

GCFSM SUNDAY

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WHO'S COUNTING?

REV. DON GUICO

What do you count during anniversaries? I would say that what you count is a matter of perspective.

Do you count the actual number of years? Or do you also count the joys experienced in those years? Do you count the number of people around you? Or do you also count the ways they contributed to your life? Do you count the gifts and blessings you received? Or do you also consider the thought that each giver put into the gift?

You might ask what is the point in counting when it seems to be mundane? After all, it's just another year. Well, not this one.

We've just passed the one-year mark of the lockdown. And we are still on lockdown. We were all praying and hoping and wishing that it would end on the first month of quarantine. And many have grown tired of praying. We were all expecting that this would bowl over when we reached MGCQ status on the 1st of March. But it only turned worse after two weeks. If we are to count everything related to this CoVid pandemic, it goes without saying that nothing about it is mundane. So I beg the question, "What are you counting?" It had only been a year, and what a year it had been! But what had been your joys in

this one year? Have you even counted? Not one person around you or even on this planet was left unaffected, but how had each one of them contributed to your growth (or regression)? Did you contribute to theirs? You might think, "What kind of person would say that they he/she had been so blessed in this pandemic when so many lives were lost, countless businesses were shut down, relationships are left hanging by a thread, and fear and anxiety continue to hover above people's heads, rendering so many grieving, homeless, in debt, alone, depressed, powerless and destitute?" It would be hard to count the good this past year, IF you discount God. Where God is concerned, nothing has changed. He remains seated on His throne, in control over everything. Nothing escapes him or catches him by surprise. Everything is going according to His plan, which He crafted before He created the foundations of the world. And, God is counting as well.

What could He be counting, you might ask? He is counting the praises and prayers of thanksgiving offered by His people who choose to be joyful even in the midst of suffering and pain (James 1:2). He counts the number of children who remain steadfast, faithful and obedient to Him,

pressing on in His commission to make disciples of all nations, because is a rewarder of the faithful (James 1:12). He counts those who do not discount the sovereignty of His will, that He is infinitely good and wise, unchanging in His love whatever their circumstances, for their eyes are set on Him, not on the this broken and dying world (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). Yes, God is counting. And there are books to prove it! (Revelation 20:12)

And God is not the only one counting. All of heaven is intently watching the countdown of these last days we are in where in denominations of seven will churches, spirits, stars, golden lampstands, seals, horns, eyes, angels, trumpets, thunders, heads, crowns, plagues, bowls, hills, and kings unfold in their meaning. And then THE King will return in all His majesty and glory.

Jesus is counting on you and me to accomplish what He entrusted to His disciples 2,000 years ago. So let us fix our eyes on Him, the Author and Finisher of our faith, despite this pandemic. Let us count on Him who endured the cross and its shame so that we will not grow weary and lose heart from counting what is mundane.✠