BREAKING NEWS

Your Story According To....

AT A GLANCE:
The title of the Feast talk series is Breaking News— borrowed from the title of a feature on television news programs, Breaking News, which is about newly received information on an event that is currently occurring or developing.

The August talk series is about the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John which, as a whole, are referred to as the Good News— the life and times of our Lord Jesus and His message about our salvation — which is good news, indeed.

To this day, the Good News is still Breaking News because God's work on each of us remains currently occurring.

AFTER THE SERIES:
We should be able to have a macro-view of the four Gospels, understand our Catholic faith, and not feel guilty to ask questions about it, because doubts are part of our faith journey— Doubts are needed to deepen our faith.

Talk 3: "Matthew"

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

In Talk 1, our one big message is, "You're made for bigger things."

In Talk 2, the message is similar: "God has bigger plans."

In Talk 3, the big message is, "God is doing something new!" Talk 3 is about the Gospel of Matthew. Like most abusive tax collec-tors, Matthew was hated by the Jews.

But Jesus called Matthew, loved him, and made him his Apostle. The former outcast became a Gospel writer.

If you are you being treated like a Matthew— people telling you that you're not good enough, that you're a failure, that you're not accepted, that you can never change— you need to hear this message: God is doing something new. In the same way He raised up Matthew, He will raise you up to write the Gospel, not with ink and paper, but with words and deeds from your daily life.

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSES:

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (Matthew 9:9, NIV)

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17, NIV)

Matthew tells the Jews that all those years of following the Laws of Moses are not done in vain.In Mathew 5, Jesus gives the laws an "upgrade". He does this upgrade with the laws on (1) murder, (2) adultery, (3) divorce, (4) oaths, and (5) justice.

To get a feel for the upgrade, let's work on two of them:

Upgrade #1: *Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to the peo-ple long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders*

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Talk 1: *Success*

Talk 2: *Mark*

Talk 3: *Matthew*

Talk 4: *Luke*

Talk 5: *John*

Notes:

will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment (Matthew 5:21-22 NIV).

We hear this all the time from people: "I'm a good person. I haven't killed anyone…"

But do you get angry? Do you curse others?

Upgrade #2: Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* (Matthew 5:27-28 NIV).

It's not enough to be physically faithful to your spouse, you must be mentally faithful too.

II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Much of our suffering comes from our selfishness.

Ask for sharing of specific incidents on the 4 Things That Happen When We Change Our Core Paradigm:

1) Your World Gets Bigger
Selfishness makes your world very small.
When your heart embraces other people, even strangers around you, your world opens up and becomes very big.

2) Your Gratitude Gets Bigger
Nurture an attitude of Gratitude. Gratitude is the immune system of the soul. Gratitude is so powerful, it pushes out all negativity from your heart.

3) Your Dreams Get Bigger
Once upon a time, your dreams were self-oriented. But as you mature spiritually, your dreams change—they become dreams of service and impact.

4) Your Suffering Gets Smaller
Life isn't about eradicating suffering. Life is about learning how to suffer. Struggles are an essential part of an amazing life.
The more you think of others, the less you think of your suffering.
Sometimes, you hardly notice it. It's no longer a big deal.

III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Pray that everyone will remember:
God isn't finished with you yet.
God isn't finished with them yet.
God is enlarging your world.
God is doing something new.

Pray that to be truly happy, everyone will master the art of suffering.

Pray together Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer:
God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Notes: