



Myth Made Fact with Dr. Louis Markos

Lesson 16: The Pursuit of Love: Daphne and Apollo; Echo and Narcissus; Pygmalion and Galatea; Baucis and Philemon

Outline:

Daphne and Apollo

- Apollo is the god of light.
- Daphne is a nymph, who will live her life as a virgin.
- One day Cupid (Eros) shot a love arrow into Apollo, and when he saw Daphne, he fell in love. Cupid shot a fear arrow into Daphne.
- As Apollo ran after Daphne, Daphne ran away.
- Daphne was about to escape when she came to a river she couldn't cross. Daphne was transformed into a tree.
- Apollo still loved her as a tree. He made her leaves into a crown, which heroes, athletes, poets will wear the crown.
- Daphne translates to laurel in Latin. This is where the laurel wreath comes from.
- Sometimes we are too much like Daphne. Apollo is one of the Christ figures. Sometimes Christ pursues us, but we are afraid of that kind of intimacy. We sometimes refuse to give ourselves in intimacy to the lover, and in a way we sacrifice our own humanity.

Echo and Narcissus

- Narcissus was the most beautiful youth of his generation, but he looked down on everybody and cared only for himself.
- He broke the heart of Echo. Hera punished Echo, so that Echo can only repeat the things that other people.
- Narcissus is repulsed by Echo's love and puts her aside.
- Echo goes off to a cave and wastes away until even her bones are gone, and all that remains is her echo.
- One day Narcissus looked in the lake and saw his own reflection, and fell in love with his own reflection. In Ovid, Narcissus realizes that he is in love with himself. He also wastes away until he becomes the Narcissus flower.
- The narcissist falls in on himself.
- Love is the movement out of narcissism.



- God is complete in himself, but God moved out of himself to create things that were separate from him. He made himself vulnerable, and became one of us, the incarnate Son of God.
- Narcissism causes us to lose our humanity.

Pygmalion and Galatea

- Pygmalion lived in a town that had the first prostitutes.
- Pygmalion became a misogynist.
- Pygmalion was the greatest artist and sculptor. He decided to create a statue of the perfect woman.
- He falls in love with the statue. He clothes it.
- He finds humility and he begs Aphrodite to forgive him. The statue's name was Galatea.
- As Pygmalion hugged the statue, and the statue became real.
- This is a story of the power of art and beauty.

Baucis and Philemon

- Baucis and Philemon were an elderly poor couple.
- They lived in a town that was very corrupt.
- The stench of the town rose up to Zeus, and Zeus called to Hermes to see if there were good people left.
- They go from person to person seeking hospitality, but they are rejected by all the people.
- At the center of Greco Roman morality is the idea that if you are a host, you must take in the stranger and show him hospitality. This is also a sacred concept in the Bible. "Always show hospitality, for by so doing some have entertained angels unaware."
 - Part of the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was a breach in hospitality.
- At the home of Baucis and Philemon, the poorest, the gods are taken in. All of the food they have, they give to the gods.
- Zeus reaches for another drink and the drink refills, the food replenishes.
- Zeus reveals that they will be saved from the town. Their home grew into a temple. Baucis and Philemon became a priest and priestess. At the end of their lives they were turned into Cypress trees.
- Acts, when Peter and Barnabus are in Phrygia, and while they are there, Paul preaches a sermon. The people say, the gods are among us. They started to sacrifice to them.
 - He preaches a sermon on general revelation.
 - This story takes place very close to the place of the story of Baucis and Philemon. They decide they will recognize Zeus and Hermes, in recognizing them they open themselves for the true Apollo, true Zeus, true Mercury.