

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JANUARY 14, 2024
BULLETIN ISSUE #2



SERMON OUTLINE

LOVE JESUS

REVELATION 2:1-7
REV. LITO VILLORIA

When Jesus was asked by a lawyer which is the greatest commandment, He replied that it is to love God with all our being and the second is to love others (Matthew 22:37-39). This is a great reminder that the greatest test of our love for God is our love for others. We can love others without loving God. But we cannot love God without loving others.

In the same way, we can live a good life, be good, do good to others, and even do good things for God's kingdom. And yet, despite all our goodness, we can still dishonor God when

we forsake our love for Him. As disciples of Christ, there is a call for us to make it a priority to love Jesus. During the first century, the church in Ephesus was doing very well. They were commended by Jesus for their faithful service. He knew how they diligently worked and labored in His kingdom. They stood firm in their fight against evil men and false teachers. They persevered in their faith under extreme circumstances. And they did not grow tired of doing the work of the ministry (Revelation 2:1-3).

But despite this commendation, Jesus charged them for having forsaken their first love. This was one serious charge against a church that faithfully served Him. They had substituted their love for

Jesus with their service. But Jesus was more concerned with their love for Him more than what they could do for Him (Revelation 2:4).

Jesus then commanded the believers to rekindle their love for Him. He exhorted them to remember the gravity of their offense. If they did not repent and return to Him, they would suffer the consequences of their sin. But when they repent and return to Him, they will reap the rewards of their obedience (Revelation 2:5-7).

This second sermon of our series on Authentic Discipleship and Intentional Disciplemaking will remind us that our priority in life should be to love Jesus. We will be challenged to keep nurturing our love for Jesus as an appropriate response to what He did on the Cross for us! ✨

RADICAL DEMANDS OF LEADERSHIP

REV. LITO VILLORIA

Leadership Development is one of the five pillars of our Vision 2027. This vision was borne out of our 40 Days of Prayer last 2015 when we sought God's wisdom on who He wants us to be and what He wants us to do as a church by the year 2027. By then, we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary. In this pillar, we envision GCF South Metro developing leaders at every level of the church.

When I went to our Next Gen Leaders Crossroad Weekend last November, I was overjoyed to see most of them being products of our Children's Ministry. They now serve in the Children, Youth, and Young Adults Ministry. When they were asked by Teacher Karen Monroy (Next Gen Director) to write their dream for the church in the next three years, one of the attendees, Nobi Torre Franca, wrote, "that whoever is part in this crossroad (weekend) will be the one who will lead the church."

What a great encouragement to know that our young people have the burden to serve in the church leadership. Keeping young people in the church, and having them involved in the ministry is a challenge for many churches today. And yet, God has been so gracious to bring many young people into our church family.

God is also developing leaders at every ministry level. Most of our pastors have been ordained. Our Pastoral Staff currently study in seminaries pursuing masters

programs. We have graduated the first batch of our Growth Group Leadership Institute. The core members of different ministries are growing in numbers. This does not mean, however, that our church leadership is already where God has intended us to be. It only shows that there is still so much to learn and improve in the development of our leadership teams.

According to Sam Lam, Managing Partner of Third Option Partners, leadership development is the easiest thing to learn but the hardest to teach. Why? Because there is not a dearth of leadership books, training, and seminars out there. They are all over the place globally. But when the rubber meets the road, leaders drop away because they are not willing to pay the price!

Leadership positions are for the courageous, not for cowards. Every leader needs wisdom and strength. If the leader has all wisdom but without strength, he won't be able to move the ministry where God intends it to go. He will fall into the trap of the paralysis of analysis. On the other hand, if the leader has all strength but without wisdom, he will be all over the place without achieving anything significant. He will fall into the performance trap without any sense of fulfillment.

As we pursue our vision of leadership development at all levels of the church, it is our prayer

that we will have a strong and solid leadership base with the same perspective and posture towards ministry. We also need leaders who are ready and willing to experience ministry pains knowing it is essential in the character transformation of a leader. These will be the emphasis of our upcoming **IDMC Conference** with the theme **Radical Demands of Leadership: Facing the Challenges of Intergenerational Discipleship**. This will be a one-day conference to be held this coming Saturday, January 20 from 8am to 5pm.

If you consider GCFSM your church family—whether you are a leader or not—this IDMC Conference is primarily intended for you. If you are a leader, it is imperative that you attend this conference. If you are not yet a leader, this will give you a better understanding on what it takes to be a leader. And hopefully, in God's timing, you will be part of the leadership in one of our ministry teams. While this is primarily intended for our church family, if you have any friends or contacts who might be interested, the IDMC is open to anyone who wants to know about the radical demands of leadership.

The registration fee for the conference is P300/person, inclusive of food and materials. If for some reason, the cost will prohibit you from attending, do let us know and we will find a way to take care of your fees. Register today! ✨

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