

ANDY'S RESOURCE-OF-THE-MONTH: October 2017

My Commentary on: Father Corapi's 6-part series, "How do Catholics Read the Bible"

YouTube Video Link → <https://youtu.be/CS4rgZXjIec>

How do Catholics Read the Bible?

It's been 20 years since I entered into the Catholic Church. I was listening to one of my favorite teachers this week, and I realized that I have been consistently listening to his talks for 20 years now. Father Corapi is no longer doing speaking engagements, but his material has been published and can still be found on the Internet.

Most young people today would not know what a cassette tape is anymore, but I first listened to Father Corapi's talks on cassette tapes. His voice alone makes an impression and resonates through you, as he gets to the heart of the issues. And during those first years of the journey that led me to the Catholic faith, I was contemplating many different issues!

One of the first talks that I listened to was about the Bible. Father Corapi posed the question, "Where did the Bible come from?" I thought I knew the answer to this question. My understanding at the time was that the Bible was compiled and preserved by the Apostles and included their writings. In other words, the Holy Spirit through the Apostles wrote the Bible, and these writings were compiled into book form. This Book also included the Old Testament writings that were already in use.

But that is only part of the answer. There is much, much more to consider when responding to this question of the source of the Bible. For this reason, I have chosen to highlight a series of talks by Father Corapi titled "How Catholics Read the Bible." This is a 6-part video series and can be found on YouTube. I have added this resource to our website in our Sacred Scripture section.

Father Corapi is a dynamic speaker, drawing you in and keeping you interested in what he will say next. He truly has a God-given gift for evangelization. He reminds me of the late Bishop Fulton Sheen, who had a televised ministry called, "Life is Worth Living." Some of our grey-haired Catholics will have watched this show in the 50's and 60's. Father Corapi, in fact, often refers to Bishop Fulton Sheen in his talks and I'm sure that the Bishop had a profound influence on this priest's life, and on his call to the priesthood. This influence has been passed on to me also. This is how the Good News of Jesus Christ is passed on throughout the history of Christianity.

After listening to Father Corapi explain some details regarding the origins of the Bible, I began to seek out other sources to verify what he had been saying. I have a library of books that includes a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica. I have to admit, I don't like reading, but I do read a lot. I started browsing through this set of encyclopedias, and researched the history of Christianity. I was somewhat surprised to find that the Catholic Church claimed that its origins and roots went back to the time of Christ and that it likewise claimed to be the Church founded by Christ. That's a very profound and bold statement, considering the amount of institutional Christian churches in existence today!

So, how do Catholics read the Bible? The Bible needs to be read in union with Sacred Tradition and the interpretation of the magisterial teaching authority of the Church. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God (John 1:1)." Jesus is the Word of God. The Bible is ultimately about Jesus, and records some of the words He spoke to us when He (Jesus/God) became man. Saint John tells us in Sacred Scripture that if everything Christ said and did had been written down, there would not be enough books on earth to contain all of His works (John 21:25). That's quite a claim! That is why the Catholic Church is based on Sacred Tradition, confirmed in Sacred Scripture, which has been passed down through the ages, to come to the fullness of the Truth (Jesus!).

I now invite you to listen to Father Corapi's video series, "How do Catholics Read the Bible." He will truly encourage and inspire you, as well as feed you with the Word of God that has been passed down from Christ to His Apostles and through His Church today.

Thanks for reading, and if you find FreeTruth.ca and our commentaries helpful in your spiritual journey, then we would like to hear from you. Contact us to let us know your thoughts.

Kindest regards,
Andy