



## Myth Made Fact with Dr. Louis Markos

### Lesson 3: The Myth Made Fact

#### Outline:

A few Christians who learned from the pagan classics (humanist Christians).

- Augustine, *Confessions*
  - He goes through many phases, and one of the phases was as a Neo-Platonist.
  - From his neo-Platonic tutors, he learned that “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.”
  - The pagan writers had an understanding of the Logos.
  - He was brought part of the way to the Christian revelation by the pagan writers.
  - Only in Scripture did he read “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”
- **Humanism means that you think human things are of value. You particularly believe that the legacy of Greece and Rome should be studied.**
- Dante
  - Dante’s vision of hell, purgatory, and paradise is based on the Bible but it is also based on the yearnings of the pagan people.
- Milton
  - Part of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil is after we ate of it, in our world, goodness and evil are so twisted and twined together that they only way to get to the good is through the evil.
- Cardinal Newman, *The Idea of the University*
  - God speaks through the ancient prophets and poets.

#### C.S. Lewis

- C.S. Lewis is a famous convert from atheism.
- First Lewis became a theist and then it took some time for him to become a Christian.
- Lewis was a great lover of myth. He loved studying the ancient world.
- Archetype – is a figure, or event or image that recurs again and again across time and across cultures.
- Frasier invented a new kind of archetype that he called the Corn King.
  - A Son of the gods comes down to the earth, dies a violent death, and then returns to the sky.
  - In almost all of these stories the character is seasonal.
  - This is tied to the seasonal cycle of the wheat.



- The Son of the god's death and rebirth is related to sin.
- Jesus of Nazareth is the corn king of the Hebrew people (a more sophisticated myth). This held Lewis back.
- Tolkien turned to Lewis and said, "Maybe Jesus sounds like a myth is because he is the myth that came true (or the myth that was made fact)." Something happened for Lewis that changed everything.
- There is a difference between data and the interpretation of data.
  - There was a flood if everyone has a myth about it. Only amongst the Jews and the special revelation of Genesis did it maintain some historical content.
- Why would people have the same yearning of desire for a God to come to earth, and die, and defeat death? Maybe because the God who created all of us put the same yearning and desire in us.
  - If God put in all people a yearning for that, doesn't it make sense that when God effects his salvation that he'll do it in such a way that answers his yearnings?
  - Jesus also fulfilled the highest yearnings of the pagan people.
  - Christ over culture, it points to the fullness of revelation.
- Lewis says that Christ is more because he is historical. Christianity is a historical religion.
- While being the myth made fact, Christ continues to carry around him the aura of myth so that he won't just appeal to our mind, but will appeal to our heart and our imagination.
  - Jesus appeals to the imagination.

*How the Irish Saved Civilization*, by Thomas Cahill

- Pagan classics were preserved by Irish monks.
- God is going to save the pagan classics by using the least likely people imaginable – conservative Christian homeschoolers (the ones who used to be afraid of pagan literature).