

CatClub: Questions 21 & 22



Background: Remember we've been learning that a 'Redeemer' is a person who 'buys back' something or someone from whoever owns them. In Egypt, God's people were 'bought back' or 'redeemed' from their slavery to the Egyptians at the cost of the shed blood of a lamb. This was a symbol of what would happen on the cross 1,400 years later where God's people would be 'bought back' or 'redeemed' from their slavery to sin at the cost of the shed blood of Jesus.

Today's two catechism questions are:

Q21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God? Answer: **One who is truly human and also truly God.**

Q22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human? Answer: **That in his human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathise with our weaknesses.**

1. Recap: We learned last week that Jesus was **both truly human and also truly God**. When you looked up John chapter 11, verse 35, you found the shortest verse in the Bible ('Jesus wept'). This showed that Jesus was fully human, just like us, and had emotions, just like us. But Jesus was also God (God the Son, to be precise), and I'm sure you thought of his miracles which proved this – miracles involving healing sick people, including the paralysed, deaf and blind, driving demons out of people, controlling the weather (e.g. the storm on the lake), multiplying a small amount of food to feed a crowd of thousands, and raising people from the dead. **Only God could do these things.**

2. Investigation: Question 22 asks WHY Jesus must be **truly human**.

Please look up (in the New Testament) Hebrews chapter 2, verses 17-18. These are difficult verses, but here are the main points:

(a) Jesus had to be made like us (i.e. human) **to be our 'high priest'**. A priest speaks to God on behalf of believers. So Jesus, because he was fully human, was able to represent us sinners before God the Father.

(b) Jesus **made 'propitiation' for the sins of believers**. 'Propitiation' means turning away God's anger towards sin. Jesus was able to do this because he was a perfect, sinless human being. If you also look up Hebrews chapter 5, verse 9, you'll see that **Jesus – unlike us – was PERFECT.**

(c) Verse 18 tells us that **Jesus suffered temptation, like us, but never gave in**. To find out more about how Jesus was tempted, but resisted, please read Luke chapter 4, verses 1-13.

>>>Next week we learn why the Redeemer had to be truly God.

Today's songs: 'Perfect Love (Mary's Song)':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glrQXII_YNs

'Shepherd':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMxfBbr2FTM&list=RDEMneBVV3ubqkrV1mzwMJs8vg&index=13>

Hebrews 2:17-18

¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 5:9

⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...

Luke 4:1-13

4 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve."

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,"

¹¹ and

"On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Deuteronomy 8:3

³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 6:13

¹³ It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

Psalms 91:11

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Psalms 91:12

¹² On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Deuteronomy 6:16

¹⁶ You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Exodus 17:1-7

¹⁷ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"