



July 8, 2020

“YEAH, I KNOW.”

In the 1997 film *Good Will Hunting*, Matt Damon portrays the title character, a twentysomething genius who was physically abused as a child. In a pivotal scene, he makes his last visit to his counselor, played by Robin Williams. Will had agreed to these sessions reluctantly, as an alternative to incarceration for a street fight, but the counselor slowly won his trust. Addressing the history of abuse, the counselor says to Will, “it’s not your fault.”

And Will shrugs it off, “Yeah, I know.”

Will is acting like he’s fine. His guard is up. He has convinced himself that he needs nothing from anyone. “Yeah, I know,” he says again.

This scene reminds me of how we sometimes react to the gospel. We hear the message in scripture and church school lessons. We hear it at the baptismal font and at the communion table. “You are loved. The steadfast love of God endures forever!”

And maybe we respond with a shrug. “Yeah, I know,” as if it’s not a big deal.

“Yeah, I know,” we think, as if we are not spiritually starving for the love that reaches into our fears and our failures. The illusion that we are doing fine is a powerful one. We want to believe that our accomplishments and talents have made us secure by our own strength.

But hear this: The God of all creation loves you. God knows your fears and failures and loves you through and through. God does not love only the polished, shiny resumé part of you. God loves the totality of you, just as you are.

God loves you – just – as – you – are.

Peace,

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