

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 4: “Luke”

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!*”

In Talk 4, the big message is “*God is chasing you.*”

Talk 4 is about the Gospel of Luke.

For Luke, the prophecy from Isaiah was His mission statement: “*To proclaim Good News to the Poor.*”

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSES:

In the Gospel of Luke, story after story after story, Jesus insists on spending time with messed-up people. He prefers them. He seeks them out. He loves them. He chases after them.

Which brings us to that part in Luke’s Gospel where Jesus reads from the Prophet Isaiah: “*The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*” (Luke 4:18-19 NIV, emphasis mine)

The word poor in Hebrew was much broader than those who don’t have money. Isaiah wrote in Hebrew, and the Hebrew word for poor was ani, which refers to anyone who wasn’t valued in society. The outcasts. The invisible. The forgotten. The neglected. From this definition, at least in ancient Jewish society, here are five examples of “poor”: (1) materially poor; (2) women and children, because they generally couldn’t own anything and weren’t even counted; (3) the sick, because people believe they were cursed; (4) Gentiles, because they didn’t follow the law; and (5) sinners, like prostitutes and tax collectors, because God was supposed to hate them.

Luke’s message is, “*God chases after them!*”

BREAKING NEWS

Talk 1:
Success

Talk 2:
Mark

Talk 3:
Matthew

Talk 4:
Luke

Talk 5:
John

Notes:



II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Ask for sharing about the five examples of poor.

Ask, Which of the five you feel you are?

Ask for a Plan of Action to stop running away from God, to overcome the following obstacles:

Comparing yourself to those you think are better than you.

Activity vs. Identity: Loving the poor isn't just what you do but who you are. It's your call, core, and character. Loving the poor is not an activity but an identity.

III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Pray that everyone will remember:

- God is so forgiving that He accepts sinners as part of the family.
- You have a choice: To be the Older Brother who doesn't want to have anything to do with the younger sibling, standing with his arms crossed, outside the family table. Or be like the Father who runs to-wards sinners, welcoming them with open arms.
- You're that sinner. God is chasing you. Let Him catch you!

Notes:

