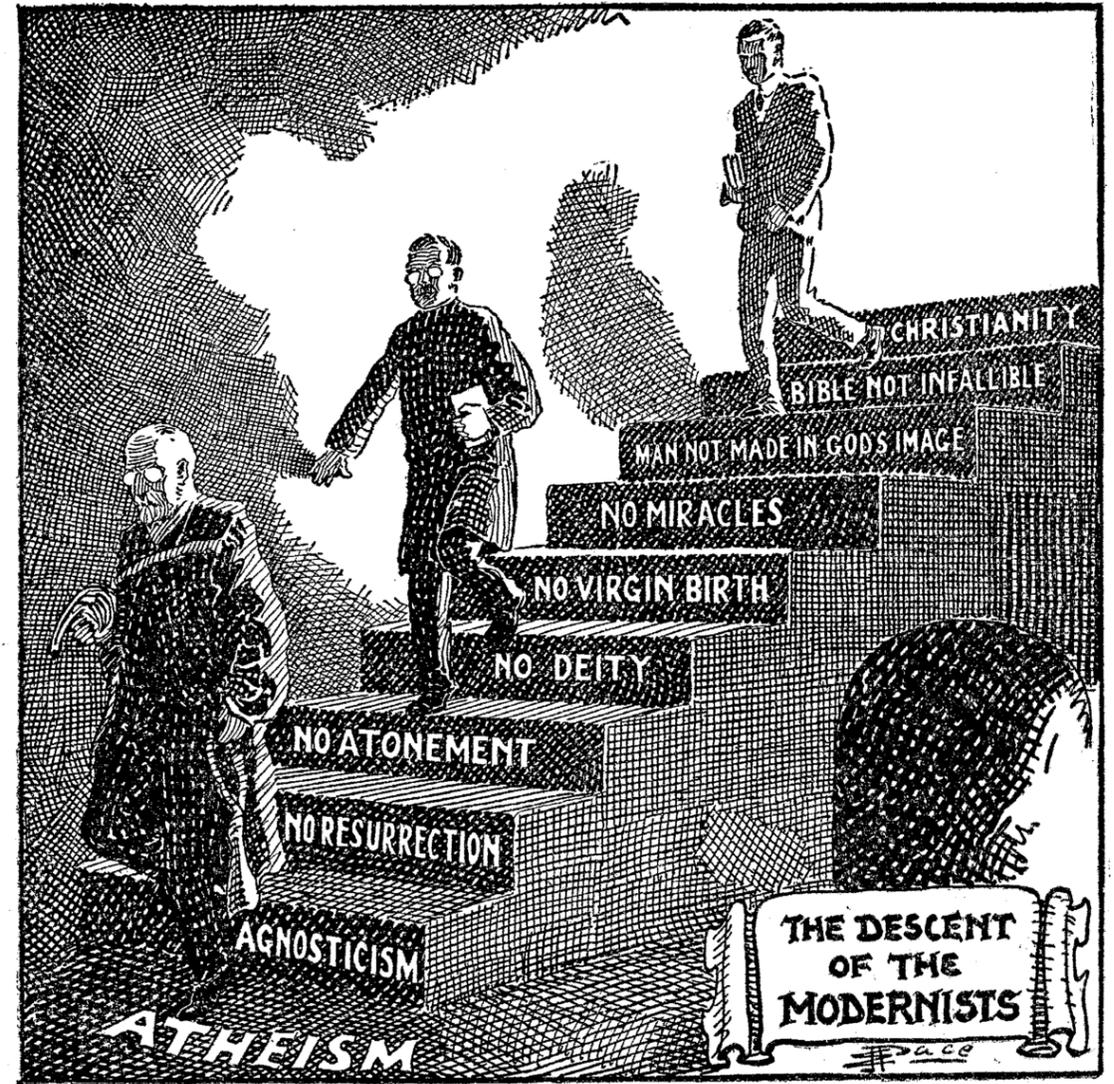
C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Collins, London, 1952, pp. 54-56.



Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963)

# The Modernist Approach to Jesus

- The historical Jesus & the Jesus of faith:
  - Jesus was not the Son of God, but we project our own desires & aspirations on to him.
  - The 'historical Jesus' lived in Palestine & is written about in the Scriptures
  - The 'Christ of Faith' is the Jesus of our belief
  - Pius X, *Lamentabili*, 1907.



## Church Doctrine

“We believe in only one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten born of the Father ... God from God; light from light; true God from true God; begotten, not created, consubstantial with the Father.”

- ▶ Council of Nicaea 325 AD
- ▶ From this came the Creed we recite at Mass every Sunday
- ▶ Additions from Council of Constantinople 381 AD
- ▶ Begotten of God, and true God Himself
- ▶ Jesus Christ is true man, but not merely a man. He is truly the Son of God, God Himself.



## The Old Testament: The Divinity of the Messiah in the Messianic Prophecies.

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- Old Testament prophecies spoke of Jesus Christ as the Messiah.
- Hints of divinity & divine sonship of the Messiah
- Jesus applied these prophecies to Himself.

He went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book & found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

And he closed the book, & gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; & the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Lk 4: 16-22)

## B. Old Testament - Messianic Prophecies

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### Psalm 2

*The Lord said to me: You are my son, today I have begotten you*

A son who shall rule the nations with a rod of iron  
“Today” is not just a specific day but the ever-present moment of God’s eternity, an eternal “today” in which God generates the eternal Word.

### Micah 5:2

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days.*



*Adoration of the Magi, Giovanni di Paolo, c. 1440.*

# Jesus' Divinity in the Old Testament: Wisdom

- Wisdom literature: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, Wisdom, etc
- Wisdom is sometimes (not always) portrayed as a person. When personified, Wisdom exhibits divine attributes.
- Wisdom = Word of God = God

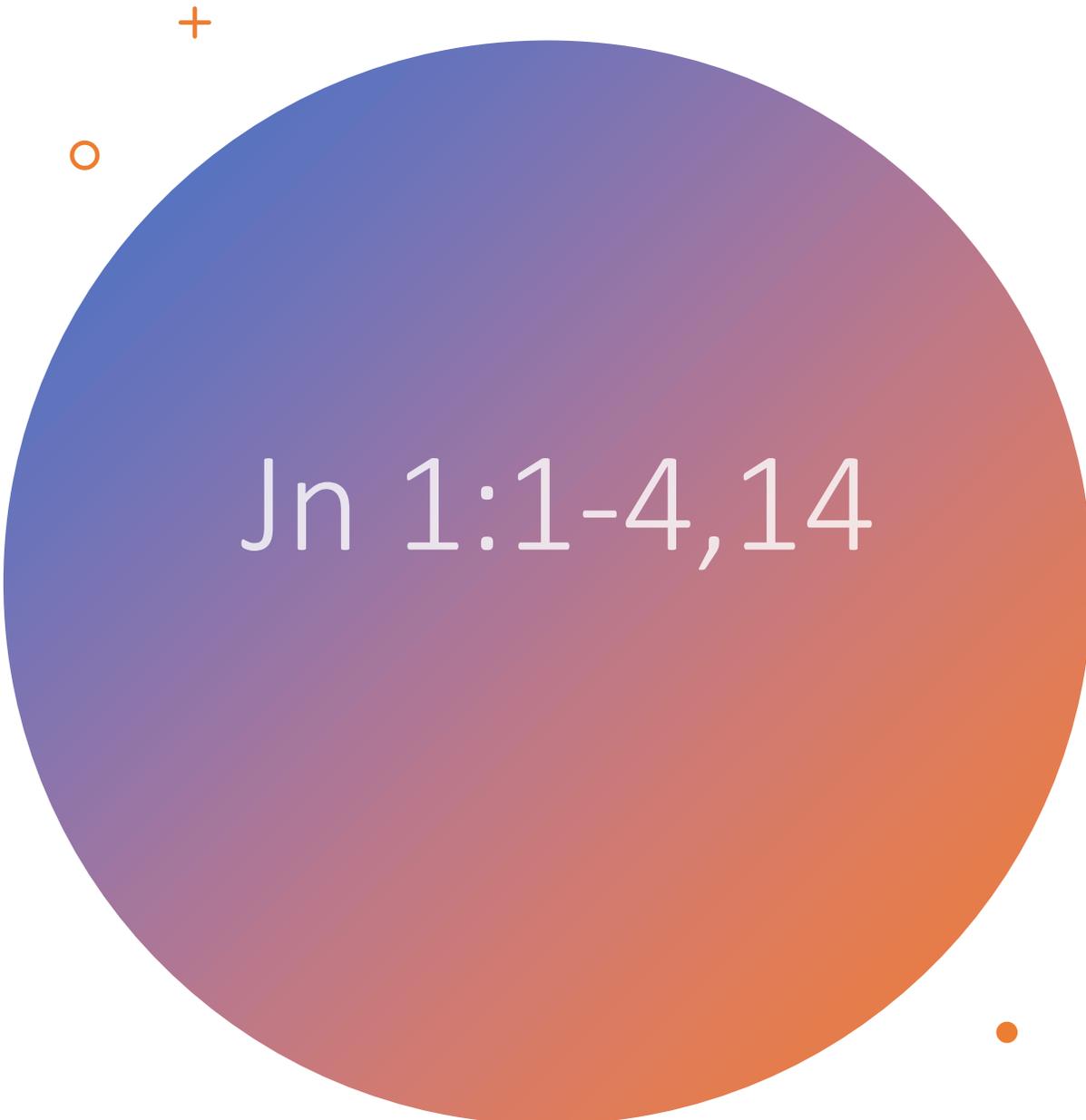
*The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth ... when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him ... rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the sons of men (Prov 8:22-31).*

Wisdom is something that pre-existed creation, was brought forth by God, & accompanies God by taking part in God's creative activity.

St Josemaria loved this passage.



Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom), Istanbul,



Jn 1:1-4,14

In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God, & without him was made nothing that was made. In him was life, & the light was the life of men...

And the Word was made flesh & dwelt among us, & we saw his glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace & truth.

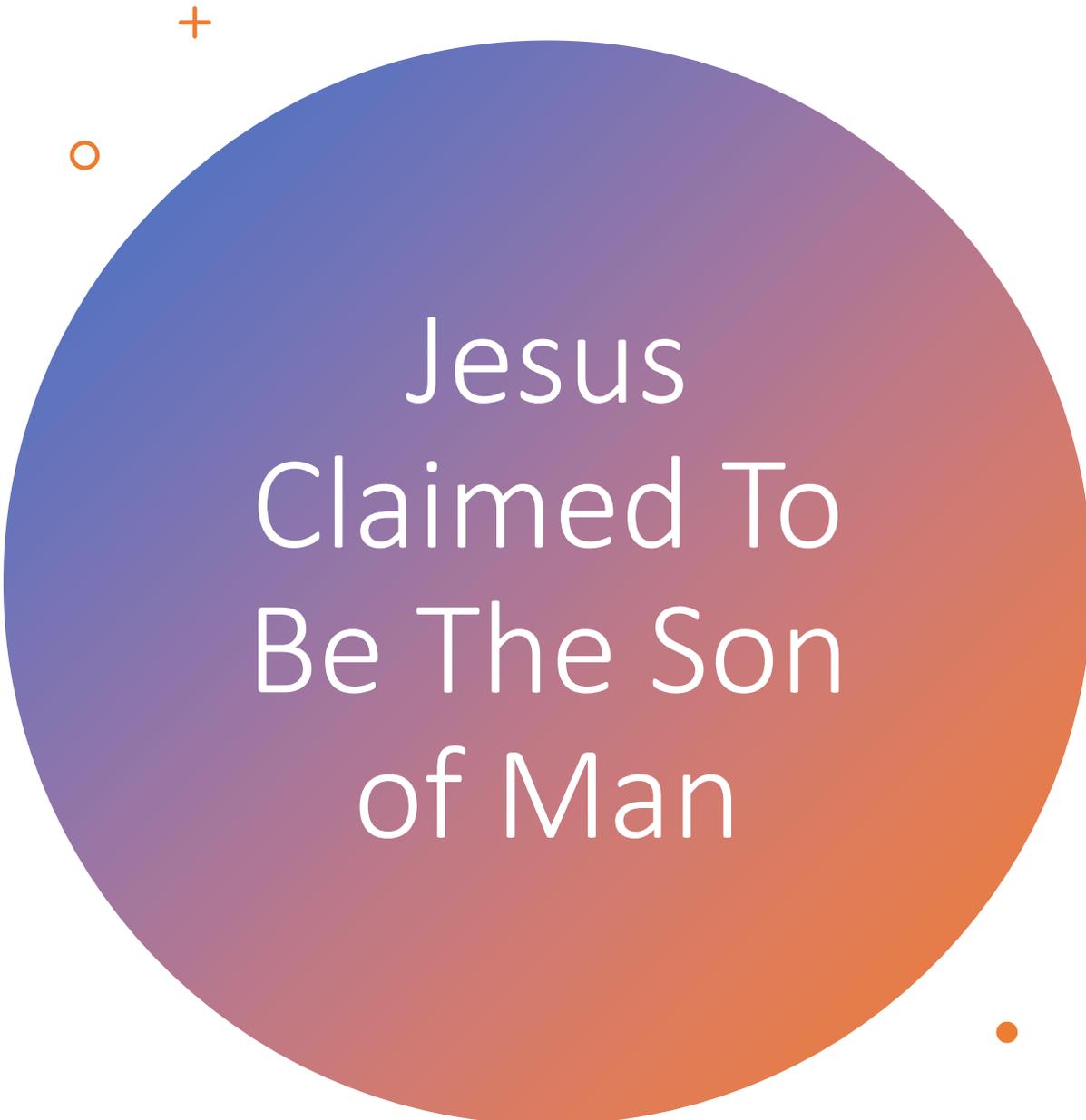


# Divinity of Jesus in the New Testament

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mt 17:5).



*The Transfiguration of Jesus, Carl Bloch, 1872.*



# Jesus Claimed To Be The Son of Man

*I saw in the night visions, & behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man ... & to him was given dominion & glory & kingdom, that all people, nations & languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away (Dan 7:13-14).*

Jesus applies this Messianic prophecy to Himself before the Sanhedrin. The high priest commanded Jesus, “tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him,

*“You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, & coming on the clouds of heaven” (Mt 26:63-64).*

For the Jews, this meant that Jesus was claiming to be divine. They tore their garments as the Jews did when they heard blasphemy, & condemned Jesus to death as a blasphemer.

# Jesus Claimed to be the Son of Man

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‘They brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - he then said to the paralytic - “Rise, take up your bed and go home.”’ (Mt 9:2-7)

Jesus does not disagree with the scribes that only God can forgive sins; he shows his divinity by miraculously curing the paralytic man.



*The Paralytic Man Let Down Through the Roof, James Tissot, 1886-1896.*

# Jesus Claimed Authority Over God's Law.

'And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes' (Mt 7:28-29).



*Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue, James Tissot, c. 1886.*



# Christ's Divinity in The New Testament



- Jesus claimed special dignity
- Jesus asked for the faith and love due only to God
- Jesus claimed to be the Son of God
- Jesus was aware of His divine power and used it: miracles

b) St John wrote his Gospel 'so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, & that by believing you may have life in his name' (Jn 20:31)

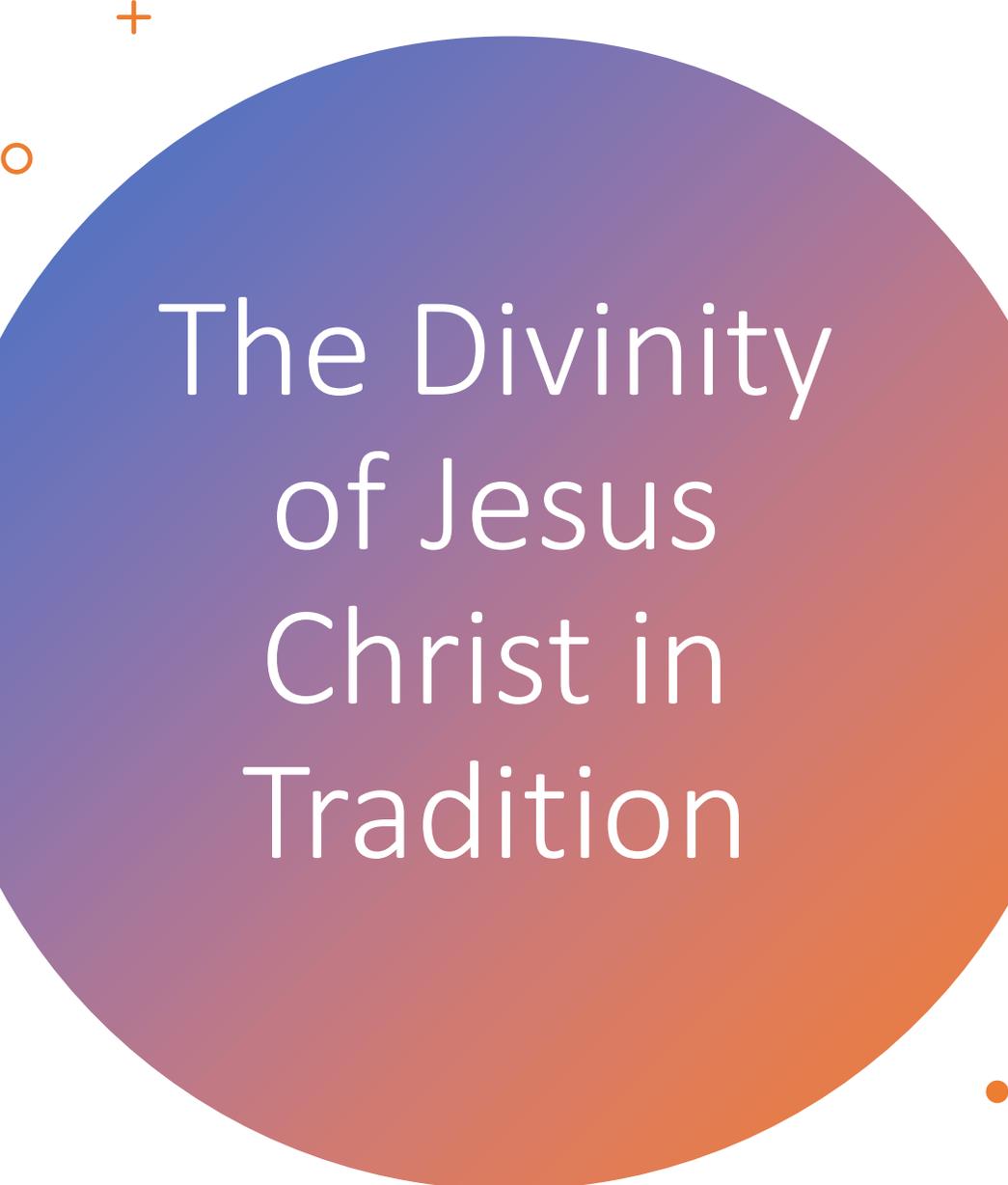
- i) Eternal pre-existence of Christ as the Word of God
- ii) Jesus' Divine Filiation
- iii) Jesus Is Equal in Nature to the Father

c) The Divinity of Jesus in the Epistles of St Paul

- i) St Paul calls Jesus Lord
- ii) St Paul calls Jesus God
- iii) St Paul calls Jesus the Son of God

d) Other Testimonies about the Divinity of Jesus



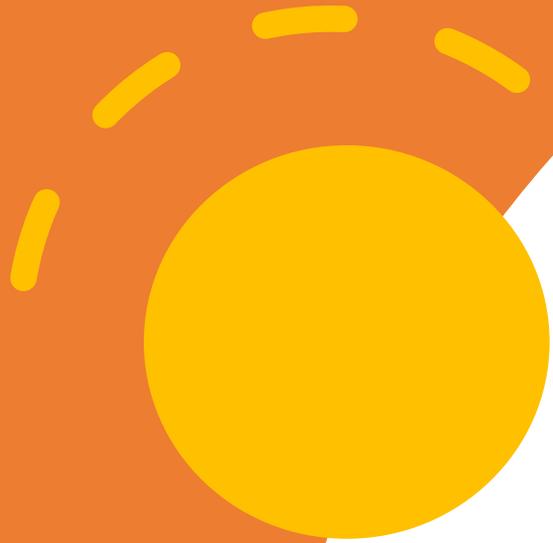


# The Divinity of Jesus Christ in Tradition

Faithful to the teachings of the Apostles, the Church has affirmed the Divinity of Christ from the earliest times.

Examples:

- St Clement of Rome (3<sup>rd</sup> Pope) wrote in a letter to the Corinthians around 96 AD:  
‘Christ is the scepter of the majesty of God... His majesty is so much greater than angels.’
- St Ignatius of Antioch, martyred early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, bore witness to Jesus as ‘God our Lord’, ‘God humanly manifested’, & ‘the only Son of the Most High Father ... our God.’



# Heresies Denying the Divinity of Christ

The Arian Heresy



# Christology, 2021



### 3. The Hypostatic Union

# The Hypostatic Union

“We believe in only one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten born of the Father ... God from God; light from light; true God from true God; begotten, not created, consubstantial with the Father.”

- ▶ Council of Nicaea 325 AD
- ▶ From this came the Creed we recite at Mass every Sunday
- ▶ Additions from Council of Constantinople 381 AD
- ▶ Begotten of God, and true God Himself
- ▶ One Person (the Word, Second Person of the Trinity), Two Natures (Divine & Human)

# Some Errors Regarding the Hypostatic Union



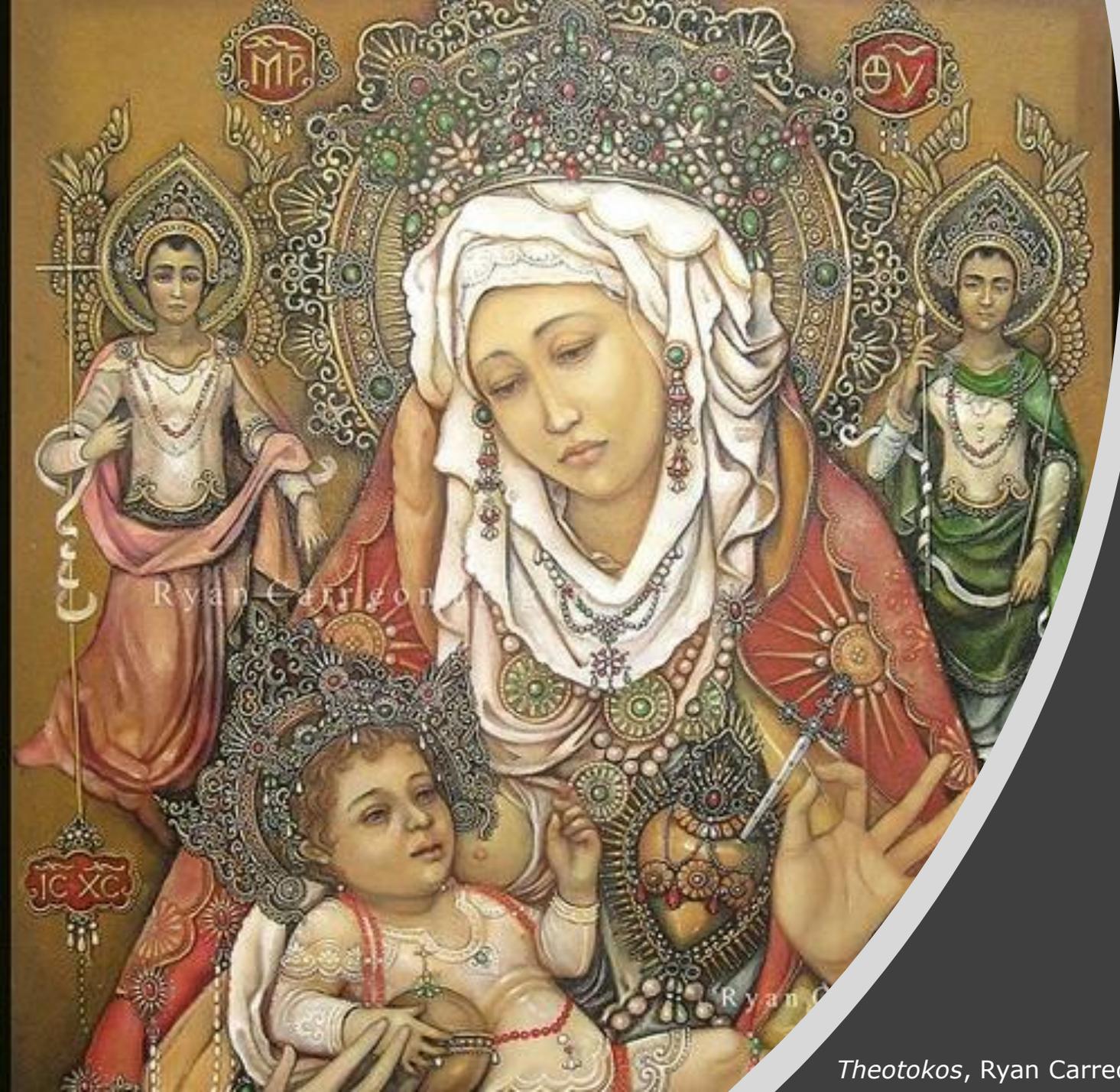
*The Council of Ephesus, mosaic, Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon, 19th c.*



# How the Hypostatic Union Came About



*The Annunciation*, Giovanni di Paolo, 15<sup>th</sup> c.



# The Person of the Word *Assumed* Human Nature

# Filiation of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ (even as man) is the natural Son of God

- Natural = by nature (generation)
- We have received sonship by adoption
- **Adoptionism: Jesus was adopted as the Son of God at his baptism, resurrection, or ascension.**
- Jesus Christ the man is the natural Son of God by virtue of the *communicatio idiomatum*.

Why?

- Filiation is proper to persons, not natures
- What applies to Word as God applies to Jesus the man
- Hence Jesus is the Son of God
- Adoration of Jesus Christ: *latria* (worship)
  - His body and blood also deserve *latria*
  - Relative *latria* to relics of True Cross

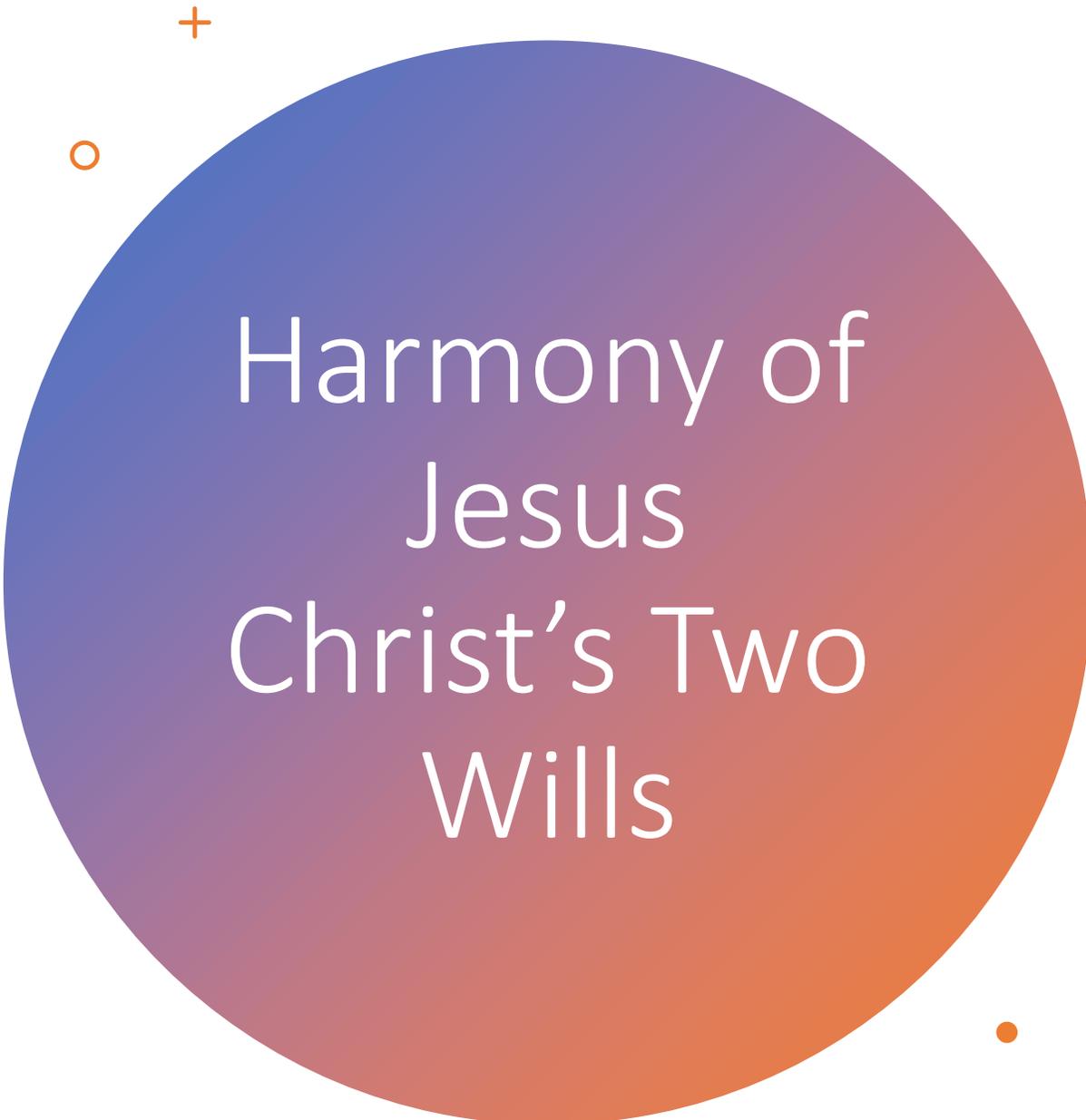


*The Baptism of Christ*, Pietro Perugino, c. 1482.



The Two  
Natures of  
Christ  
Worked  
Together

*Jesus Opens the Eyes of a Man Born Blind*, Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308-11.



# Harmony of Jesus Christ's Two Wills

- The two wills of Jesus did not oppose each other; the free human will was completely subject to the divine will.

*I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me (Jn 5:30)*

*My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work (Jn 4:34).*

- The human will of Jesus belonged to the divine Person (the only person existing in Jesus) and was infallibly subject to its influence, and thus always obeyed the Person of the Word.
- But the human will of Jesus Christ is not identical to the divine Will.

# The Freedom of Jesus Christ

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- ▶ If Jesus Christ had a human will, then he must have human freedom.
- ▶ Without freedom, our Lord's actions in the Passion would not have been meritorious.
- ▶ Jesus made choices: all were good, some better than others, none were evil
- ▶ Could Jesus choose something evil? Did he have that "freedom"?





“ If we gaze into the interior life of Jesus, if we want to discover what it was that dominated and animated him, then it can be answered at once. The ultimate and most profound motive of all his actions was his Father’s will. There is nothing the brush of the evangelists has painted so movingly and strikingly, with such impressive strokes, as the burning love of Jesus for his heavenly Father, and for the mission on which he was sent. ”

KARL ADAM, *THE SON OF GOD*

We have a unique insight into the interior life of Jesus in seeing the loving manner in which he obeyed His Father in everything



*The Transfiguration, Raphael, 1520.*

## The Supernatural Prerogatives of Jesus Christ as Man

God sanctifies human beings by grace & gives them virtues & gifts which form their interior life.

3 supernatural gifts God gave Jesus Christ to enrich his interior life as true man. They depend on his union with the divinity:

- immunity from all sin
- fullness of grace
- knowledge & love of God

# Jesus Christ: Free from Sin

What was the interior life of Jesus Christ like?

- Fullness of grace. Jesus Christ did not inherit original sin & did not commit any personal sin

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God (Lk 1:35).*

- Jesus Christ was immune from all sin

*Which of you can convict me of sin? (Jn 8:46)*

*He made him to be sin who knew no sin (2 Cor 5:21).*

- Incapable of sinning

- Free of disordered concupiscence: A consequence of being free of original sin
- But he still could be tempted

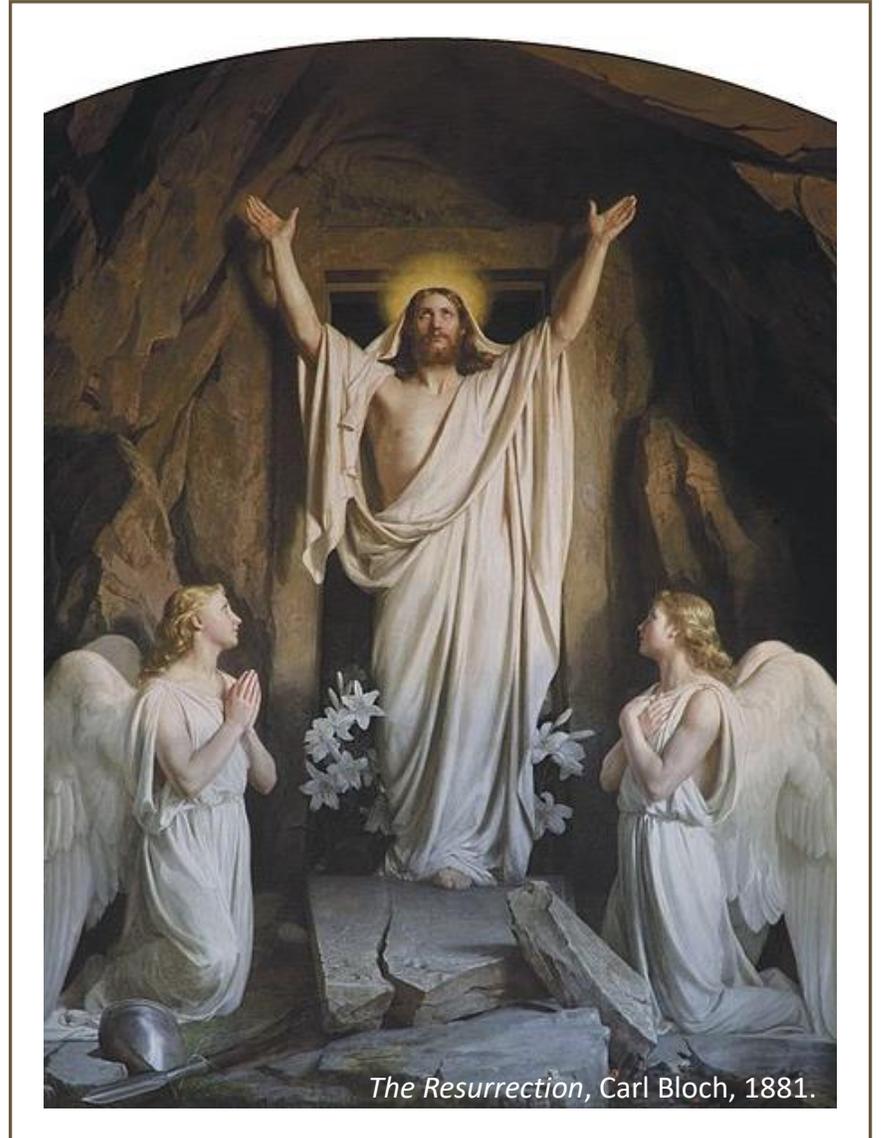


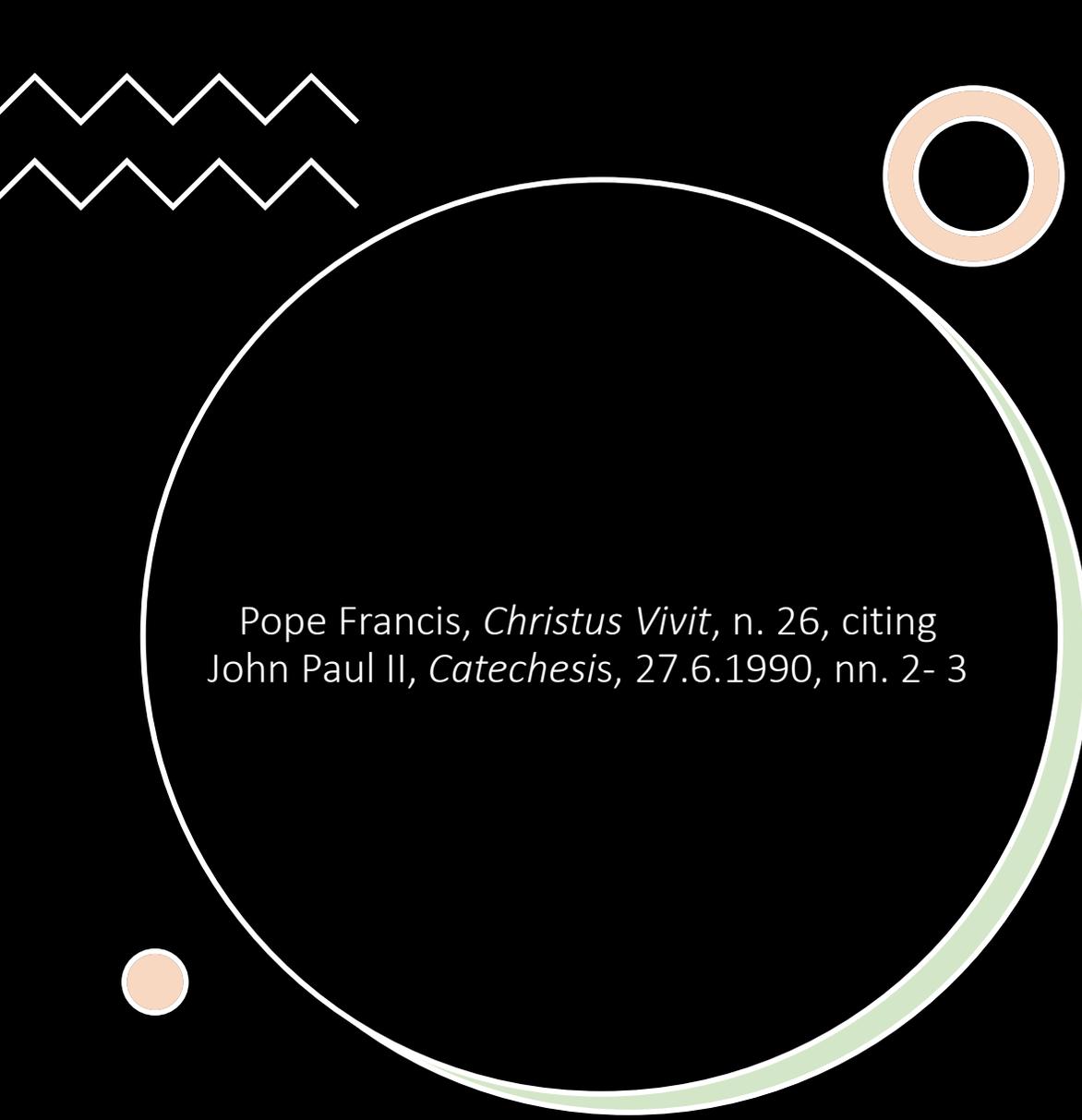
*The Annunciation, Pietro Perugino, c. 1489.*

# Christ's Grace

- Hypostatic union conferred holiness on humanity
- Grace = union with God. Hypostatic union is the greatest union any man can have with God
- Jesus Christ was *full of grace and truth* (Jn 1:14). Fullness in sense of greatest possible for any human being
- Fullness of the anointing with Holy Spirit as well

“From him originates all the light with which all the faithful of the body of the Church are enlightened supernaturally, and all the graces by which they are sanctified are derived from him, as Christ was Holy” (Pius XII, *Mystici corporis*, 1943).

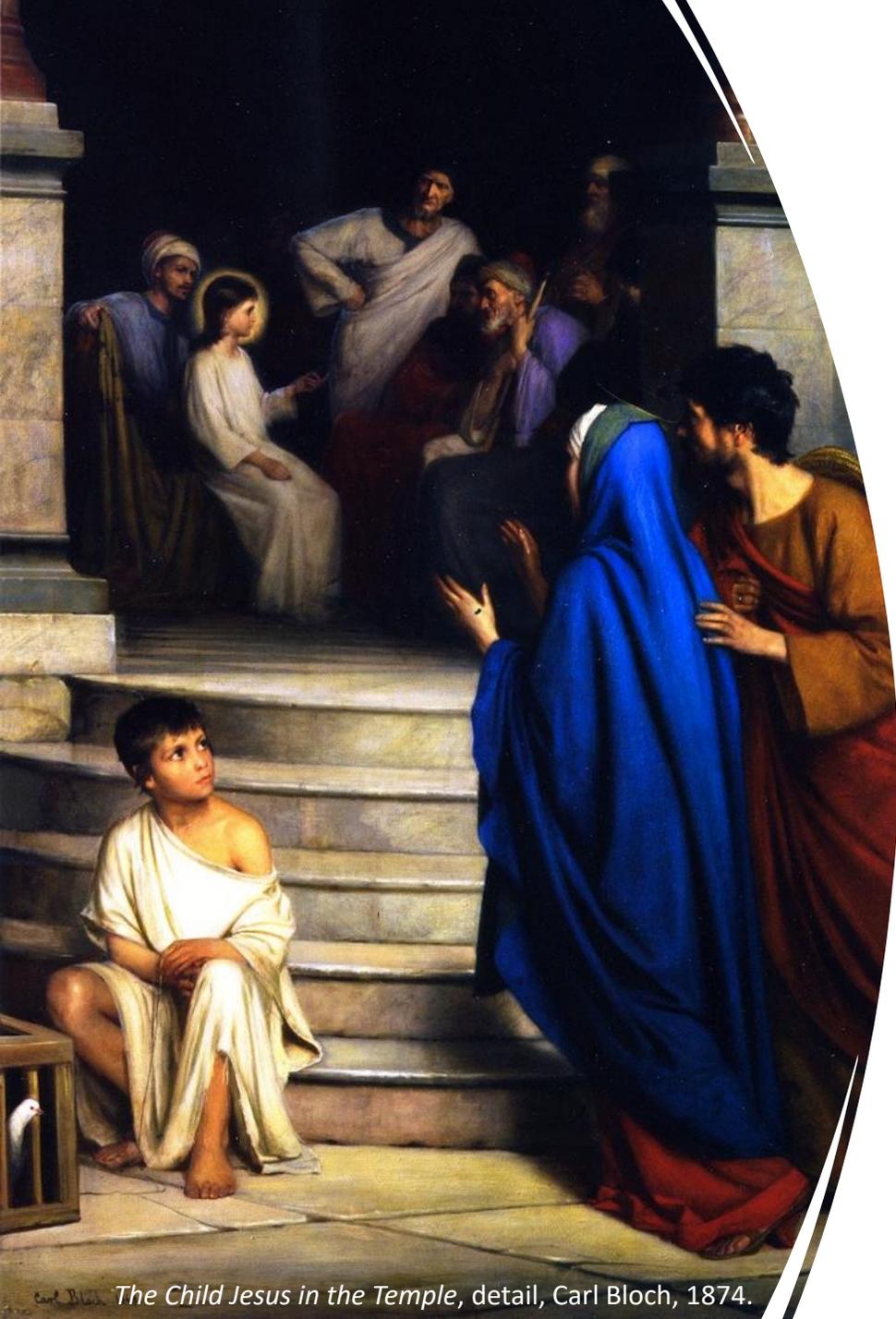




Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, n. 26, citing  
John Paul II, *Catechesis*, 27.6.1990, nn. 2- 3

Jesus did not only grow physically, but ... 'there was also a spiritual growth in Jesus', because 'the fullness of grace in Jesus was in proportion to his age: there was always a fullness, but a fullness which increased as he grew in age'.





## Jesus' Knowledge & Love of God

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The Finding of in the Temple: 'After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.' (Lk 2: 46-47)

'Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and grace before God and before men.' (Lk 2:52)



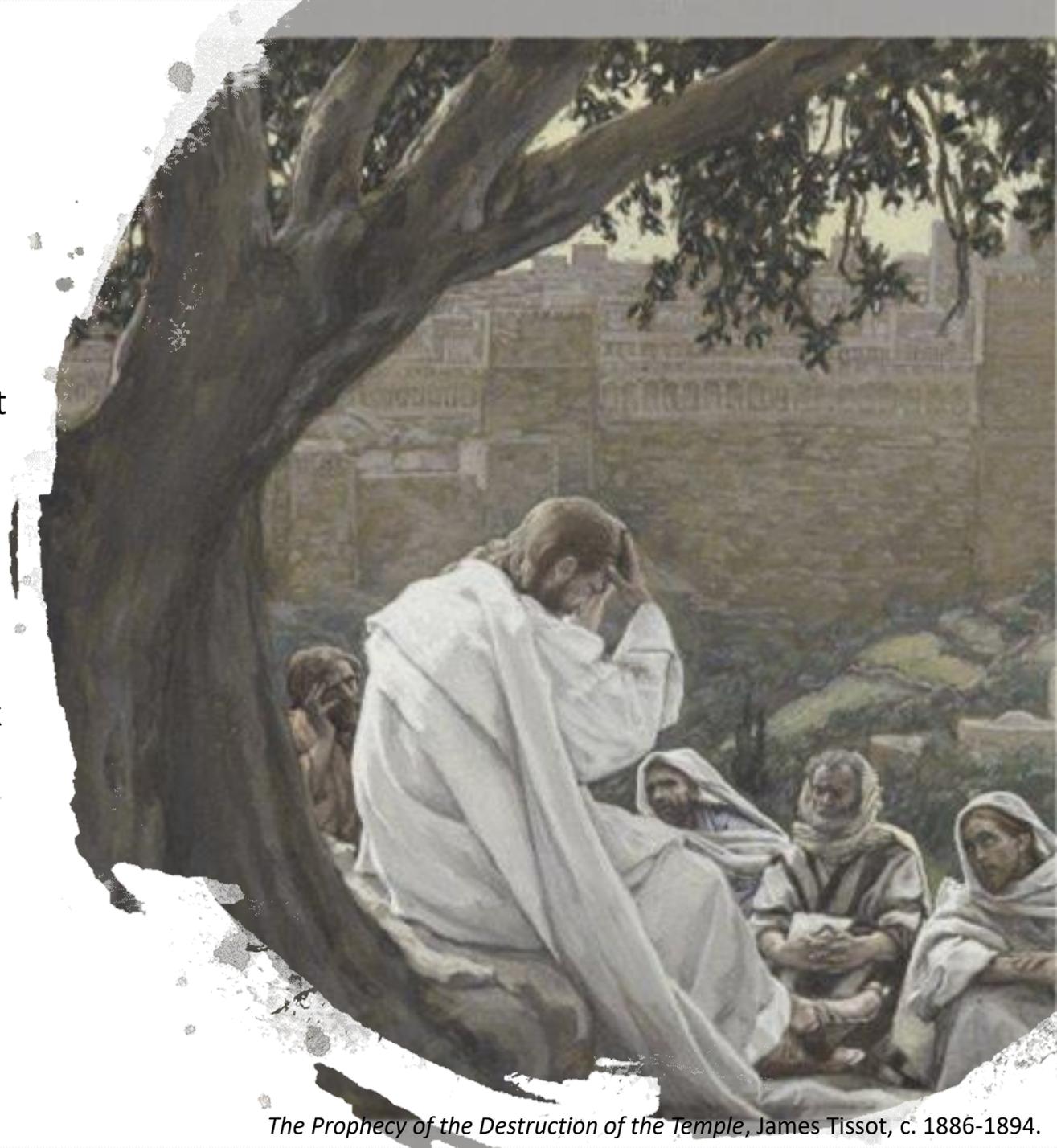
Madonna of the Cherries, Federico Barocci, 1573.

# Jesus Acquired Knowledge

- Natural human knowledge
- Natural faculties for knowing: experience of world, concepts, ideas, memories, imaginations & dreams.
- *Jesus increased in wisdom & in stature, & in favour with God & man (Lk 2:52).*

# Infused Knowledge

- Knowledge not acquired directly by using reason, but which is infused into the mind directly by God
- Sacred Scripture: texts point to Jesus having supernatural knowledge, prophetic knowledge of things that He could not have known simply by human reason. Jesus knew:
- People's hearts: Nathaniel & the fig tree (Jn 1:48)
- Present & future events
  - The woman at the well "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" (Jn 4:29)
  - What the disciples were discussing behind his back (Mk 9:33-35)
  - That Lazarus had died (Jn 11:14)).
  - Peter's denial & the disciples' desertion
  - His own death & resurrection
  - The destruction of Jerusalem.
- These passages emphasize Jesus' supernatural knowledge: he speaks with certainty & authority; the source of his knowledge transcends the human capacity to know.



*The Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple, James Tissot, c. 1886-1894.*

# Free from Ignorance & Error

Jesus Christ's knowledge was always free from positive ignorance & from error due to the hypostatic union. Jesus Christ enjoyed the Beatific Vision & knew God with all his perfections. Moreover, he possessed infused knowledge of all natural truths & of the truths God revealed to humankind.

- *Full of grace and truth* (Jn 1:14)
- *'Full of wisdom'* (Lk 2:40)

In summary, Jesus had ordinary human knowledge, though "influenced" by the hypostatic union.





*The Trinity*, Holy Sepulchre Basilica, Jerusalem, 19th c.

# The Beatific Vision (direct knowledge of God)

- St Paul: 'To see God face to face' (1 Cor 13:12)
- St John: we shall know God 'as He is' (1 Jn 3:3).
- Jesus Christ had the Beatific Vision from the very moment of his conception. (Theological opinion. Why? Mostly appropriateness based on the perfection befitting Christ's human nature, in particular his great holiness & hypostatic union).

Jesus Christ had "even that knowledge that we call Beatific Vision; ... he possessed it with such fullness that it surpass in extension & clarity the beatific contemplation of the blessed in heaven. He had it from the very moment of his conception in the womb of the Mother of God." Pius XII, *Mystici corporis* (1943)

"You do not know him [the Father], but I know him. And if I say that I do not know him, I shall be like you, a liar. But I know him, and I keep his word" (Jn 8:55).

- This is not something revealed to Jesus, but his direct knowledge of God. Jesus did not need supernatural faith, because He saw directly.



Could the human will of Jesus, in virtue of the hypostatic union, perform divine actions like miracles?

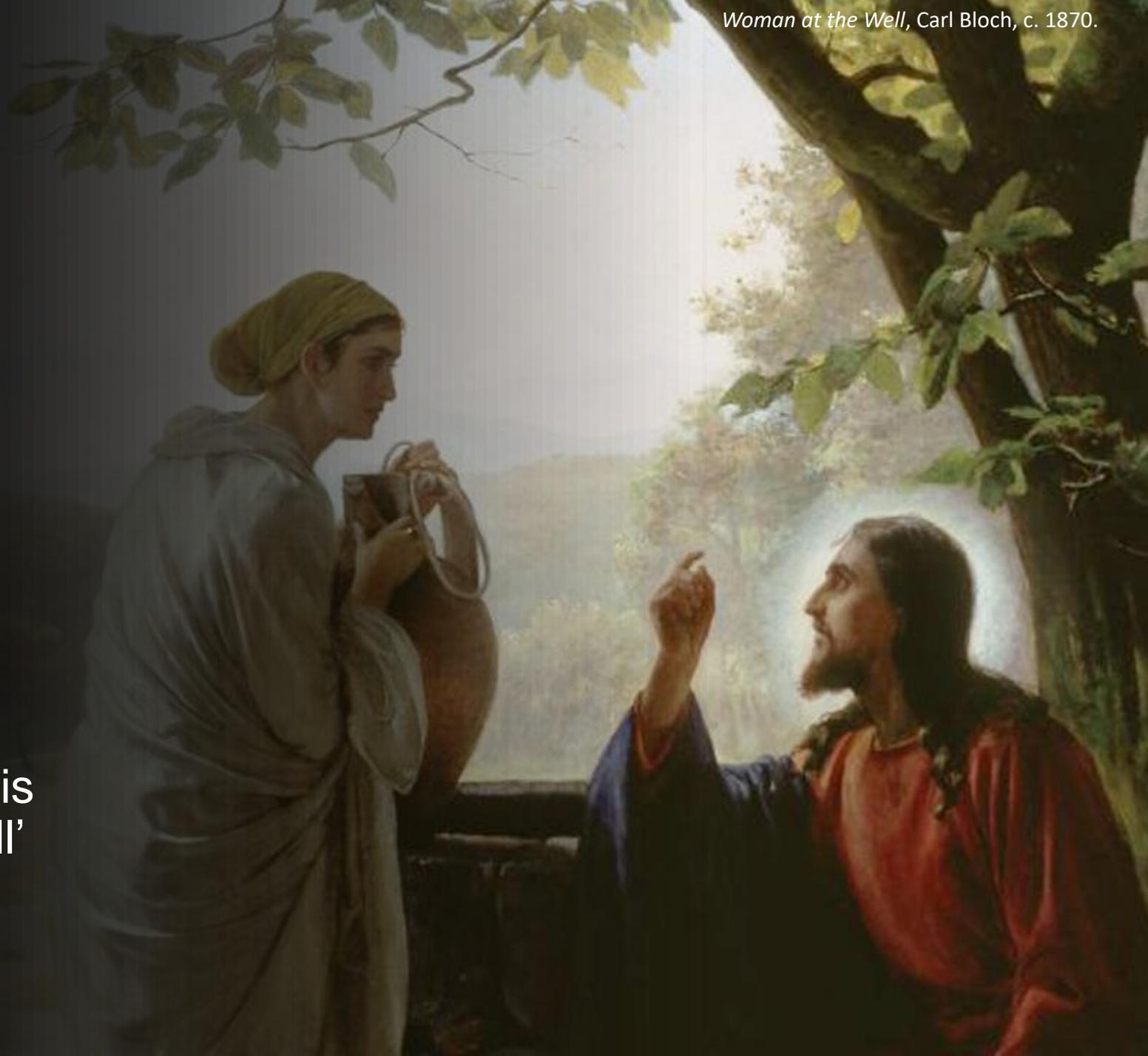
## The Power of Jesus Christ

- Miracles are part of divine Omnipotence
- Jesus' human will, being finite, could not have this attribute
- The human will of Jesus, by itself, is not capable of performing miracles.
- It can however as an instrument of the divine nature.
- 'Theandric' or Divine-human operations. (A person acts, not a nature.)

## Did Christ Have Passions?

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‘Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well’  
(Jn 4:6).



# Did Jesus Have Passions?

- Passions such as love, joy, & sorrow are proper to human nature. As a human being like us, Jesus had human passions
- Jesus experienced emotions & bodily passions such as love, joy, sorrow, pain, hunger, pleasure, etc.
- In Jesus, the passions were always in harmony with reason, without any of the disorder that we experience in our passions as a consequence of original sin.
- Could Jesus really be tempted? How could Jesus experience temptation if he is a perfect human being, whose will could never deviate from the good and whose passions are perfectly controlled by reason?





# Jesus' Feelings

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- Jesus had a fully human & rich emotional life.
- The connection between body and soul means that it makes sense that Jesus experienced in his soul the consequences of what happened to his Body.
- The emotions are an important perfection of our human nature. Far from not experiencing emotion, Jesus Christ, as perfect man, possessed them in their most perfect form.
- The great value of his true sufferings during the Passion was derived from this.
- The passions of Christ were never disordered but always perfectly governed by reason & inclined towards the good in harmony with his human & divine wills.
- Examples

# The Cleansing of the Temple

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, & Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen & sheep & pigeons, & the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep & oxen, out of the temple; & he poured out the coins of the money-changers & overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for thy house will consume me." (Jn 2: 13-17)



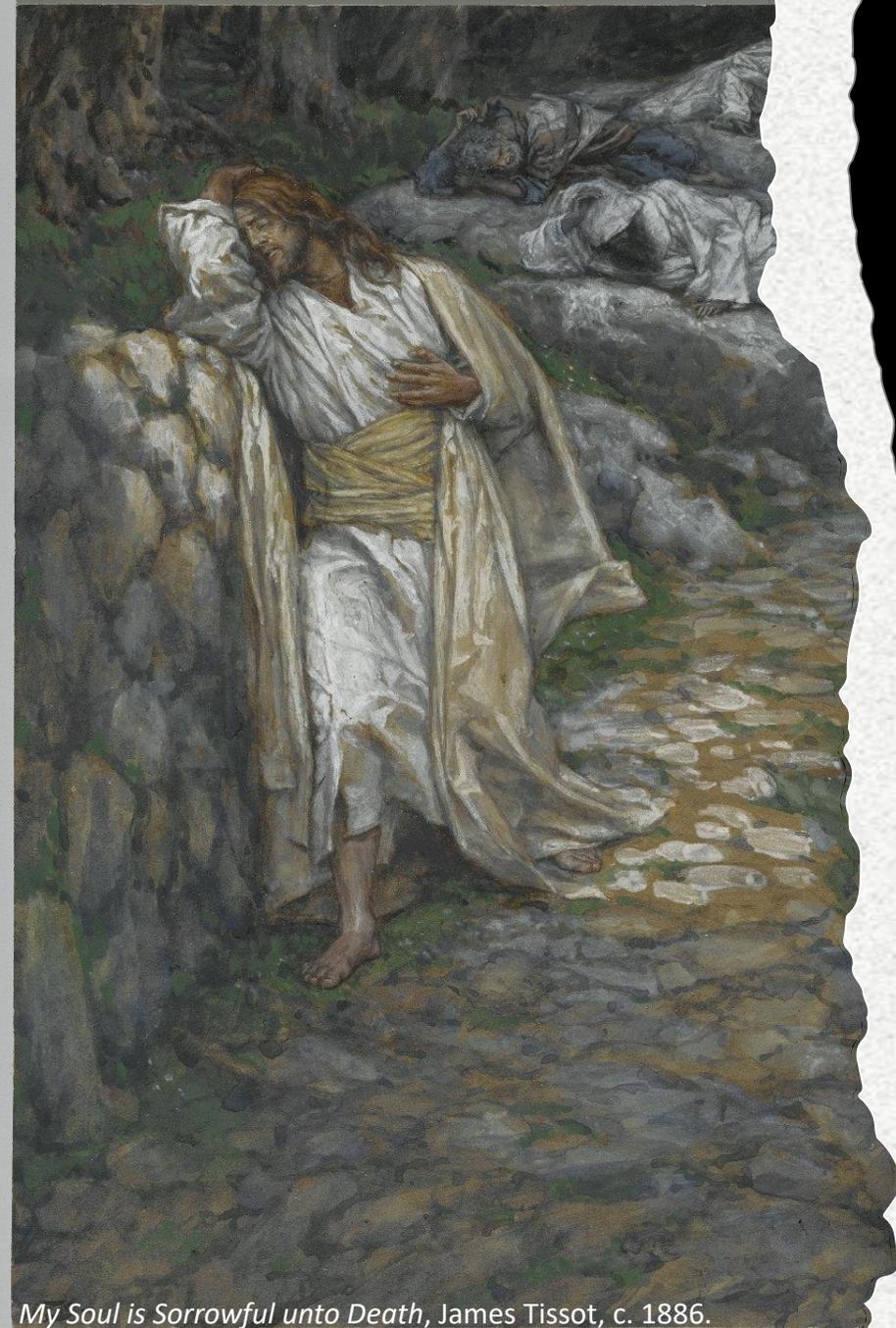
*Jesus Casting Out the Moneychangers at the Temple, Carl Bloch, 1874.*



Indignation, & anger at the hardheartedness & insincerity of the Pharisees:  
'He looked around upon them with anger' (Mk 3:5, Jn 2:15-17, Mk 8:12).

## The Agony in the Garden

‘He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death” (Mt 26:37-38).



*My Soul is Sorrowful unto Death*, James Tissot, c. 1886.



# Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem

When he drew near & saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you & surround you & hem you in on every side & tear you down to the ground, you & your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation." O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets & stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, & you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Lk 19: 41-44)





# Gratitude

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, & she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum & given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.” (Mt 26:6-13).



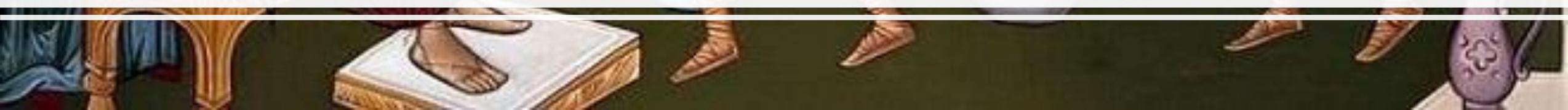
*Raising of the Son of The Widow of Nain, Wilhelm Kotarbiński, 1879.*

# Compassion

‘As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, & she was a widow, & a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her & said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up & touched the bier, & the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up & began to speak, & Jesus gave him to his mother.’ (Lk 7: 11-15)



A Son & A Friend



# The Raising of Lazarus

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Now when Mary came to where Jesus was & saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, & the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit & greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come & see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb.' (Jn 11:32-38)



*Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Martha at Bethany, James Tissot, 1886-1894.*

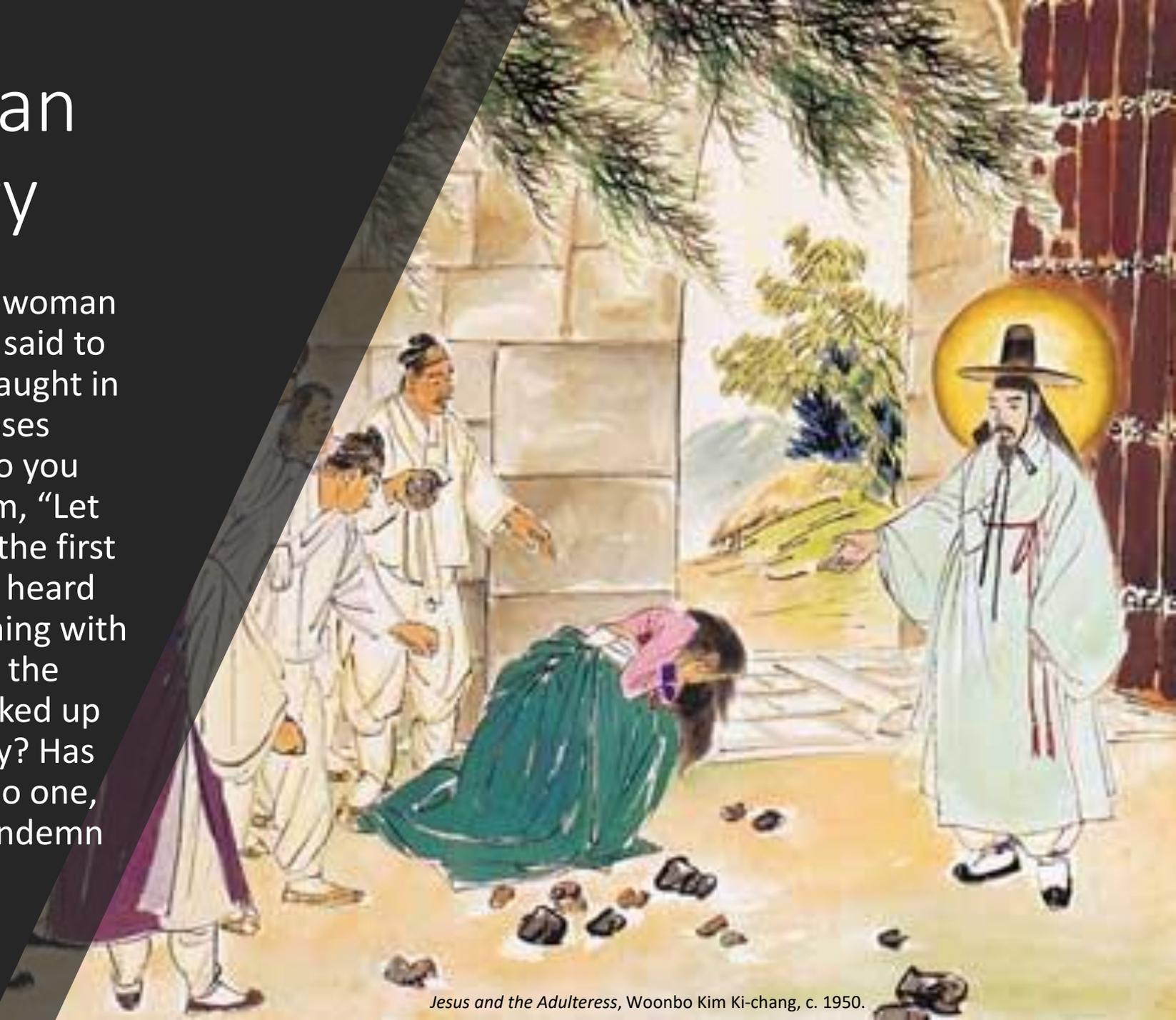
## Jesus & The Rich Young Man

Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."  
(Mk 10:20-21)

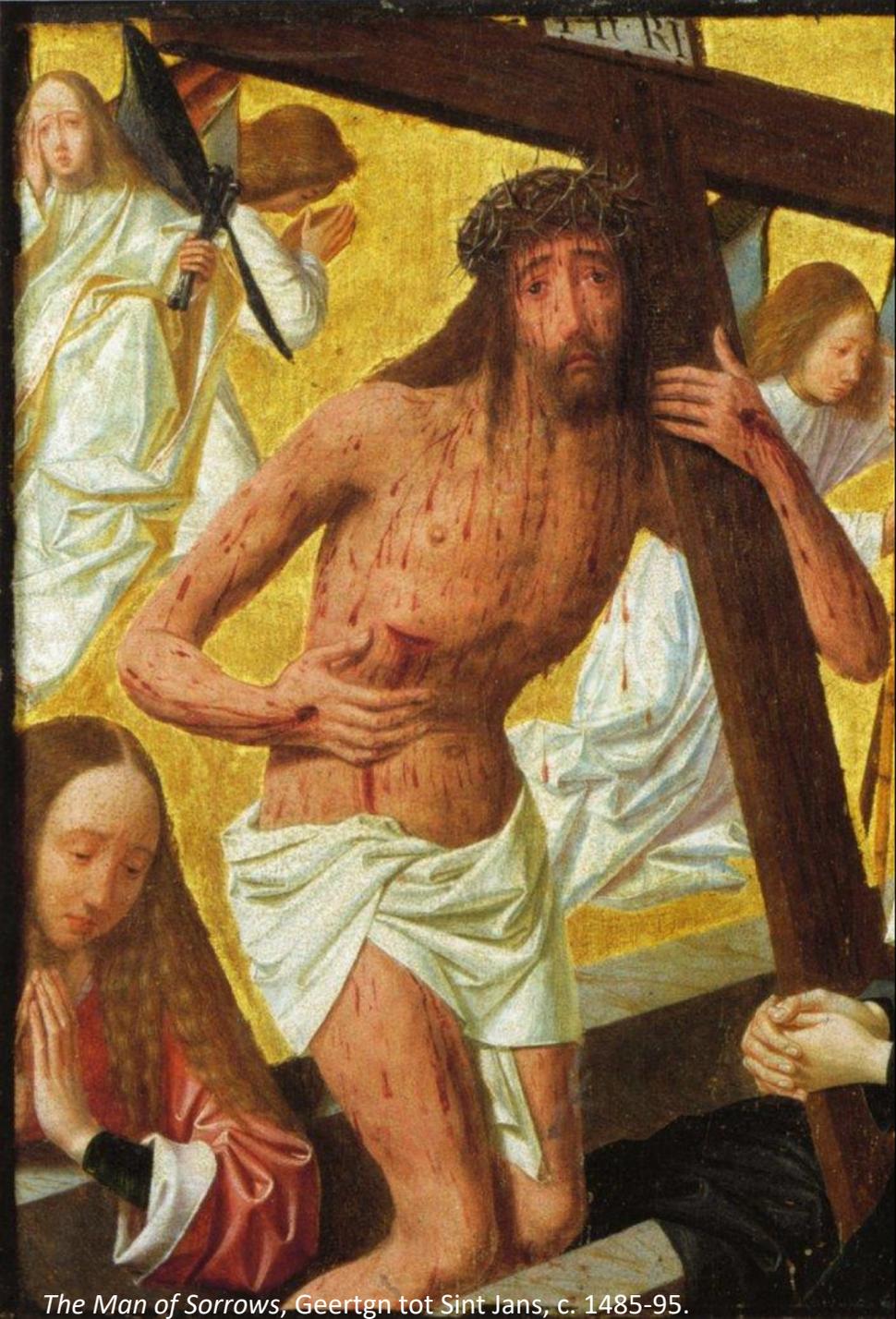


# Jesus & the Woman Caught in Adultery

The scribes & the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, & ... said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?" ... Jesus ... said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ... When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, & Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus looked up & said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, do not sin again" (Jn 8: 4-11).



*Jesus and the Adulteress, Woonbo Kim Ki-chang, c. 1950.*



*The Man of Sorrows, Geertgen tot Sint Jans, c. 1485-95.*

# Jesus Christ Suffered

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‘The Word of God suffered in his flesh & was crucified in his flesh & experienced death in the flesh.’

Jesus felt hunger, was tired; he was maltreated, suffered & died.

These experiences were real, something that the Docetists denied.

The ‘defects’ or limitations that come with human nature, like the ability to be tired, to suffer or to die, were freely accepted by Christ, deriving from his human nature. They were not punishments, as Jesus did not have original sin.

He freely accepted them

- to atone for our sins
- to manifest his true human nature
- to set us an example

Such human limitations are not contrary to his human perfection, as he freely assumed them out of love for us, & in accord with the purpose of the Incarnation. He did not have any defects like ignorance, inclination to evil, or difficulty in doing good, which would have been opposed to the perfection of his knowledge and grace.

# The Wedding at Cana

1. What aspects of Person and mission of Christ that we have studied so far are manifested in this scene of the Gospel? How? (of His humanity, divinity, knowledge, will, freedom, emotions, etc)
2. What can we learn from the scene about apostolate and family life?

*On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, & the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples.*

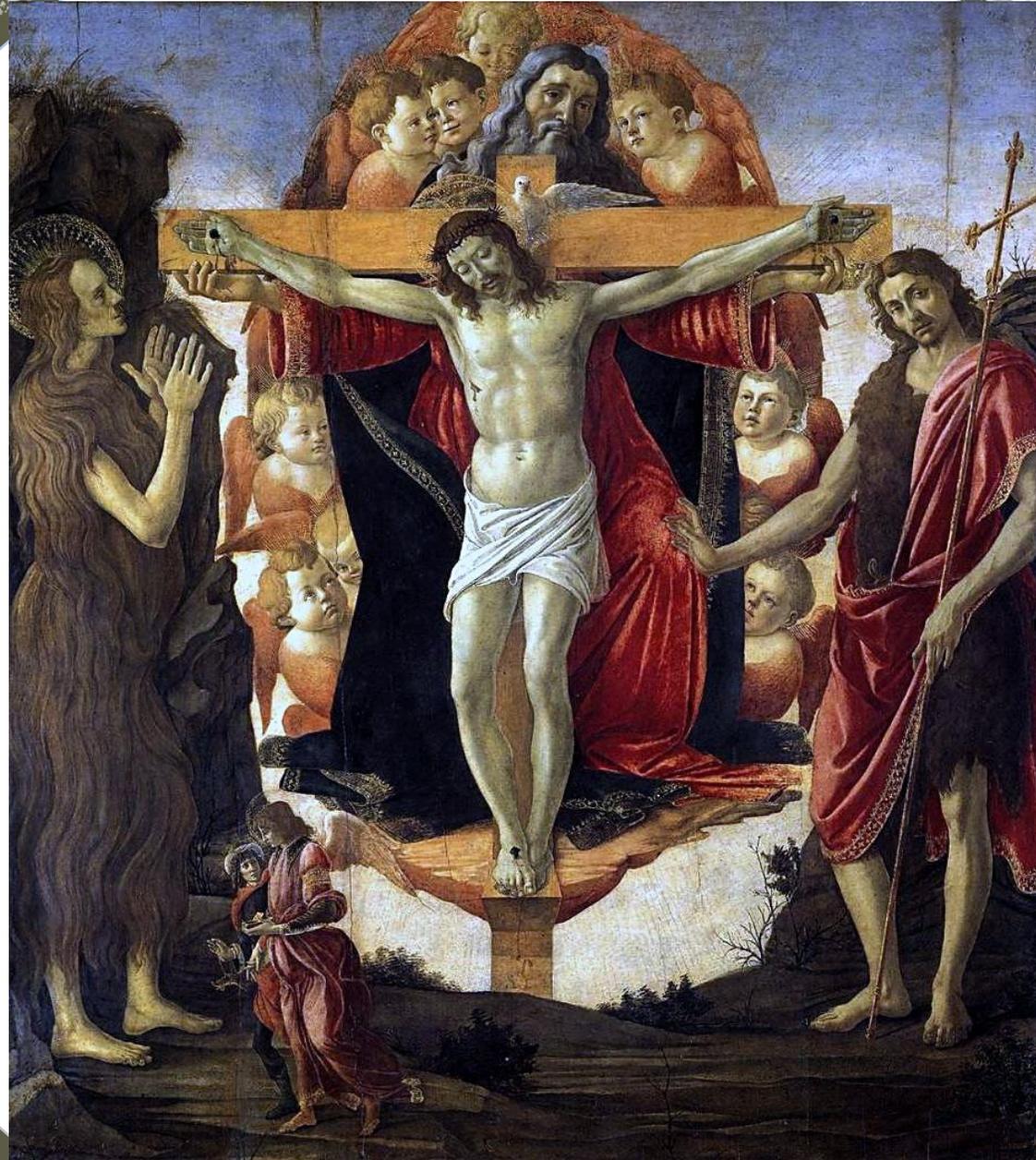
*When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come."*

*His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, & take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it.*

*When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, & did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom, & said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; & when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."*

*This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, & manifested his glory; & his disciples believed in him (Jn 2:1-12).*





*Palla delle Convertite (Holy Trinity)*, Sandro Botticelli, c. 1491-3.