

Handout #1, Lesson 3:

THE DIVINE JUBILEE AND THE NEW EXODUS

Proclamation of the Jubilee year: *Seven weeks of years shall you count—seven times seven years—so that the seven cycles amount to forty-nine years. [...] This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants.* Leviticus 25:8, 10

The Liberation of the Exodus Expressed in the Jubilee Year of Divine Grace

Jubilee Liberation	Exodus Liberation
1. The land would be redeemed and all land debts forgiven (Leviticus 25:13-17).	1. God redeemed the “firstborn” of Israel (Exodus 12:1-34).
2. All Israelite slaves are to be freed (Leviticus 25:35-55).	2. God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12:37-51).
3. The land would revert to the tribal family entrusted with it (Leviticus 25:10, 23-34).	3. God gave Israel the Promised Land (Joshua 3-4).

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The “liberation” that Jesus would bring about in the “new exodus”: *About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.* Luke 9:28-31

The “New Exodus” Liberation Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Liberation	Fulfilled in Christ
1. The debt of the curses incurred for failing to keep the Old Covenant Law were forgiven	Galatians 3:13; <i>Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, ‘Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree...’</i>
2. He freed us from slavery to sin and death	Romans 6:6: <i>We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.</i>
3. Through His death, burial, and Resurrection we received the promise of eternal life in the true Promise Land, the Kingdom of Heaven.	Luke 23:42-43: <i>Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied to him, ‘Amen, I say to you. Today you will be with me in Paradise.’</i>

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Handout #2, Lesson 3:

Questions for group discussion:

Question: Do you feel you are self-sufficient and can handle life's struggles on your own or do you acknowledge "poverty of spirit" and turn to God in the struggles and well as in the joys that life can bring. Give some examples.

Question: Can you think of some strategies that would be helpful in our daily walk that will remind us of our need to acknowledge our childlike spirituality and "poverty of spirit"?

Question: What are the dangers in trusting to one's conscience in determining right from wrong? Can a conscience be completely trusted or can a human conscience become damaged and untrustworthy through exposure to sin?

Question: Do you yield to "poverty of spirit" and the sovereignty of God in the teachings handed down by Christ to St. Peter and the Apostles and through them to their successors, the Pope and the Bishops who form the Magisterium of the Holy Roman Catholic Church? Do you follow and support the doctrines and dogmas of the Church or do you pick and choose, deciding for yourself what is "good and what is evil" in the matters of birth control, abortion, the covenant obligations of worshiping on the Lord's Day and all Holy Days, the perpetual Virginity of Mary, and celebration the Sacraments of the Church?

Question: What are the dangers associated with deciding for ourselves which dogmas and doctrines are acceptable or not acceptable? In doing so are we following Jesus or are we following another example? Whose child do we become when we decide for ourselves good vs. evil?

Question: Why is this blessing of "property of spirit" absolutely necessary to achieve before one can continue with the other blessings Jesus has promised us?