

# Renewing...

*Experience the Healing Power of Jesus Christ in Our Lives*



## WEEK #2

### INTRO TO RENEWING... (Pt 2)

#### **Makarios - μακάριος**

Remember what we said last week: true healing, healing in the sense we're talking about, is *to be set free to love the way you have been created and called to love and to receive love as you were created and called to be loved.*

This healing will produce what Jesus talks about today: "Blessedness." In Greek, the word is "*makarios*." This described the life of the gods, or those in high society. But Jesus means something else.

#### **The Example of Will Hunting**

The image at the heart of the movie "Good Will Hunting" is a powerful one for us to engage this healing. Here is this young man who grew up in the house of an abusive foster father, and now has to navigate life with the fallout from being raised in this way. And while it has to deal with the fallout, it is pointed out to him: "It's not your fault."

The fault is not his. And accepting this is the first and fundamental step toward his healing.



#### **The Foster Father We Got**

As human beings, we all share a common past. All of us, whether we've acknowledged it or not, have ended up in the house of an abusive foster father, the Enemy himself. This is what the story of Adam and Eve truly reveals. This is not our fault.

But raised in the house of a "foster father" like this, it is no wonder that we believe lies about God, lies about ourselves. Why? Because this "foster father" is the father of lies (c.f., John 8:44). And when we internalize these lies as deeply as the human race has, even when we may "intellectually" know it's not our fault, we don't truly *know*.

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## The Good Father We Have

The simple truth, one that we must come to internalize (and this takes time) is that we are the beloved children of a good Father. Like the sons in the parable Jesus tells of a father with two sons, we may be openly rebellious towards or inwardly resentful of this Father we have. But that is usually because we do not recognize that our Father, our *true* Father, is not the abusive foster father we are accustomed to—not at all. He is a good Father, and we are his beloved sons and daughters. And *makarios* is offered to us all.

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## QUOTES

“Do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! *We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures*; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.” ~Pope St. John Paul II, *Homily at World Youth Day 2002*

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What strikes you about the example of “Good Will Hunting”? What was the breakthrough he had that led to his healing? Where does that story resonate with you and your experience?
2. Have you considered your “ancient” history and how you are caught up in the same story begun in Adam and Eve? Can you begin to see some of the lies that your “foster father” has been telling you? What are lies you believe (or have believed) about God the Father or about yourself?
3. Which “son” do you identify with? The rebellious younger son or the obedient older son? How has this affected your relationship with God the Father?

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## NOTES

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## HUNGRY FOR MORE?

- Read and pray with our readings today:
  - Jeremiah 17:5-8
  - Psalm 1
  - Luke 6:17, 20-26
- Read: Get a copy of *Be Healed* by Bob Schuchts from the parish or on Amazon and work through it during the ten weeks of “Renewing...”
- Listen: “Good Good Father” by Chris Tomlin
- Listen: “Belovedness” by Sarah Kroger
- Listen: “No Longer Slaves” by Jonathan and Melissa Helser