

Renewing...

Experience the Healing Power of Jesus Christ in Our Lives



WEEK #6

EXODUS: SUFFERING TO GLORY

“The exodus...”

In this transformative scene in the Gospel, there are many different things we could focus on, many different elements which further reveal the great mystery of Jesus Christ, salvation history, and the work God is accomplishing in and through all of this. However, one detail stands out: *the exodus*.

Exodus and New Exodus

But wasn’t the Exodus something that happened thousands of years before Jesus? Wasn’t this just the story of Moses and the people being set free from slavery to Pharaoh?

When we back up, though, we begin to see just what is *really* going on in the original Exodus event. And seeing this, we can see a paradigm, a pattern for all that Jesus seeks to do.



The Hold Out

There is a famous part of the Exodus story that played out in Moses’ day, and one that plays out for us on this New Exodus: the desire to avoid “the desert,” to return to the comfortable “normal” of our “Egypts.” But this would only result in short circuiting our healing.

A New Participation in the Mass

The Mass, though, becomes our weekly (if not daily) “bread” that sustains us. United to His sacrifice, we unite our lives to Jesus’, experiencing a transformation of our suffering.

QUOTES

“It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love” ~Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Have you ever considered how Jesus' actions are those of a “New Exodus”? What are other parallels you can think of between the first Exodus with Moses and the New Exodus of Jesus?
2. Where have you found yourself discouraged or “turned off” or wanting to “return to Egypt” in this series of “Renewing...”? Are there times when you felt the journey wasn’t worth it? What were the reasons?
3. How does this help you to pray and understand the Mass? What could you do next time (or begin regularly doing at Mass) to foster this greater participation?

NOTES

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

- Read and pray with:
 - Luke 9:28-36
 - Exodus 1 - 20
- Read and pray with the four “Suffering Servant Songs” found in the book of Isaiah:
 - Isaiah 42:1-4
 - Isaiah 49:1-6
 - Isaiah 50:4-11
 - Isaiah 52:13-53:12