

The Birth of Jesus

Chapter 12 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will reflect on their experience and understanding of the celebration of Christmas.
- The participants will examine Jesus' birth and how it brings hope to all people.
- The participants will explore Mary's role in God's plan for our salvation.

Content Summary

1. The Annunciation is the announcement of the angel Gabriel to Mary that she had been chosen by God to be the mother of his Son.
2. We find the accounts of Jesus' birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The Son of God chose to be born in the poorest of circumstances. From this we learn not to judge or value others based on their social status, material possessions, or appearance.
3. In the Gospel of Matthew, the Magi, the wise men from the East, visit Jesus and worship him. This reminds us that Christ has come to all people.
4. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus escapes from the decree of Herod just as Moses escaped from the decree of the Pharaoh. In this way, Matthew shows us that Jesus is like the great leaders of the Old Testament and is the Savior promised by God.
5. Mary is the Mother of God because Jesus is both God and man. She is the Mother of the Church because the Church is the Body of Christ. She is our spiritual mother and leads us to her son, Jesus.
6. Jesus is truly the Messiah, the "anointed one" sent by God to be our priest, prophet, and king.
7. Mary, although she is human like us, was preserved from Original Sin from the time of her conception. We call this fact the Immaculate Conception. Mary also remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.
8. Mary remained a virgin, even though she gave birth to a child. Yet she was also married to Joseph. Having lived an ordinary life, she is an example for all people who follow God's ways.
9. Mary was closely united to Jesus in his act of redemption. She freely obeyed God's desire without complaint. As Jesus is the New Adam, so Mary is the New Eve, obedient to God's plan.
10. Mary is humble. She knows her great gifts come from God. In her service to others, she encourages us to be grateful for God's gifts to us and to live in faithfulness to God.

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