



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Lesson 6: Is Mary to be Worshipped? Luke 1:26-38

I. Luke 1:26-38

A. Compare JTB and Jesus' birth announcements

1. Gabriel visits both times
2. Elizabeth is in each story
3. Fear
4. Assurance
5. Prophecy fulfilled

II. One Catholic's Response to Mary - catholicexchange.com

A. Church doctrine plainly states that they should not adore Mary as divine

1. She deserves devotion and RCC uses Latin words to differentiate devotion to God and devotion to Mary
2. *latria* – adoration
3. *dulia* - love and honor

B. Only God should have *latria* devotion/adoration because He is “an excellent, perfect, uncreated, divine person.”

C. Mary deserves *dulia* love and honor because of her excellence as a created being - We honor excellence all the time: Superbowl champions and Nobel prize winners

D. Human excellence in the service of God is to be honored such as a saint - Honoring a saint doesn't take away from honoring God

E. Mary though has *hyperdulia* because:

1. God chose Mary to be full of grace at the time of the Holy Spirit coming on her and the power of the Most High overshadowing (v.35)
 - a. Because of this she is free of sin

2. God chose her of all the women ever created to give flesh to the Word
3. She was obedient ([v.38](#)) – this was not a one-time occurrence of obedience

III. The Official Word on Mary?

A. “Thus as no man goeth to the Father but by the Son, so no man goeth to Christ but by His Mother.”

- Encyclical of Pope Leo 13th on the Rosary, *Octobri Mense* – 1891

B. Catechism of the Catholic Church - https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

Paragraph 2677: *Holy Mary, Mother of God: With Elizabeth we marvel, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her: she prays for us as she prayed for herself: "Let it be to me according to your word." By entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: "Thy will be done."*

*Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death: By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the "Mother of Mercy," the **All-Holy One**. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender "the hour of our death" wholly to her care. May she be there as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing to **lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise**. (Emphasis mine)*

IV. What's the big problem?

A. One BIG problem: **Church tradition is NOT the same as Scripture**

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church – Paragraph 80

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADITION AND SACRED SCRIPTURE

One common source. . .

80 "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other. For both of them, **flowing out from the same divine well-spring**, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal." Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ, who promised to remain with his own "always, to the close of the age". (Emphasis mine)

V. Five Reasons the Virgin Conception is Important – Justin Taylor with The Gospel Coalition

- A. Doctrine of Scripture – If this isn't true how is the resurrection?
- B. Deity of Christ – This was supernatural
- C. Humanity of Jesus – He was born of a female human and He suffered on the cross
- D. Sinlessness of Jesus – two human parents means we are NOT exempt from sin - [Romans 5:18-21](#)
- E. Nature of grace – We are a NEW creation; salvation is a miracle of God

Questions? Comments? Thoughts? nick@nickwalters.org