

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

MARCH 17, 2024
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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS THE RESURRECTED CHRIST

JOHN 2:1-25 | REV. DONG VILLATITO

Chapter one of the book of John serves as a profound introduction to the Gospel, presenting several key themes and concepts. The section introduced Christ as the pre-existent word and His role in creation, as the light and life of the world, the eternal who chose to put on the human flesh and dwelt among us. The chapter also introduced John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-18).

Chapter two brings us to a wedding celebration in Cana. Jesus, along with His mother and disciples, graced a wedding wherein the wine ran out. This incident led Jesus to demonstrate His power over the temporal and physical as He changed the water into wine. His action implied that His perspectives and timing differ significantly from Mary's. She

focused on the temporal and physical (the wine shortage), while Jesus operated on eternal and spiritual - man's redemption. (vv. 1-11).

Jesus proceeded to Jerusalem for the Passover. Upon entering the temple, he drove out the merchants and money changers. His righteous anger was directed at their exploitation of worshipers and their focus on profit. This prompted the Jewish leaders to ask for a sign to show His divine authority (vv.12-18). Jesus cryptically replied by referring to His resurrection, indicating His authority over the temple, rituals, the law, and earthly authority (the temporal and external), but ultimately demonstrated His authority over death (eternal and spiritual) (vv.19-22).

Because of the miracle, many believed. However, those who believed had their faith anchored on Jesus' work (sign) but not on His person. This highlights Jesus' awareness of human nature and his deeper understanding of people beyond what they outwardly show (vv.23-25).

Christ's resurrection sublimely established His authority over the eternal and spiritual. Death was conquered when Jesus Christ our Lord rose again from the dead. The power of resurrection dispels every limitation (spiritual and physical) and brings hope to those who embrace His power and person.

This sermon will challenge us to place our complete faith in Christ and should compel us to respond to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

THE BLESSING OF MAKING TIME

REV. PARKIN YOUNG

PARSON TO PERSON

Today is my second year, one month, and seventeen days as a pastor here at GCF South Metro! It has been a tremendous journey for me and my family as we continue to grow and get to know our church family. In the past month, I have met some of our church members. I enjoyed the deep conversations. We shared about life, ministry, our passions, and our families. Indeed, it was a most blessed time of fellowship. This is the truth of Hebrews 10:24-25, wherein the writer exhorted the believers to stir each other to love and good deeds, not to stop meeting together even in the challenges of their day.

Stories of friends whom I met recently bring me encouragement and joy. They were stories full of faith and hope amidst challenges. One person shared about his relationship problems. In his present challenge, he continues to trust in the comfort that the Lord gives. Another person shared how God is a great provider for his family's needs even if he

is not gainfully employed. As he continually seeks work opportunities, he sees the hand and work of God in his life.

It is also humbling and encouraging to know that even amid life's challenges, one still chooses to see the beauty of Jesus and is still excited to proclaim His glory continually. Their sad stories do not stop them from sharing Jesus. Instead, they are encouraged to share the love of Jesus with others. As I think of my own challenges, I draw encouragement from these people who, despite difficult life situations, keep on persevering. This should be enough motivation for me to keep doing what I need to do for the glory of God here at GCFSM.

Just like us, the Hebrew believers had their own challenges as to why they neglected to come together. I want to think they also had their own problems with time schedules. Because of that, they could not meet regularly enough to keep encouraging one another. That is why they

were reminded not to give up! That said, I ask everyone to continue focusing on people! Do not give up on reaching out. Do not give up on meeting with your Growth Group. Make time to meet your disciples and discipler!

I thank God for the blessing of making time with you. I praise God for the two years I have shared life with the church. I praise the Lord for allowing me to live out His calling as your pastor. I thank God for the church that loves my family (Bernice, Tobi, and Mori). My prayer for all of us is that we will not give up loving, caring, and encouraging each other. In the same way, we will all make disciples for the glory of Jesus' name.

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).**

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