

# Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • June 23, 2024



*God of wind and sea,  
you are mighty  
beyond our reckoning.  
The terrors of this world  
are nothing  
compared with  
your loving power.  
For at your command  
evil dissolves  
and peace ensues.*

## Sunday Word

Job 38:1, 8-11  
Psalm 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31  
2 Corinthians 5:14-17  
Mark 4:35-41

### *The Storm*

Job audaciously complains to God with questions. God, in turn, responds. But the divine response initially also consists of a question. The storm underscores the awesome, overwhelming power of God. The question is but a prelude to the question posed to the disciples by Jesus.

### *The Love*

God who is all-powerful is also all-loving. The love of Christ impels us forward into faithful living and serving.

### *The Question*

The disciples, threatened by the storm-tossed sea, appeal to Jesus. When he calms the storm with a commanding word, he questions their faith. Their resulting awe is another sort of storm within their hearts, “Who is this whom we are following?”

## Church Teaching: The Power of God

### *All-Powerful*

God, all-powerful, created the universe out of nothing simply by commanding it by his own word. There is no other reason for creation except to reveal divine glory, a glory permeated by love and total goodness.

But if God, the ultimate potency who has created and redeemed us, is loving and good, why was not a perfect world brought forth by his word? Why could there not have been a perfectly created world wherein no evil would exist?

Our Catholic tradition informs us that there is no quick or easy answer to the question of evil in the world. Only the totality of faith can provide a response, a totality consisting of an amazing grace-filled litany. We believe in the goodness of creation, the drama of sin, the patient care of God, who is revealed by his Covenants, the redemptive Incarnation of his Son, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gathering of the Church, the life-giving capacity of the Sacraments, and the wondrous call to beatitude.

## All-Loving

We are called to beatitude, but God loves us so much, he endows us with free will, the ability to turn away from blessedness, if we so choose. Our faith, therefore, rests upon the infinite wisdom of a divine plan that freely willed to create the world in a state of journeying toward ultimate perfection.

God's love, which is without end, throws us a lifeline in Christ. We are not left to our own devices or without recourse to a remedy for sin. In other words, the all-powerful, all-loving God takes action to offer us a Salvation that we cannot accomplish on our own.

## Distinctiveness of Church Teaching

The problem of evil in the world has been debated for centuries by theologians. What Scripture and Tradition attest to is that God is not evil, nor is he responsible for its presence in creation.

Humanity's fall from grace, as depicted by Genesis in the Adam and Eve story, makes clear that the brokenness of the world is due to our freely choosing to turn from God. The power of God's love enters this broken world to restore it from within, to work a miraculous healing by the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery.

## Key Terms

### SALVATION

God's forgiveness of our sin and the healing of the brokenness caused by our sinfulness (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 169).

### BEATITUDE

Heavenly happiness or blessedness of those who are right with God (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1026).

### EVIL

Opposite of good; revelation of God's goodness in Christ is the divine response to the existence of evil (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 311).

## Voices of Faith

Everything comes from love, all is ordained for . . . salvation. . . . God does nothing without this goal in mind.

Saint Catherine of Siena

Anyone who wishes to give love must also receive love as a gift. Certainly . . . one can become a source from which rivers of living water flow (cf. Jn 7:37-38). Yet to become such a source, one must constantly drink anew from the original source, which is Jesus Christ, from whose pierced heart flows the love of God (cf. Jn 19:34).

Pope Benedict XVI

## Further Reading

***Catechism of the Catholic Church***: 312 (God can bring good from the consequences of evil), 314 (providence of God), 324 (physical and moral evil, a mystery illuminated by Christ).

***United States Catholic Catechism for Adults***: Chapter 5 (I Believe in God), especially the section entitled "God Is Creator of Heaven and Earth," pages 53–54.

***Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church***: 42 (God is loving), 53 (reason for creation), 54 (how did God create), 58 (why God permits evil).

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