

“Lord to Lord”  
(Acts 2:34-36)  
Pastor Espinosa

Text: “<sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, <sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies your footstool.’ <sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. In too many ways, the Holy Trinity – the One True God – gets bad press. Too many view the Trinity as dull doctrine or unnecessary formulation. This is hogwash. When I fell in love with my wife, all I wanted was to know *more* about her. Not less, but more. The Holy Trinity is about knowing our God of Love *more* and better than ever before!

God loves you and because He loves you, He wants you to know Him, really know Him. So what has He done? He has chosen to show you more of Himself, not less. For this reason, the Holy Trinity is anything but dull. It’s God’s way of saying that He wants to convey His saving love to you with wondrous self-disclosure. To know God this way is to rest secure in His love and mercy.

“But the Bible doesn’t teach the Trinity!” is a common objection. It’s true that the *word* “Trinity” is not in Scripture, but the word accurately describes what the Scriptures *teach* about God. The word “Trinity” is just a “handle” for what is already in Holy Scripture in longer form.

Others resist God lovingly making Himself known to us as Holy Trinity by complaining that the Trinity is nonsensical. “What is this ‘3-in-1’ non-sense?” This of course is an ignorant complaint. 3-in-1 does not violate for example the Law of Identity ( $A = A$  and not non-A), but rather reminds us that the numbers “3” and “1” do not refer to the same categories in application to God. There are three persons in one essence or substance. Nothing wrong with that and we find examples of similar situations all of the time. Just consider the equation:  $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ . Each number is actually distinct and most importantly the three factors are always factors; while the one product is always product. Such organization is even true of you: you actually have a heart/volition; a soul/a commitment and yearning; and a mind/a place of thought, but these facts about you do not mean that there are three of you. The three persons in God are always three persons and they reveal WHO God is. The one substance is always one in perfect unity and reveals WHAT God is. God is eternally one!

Fair enough, but as valuable as this doctrinal review might be we cannot leave our consideration of the Holy Trinity to such analysis. If we are not careful we can forget about what is really important to know about the Holy Trinity! This is why we need the book of Acts to

remind us that there is nothing like a great text on Jesus to teach us why the Holy Trinity is so important. Indeed, the great creeds of the Church combine Trinitarian theology to Christology! The two must go together.

God is our Heavenly Father and how we need God to be a true Father who loves us as His true children, but how do we reach Him? Not even King David could ascend into heaven in a way that could secure our place to be safe from sin and death. So where the Holy Trinity really becomes meaningful is when we see that God is reachable through Himself. He is the One we need to reach to find relief from our despair, but He is also the One who makes a way for us to connect.

And we need to connect. In our human relationships we yearn for transparency, communication, and genuine intimacy. We want to share our hearts. We want to be known without being condemned. We want to be trusted and we want to be able to trust. We want to share our thoughts and still be loved. We long for these things. How easy it is for us to know these things in our minds, but when we try to make our relationships better, we oftentimes only see our inability, so we groan with St. Paul and cry out, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.” (Ro 7:19) When we feel this way, not only do we not connect within those important relationships, but we can push them away and just make the distance even greater.

So why should it surprise us that we do this with our most important relationship with the Lord Himself?!

So again this leads us to why we need the Holy Trinity. God found a way to enter our lives as one of us. This is a deep and profound mystery. God is by nature eternal. If God is God, He never ceases being God. The Lord Jesus is clearly identified in the Holy Scriptures as true God and true God never ceases being true God, and yet – at the same time – He became like us; He became one of us. God became attached to you and me (we didn’t have to wait to find a way to get close, because He got close); God got Himself enfleshed as a human being. When God works in relation to His creation, the Scriptures describe this “economic” approach to the Holy Trinity in terms of certain prepositions. We describe our relationship to the Father with words like “from” and “to,” to the Son with the great word “through,” and with the Holy Spirit with words like “in” or “by.” These teach us a lot. All of a sudden we aren’t talkin’ theory, but the ability to really connect to God. So for example, “We pray TO the Father THROUGH the Son IN the Holy Spirit.”

But notice the central place of the Son: He’s the “through” person of the Holy Trinity. Think of it this way, sometimes couples will get counseling. With a good counselor, a good mediator to help a couple work through their issues, some people will swear that certain

counselors were used to literally save their marriage. These couples received help THROUGH. Well, Jesus is our mediator!

While there are both good and bad, effective and ineffective counselors, however, when it comes to Jesus Christ, we have the perfect THROUGH of the Holy Trinity. This one ascends to heaven for us to make a way for us, and this is why our Lord is known as “The Way, and the Truth, and the Life.” (Jn 14:6). And this counselor sent by the Father is also “I AM,” the Almighty (Jn 8). This counselor has total ability to get it right in His counseling, His mediating, His “through” ministry for us!

And to assure us of this Savior, the Lord records in Acts 2 that God Himself, the Lord, said to David’s Lord (also God Himself), “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” (Acts 2:34) Fantastic words! This means that God the Father who sent the Son to connect to you and me, exalted the Son with all power and authority now also in accord to the human nature He shares with us – as if to say “I now affirm that as the one connected to these my children, you have conquered their enemies: their sin, their death, their despair, their hopelessness...you have put your foot on the neck of whatever threatens them and you my Son have been victorious! So now while you have always been the glorious Son, you are now through your death and your resurrection for these my people, also glorified as both Lord and Christ with all power and authority not only as True God who has always had all power and authority, but now also as True Man who has bought them back to me!

So the Father exalts the Son whose blood covers our sin; and has put the Crucified One at His right hand; the God-man Jesus who connected us and properly speaking (also present tense) who connects us. We also confess the Holy Trinity not only in an “economic” sense in terms of God’s relationship with the world, but also in an “ontological” sense in terms of God’s relationship within Himself: the Father is uncreated and unbegotten; the Son is uncreated, but begotten; and the Holy Spirit is unbegotten and uncreated, but proceeding. And it is Jesus – as well as the Father – who has therefore sent the Holy Spirit and He too mediates to keep you forever with Jesus Christ.

The Father loved you and loves you by sending the Son to connect you to God; and the Son and the Father have sent the Holy Spirit to give you connections to the Connector; to give you “through” gifts to the THROUGH Savior. God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have given you Christian the Word and Sacraments so that you are united to Jesus in baptism; so that you receive Jesus in Holy Communion, and through this reception of Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives faith over despair; the knowledge that you are loved and adored over hopelessness; the guarantee that the Father will not forsake you, but that He will and does love you with an everlasting love. This is your relationship with the True God; this is your relationship with the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are connected to the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit

and to be connected to God is to have the hope and the help of Almighty God in the face of anything and everything that threatens you. In Jesus' Name!