

**“Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”  
(1Tim 4:1)**

**✠ Lecture VIII: Things Hard to Understand (Holy Gospel of St. Matthew) ✠**

1. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only” (**Mt 24:36**) & “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (**Mk 13:32**).
2. “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” (**Mt 26:39**)
3. “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father” (**Mt 11:27**), “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (**Mt 28:17**), “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand” (**Jn 3:35**) & “As the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man” (**Jn 5:26-27**).
4. “To sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.” (**Mt 20:23**)

**I) Knowing the Last Day (Mt 24:36) & (Mk 13:32)**

Arius argued that since the Son does not know the Day, therefore, He is not equal to the Father.

**✠ The Son knows the Last Day<sup>+</sup> :**

1. He is the Logos, the Logic and Reason of God the Father “in whom are hidden **all treasures of wisdom and knowledge**” (**Col 2:3**). So He knows.
2. He knows the day and hour because it’s the day and hour when He will come in His glory to judge the world (**Mt 25:31-32; 2Cor 5:10**). It’s **His Day** and **His Hour**.
3. It is inconceivable that He knows the day of His suffering (**Mt 26:2**) but does not know the day of His glorification.
4. “The world was made through Him” (**Jn 1:10**); He therefore knows the day when this world will end, because He created it. Also, “All things were made through Him” (**Jn 1:3**) including Time, therefore He knows the end of time.
5. He is the Beginning and the End (**Rev 22:13**). Therefore, He knows the beginning and end of everything.
6. He said, “Nor does anyone knows the Father except the Son” (**Mt 11:27**). Which is greater, the Father or the Last Day? Certainly, the Father. Therefore, since He knows the greater, He definitely knows the lesser.
7. He said, “All things that the Father has are Mine” (**Jn 16:15**) including the knowledge of the Day.

**✠ God covers His Knowledge:**

1. God sometimes acts as if He doesn’t know, but in reality He knows everything: He asked Adam, “Where are you” (**Gen 3:9**) and “Who told you that you are naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” (**Gen 3:11**), He asked Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” (**Gen 4:9**), He said about Sodom & Gomorrah, “I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know” (**Gen 18:21**), He said to Abraham, “now I know that you fear God” (**Gen 22:12**).

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<sup>+</sup> More proof about the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ is provided in Lecture V: Our Lord Jesus Christ & God Attributes.

2. Our Lord asked, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am? & Who do you say that I am?” (**Mt 16:13-15**), He asked about Lazarus, “Where have you laid him?” (**Jn 11:34**), He asked the paralyzed man, “Do you want to be well?” (**Jn 5:6**), He asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” (**Jn 6:5**), and He asked Peter three times, “Do you love Me?” (**Jn 21**).
3. He will say to those who are perishing, “I do not know you” (**Lk 13:25-27**), this doesn’t signify ignorance because He says to them “Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity” (**Lk 13:27**). So He knows them and knows that they are workers of iniquity, but He means, “You do not deserve My knowledge of you.” → (**Mt 10:33**).

✠ **Why did our Lord Jesus Christ cover His knowledge?**

Our Lord covered His knowledge in order to stop the inquiry of the disciples. He said, “Take heed watch and pray; for **you** do not know when the time is” (**Mk 13:33**), He did not say “we don’t know” but “you”. When He said that the Son doesn’t know (**Mk 13:32**), He meant that the Son doesn’t know the knowledge that can be revealed. This verse doesn’t exclude the Son or the Holy Spirit who searches the deep things of God (**1Cor 2:10**) from the knowledge of the Day.

**II) Was our Lord Jesus Christ afraid of death? (Mt 26:39)**

✠ **Our Lord Jesus Christ was not afraid of death:**

1. He said, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do” (**Lk 12:4**). How could He be afraid?
2. He said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (**Jn 11:25**). He knew that He was going to rise on the third day (**Mt 16:21**). Why would He be afraid?
3. When St. Peter told Him, “Far it be from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” (**Mt 16:22**), He rebuked him saying; “you are an offense to Me” (**Mt 16:23**). When St. Peter tried to defend Him in the garden by attacking the servant, He said, “permit even this” (**Lk 22:51**). Moreover, He knew the time and place of His arrest and yet went there, “Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, Whom are you seeking?” (**Jn 18:4**).
4. He said, “I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again” (**Jn 10:17**). Are these the words of someone who is afraid of death?

✠ **The Cup:**

This cup is certainly not the cup of death, but it is the cup of the curse (**Deut 27, 28**) and the cup of God’s wrath (**Rev 14:10**) that He endured on our behalf. About this cup He said to St. Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?” (**Jn 18:11**).

**III) The Father giving the Son (Mt 28:17), (Jn 5:27), (Mt 11:27).**

Our Lord says that He was given things from the Father; The Arians misinterpret these verses to prove that the Son is less than the Father since the giver is greater than the one who receives.

✠ **Refutation:**

Anything that the Son has received from the Father, He has received it in His Human Nature and anything that He has received in His Human Nature, He already possessed as the Divine Logos i.e. He was not given something new to Him. As the sun gives light to the ray and the ray doesn’t receive anything new, for light is from the very nature of the ray. “All things that the Father has are Mine” (**Jn 16:15**). “O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was” (**Jn 17:5**).

#### **IV) Sitting on His Right & Left (Mt 20:22)**

The Arians claim that since the Father can do something that the Son cannot do, then He is greater.

#### **✦ Refutation:**

Let us first ask this question, “To whom is it prepared to sit on the right and left hand of our Lord Jesus Christ?” The answer is: “No one shall sit on His right hand nor on His left. For that throne is inaccessible. Not only to men, but to saints, apostles, angels, archangels not even to all the powers that are on high.” St. Paul said, “To the Son He says: Your throne, O God is forever and ever” (**Heb 1:8**). Therefore, our Lord said to St. James and St. John, “You do not know what you ask” (**Mt 20:22**). But why is our Lord speaking to the disciples as if someone will sit there? This is because He is condescending to their lower level of understanding and in order not to embarrass them He answers and says, “It is not for Me to give but the Father”.

Let no one think of our Lord Jesus Christ as being unable to give heavenly gifts for He gave His disciples the keys of the gates of heaven and earth (**Mt 18:18**) and St. Paul declares that He prepared for Him the crown of righteousness (**2Tim 4:8**).

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