

Lesson 11

Please read paragraphs 571-611 and then answer the following questions:

1. In his Gospel, St. John is very critical of *"the Jews"*. Some have appealed to this fact in an attempt to justify anti-Semitism. Why is such an interpretation incorrect? To whom is John actually referring when he speaks of *"the Jews"*? (# 575)
2. What does it mean to say that Jesus fulfilled the Law perfectly? (#'s 578 and 581)
3. In # 581 we are told, *"Jesus could not help but offend the teachers of the Law, for he was not content to propose his interpretation alongside theirs but taught the people 'as one who had authority, and not as their scribes'."* Draw a parallel between this insight and the experience of the Church in the modern world.
4. In #'s 583 and 584 we hear about our Lord's attitude toward the Temple. In your opinion, is this the attitude most Catholics have when they enter their church for Sunday Mass?
5. Some Catholics say that they don't need to go to Mass, because they can pray just as easily and effectively at home. The Catechism says at one point that Jesus *"went up to the Temple as the privileged place of encounter with God."* Based on this line of the Catechism, how would you respond to these non-practicing Catholics who insist on staying in bed on Sunday mornings?
6. C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus produced mainly 3 effects on the people who actually met him: "Hatred-- Terror--Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild approval." Discuss this insight in light of what you read in #'s 587-591.
7. Regarding the death of Jesus, it says in # 597, *"The personal sin of the participants (Judas, the Sanhedrin, Pilate) is known to God alone."* What does this mean?
8. Who was (is) responsible for the death of Jesus? (#'s 597-598)
9. How can we say that Herod, Pilate and the other opponents of Jesus acted freely, since we are told in Scripture and the Catechism that the passion and death of Jesus were part of *"God's plan"*? (#'s 599-600)
10. If you were trying to evangelize a Jewish person, what important Old Testament prophecies should you mention? (# 601)
11. When the Catechism says that *"Christ died for all men without exception"* (# 605), does this mean that everyone will go to heaven, regardless of how they live their earthly lives?