



Boston Catholic Journal

Nihil nisi Jesum



Dedicated to Mary, Mother of God

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Has Francis Abolished Hell?

... and has “Logic” superseded Faith?

“And they watched Him whether He would heal on the Sabbath days; that they might accuse Him. And He said to the man who had the withered hand:
Stand up in the midst. And He saith to them: Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life, or to destroy? But they held their
peace. And **looking round about on them with anger** being grieved for the blindness of their hearts” (Saint Mark 3.2-4)

“If thy hand scandalize thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life, maimed, than having two hands to go into Hell, into unquenchable fire:
Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not extinguished.” (Saint Mark 9.42-43)

“**What is this?**” you ask indignantly. “*Jesus? Angry? ...* and what is this nonsense about *Hell* and impenitent sinners!”

“*Surely* this cannot be *correct* — for Pope Francis insists that such antiquated concepts *cannot possibly* be true! In fact he recently assured us that “**No one can be condemned forever, because that is not the logic of the Gospel. Here I am not speaking only of the divorced and remarried, but of everyone, in whatever situation they find themselves**”¹

"Who uttered this nonsense?" you demand.

The answer, of course, is Saint Mark. What is more, we reply, we have never heard of the Bible as a logical formulary, or Sacred Scripture understood as a treatise on *logic*!

Is there a “Logic of the Gospel”?

Is there a “logic of the Gospel”, we ask? One that *supersedes*, and so *validates or invalidates* statements in (the *words* of) the Gospel? In order to *really* arrive at what is written in the Gospel and uttered by Christ, must I invoke *Hypothetical Syllogisms*, simple *Modus Ponens*, or *De Morgan’s theorem* in determining their logical consistency and their place in a *Truth Table*?

I have difficulty — apart, of course, from the Sacred Deposit of Faith entrusted to Holy Mother Church by God Himself — with the following contention: it is

now apparently incumbent upon me to explain to my acquaintances that in **Saint John 8.58**, in using the temporal term *before* Jesus is not expressing antecedence — inasmuch as it would be an anachronism in light of the concept of *eternity* which preceded time — $P^d(p, q, \dots) = \neg P(\neg p, \neg q, \dots)$. — **and therefore** His subsequent use of the temporal and existential concept of “am” while not a breach of the concept of *eternity* is nevertheless a breach in the concept of *time*. Therefore (\therefore) *Christ, in this and most instances, could not possibly have meant what He seems to have very clearly, simply, and unambiguously stated concerning the "invisible" and the eternal"?* (Q.E.D)

A Propositional Exegesis of Holy Scripture?

In other words, I must propose the teachings of Holy Scripture **not in terms of faith — but logic** — or more to the point, **in terms of *logical consistency***; and while **Francis's appeal to logic is absurd**, the inevitable conclusion of what amounts to what may be called a *propositional exegesis* of Sacred Scripture itself is not absurd in the least!

But we must both vigorously and respectfully disagree with **Francis, Bishop of Rome**, that the Four Gospels are *logical treatises* bound to laws inherent in propositional logic rather than the Laws of God enunciated by His Son and the Prophets in Sacred Scripture.

Indeed, one of the vexing issues that, in broad circles, “***do not accord with the logic of the Gospel***” is in *today's* reading: **Jesus became angry!** It does not “fit” the progressive (and fictitious) notion that Jesus — and His Father, for that

matter — never become angry! In fact, they are never offended! They are totally understanding and accepting of our idiocy, even our blasphemy! After all, you have seen the *real* Jesus in velvet art, pop culture, and in the rudifacient “children’s homilies” at Mass by Deacon Dick:

“See Jesus come. See Jesus hug the Pharisees.
See Jesus affirming the Sadducees. See Jesus smile.
See Jesus apologize for inconveniencing and upsetting
the Roman soldiers. Oh ... that Cross- thing? He is unhappy
because we have not hugged each other enough today.”

I hate to break it you and to offend your feminized sensitivities — and proclivities — but **Jesus was a man**. Not Mr. Rogers, not Mrs. Doubtfire, and definitely not a wimp. He was beaten, scourged, mocked, crowned with thorns, and crucified — that is not the stuff of wimps. Or delicate men.

And, yes — He occasionally became angry!

It is recorded in and testified to in all four *Gospels-that-are-not-textbooks-on-logic*.

We believe it!

NOT because you have arrived at a satisfactory *truth-variable* through logic — but **because God said so** — in Holy Scripture. And because it is what the Holy Catholic Church **authentically** teaches and has taught for 2000 years. Because it makes sense! And because Christ was True God and True Man!

The Bible is not a Truth Table. It is the Living Word of God. It *is* Truth, just as Christ *is* Truth Himself (Saint John 14.6) — and most annoying to some, a truth at which you will never arrive through propositional logic.

Only Faith.

Editor

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¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-marriage-idUSKCN0X42TB>



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