

# CHOOSE LOVE

MIR MONORY

**B**ack in my lower elementary days, due to the influence of my dad, I was fond of watching Animal Planet with him. As I learned more about different animals - their qualities and features - I developed a sense of attachment to some of them. Out of all the animals, I loved the white lions the most.

As I was just a kid, my dad allowed me to watch documentaries, but with proper guidance. One night, upon waking up from a nap, I saw my dad watching a documentary about the wild. In my interest, I sat down with him and started watching. To my surprise, out of the blue, a lion devoured a baby zebra! I asked my dad, "Why did the lion eat the baby zebra?" He answered me with concern as he noticed the tears in my eyes, "Anak, that's how they are." I cried myself to sleep that night with a prayer, "Lord, why did the baby zebra need to die?"

Of course, I know better now. But that is not just what I had come to realized. I also realized that my love for animals when I was a kid - crying when they are hurt, brokenhearted when they lose their family, getting sad when

they are hungry and homeless - should be greater towards people. The pure love of a child, not thinking anything ill against anyone, should be how I ought to love others: how we ought to love others.

Growing up, I realized how hard it is to love others. Imagine how we all have different personalities, family backgrounds, values, and perspectives in life, these differences are great factors that cause us to clash against each other. But that is not what we are called to. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 it says,

*"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."*

We are called to love. Loving others is one of the lessons that the Lord has been really breaking into me. To be honest, it came to a point where it was so hard that I nearly gave up. But praise

God for His grace that I am still able to press on to this day.

As the Lord groomed my heart more and more to love others, I came up with my own commitments to the Lord on how to intentionally choose and show love to others:

**L** - ead your heart. Jeremiah said that our hearts are deceitful above all else. With this in mind, we are not to follow our hearts, but to lead our hearts into loving others, choosing to do what is right.

**O** - verlook faults. The more we focus on others' faults, the more we see their shortcomings.

**V** - alue people more

**E** - ncourage intentionally ✱