

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE PROMISED MESSIAH

JOHN 1:35-51 | REV. MARK MAGANGAT

Following the prologue (John 1:1-18) and John the Baptist's testimony (John 1:19-34), the Gospel of John continues with Jesus gaining disciples. Two of John the Baptist's disciples, upon hearing him declare that Jesus is the Lamb of God, started following Jesus (John 1:35-37). Jesus noticed them and asked what they were seeking. They inquired about where he was staying and, in response, Jesus invited them to come and see (John 1:38 - 39).

One of the two disciples, Andrew, excitedly went to his brother, Simon Peter, telling him that they had found the Messiah (which

is translated "Christ"). Andrew brought Peter to Jesus, who, upon meeting him, gave him the name Cephas, which means Peter (John 1:41-42).

The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee and found Philip. Philip, in turn, goes to Nathanael and declares that they have found the one spoken of by Moses and the prophets, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael was initially skeptical, but upon meeting Jesus, who revealed supernatural knowledge about him, Nathanael recognized Jesus as the Son of God and King of Israel (John 1:43 - 51). In these interactions, we witness

the beginning of Jesus' ministry as the promised Messiah, as Jesus' disciples gathered, each responded to the call in unique ways. The narrative highlights Jesus' ability to perceive people's hearts and establishes the diverse group of individuals who will become foundational figures in His earthly ministry.

In this sermon, we will be inspired to respond wholeheartedly to the divine invitation of Jesus, recognizing the potential ripple effect that our encounters with Christ can have on the world around us. ✨

LOVING JESUS

REV. REVIN VASALLO

Our knowledge of who Jesus is should be translated in the way we love Him. For me to know the state of my love for Jesus, I need to be intentional in taking the time to reflect and ponder on how I respond toward His love for me.

Let me share with you my devotion from John 21, in the hope that it will help you understand the essence of loving Jesus deeper.

After revealing Himself to His disciples a number of times, Jesus once again revealed Himself by the sea shore. While the disciples were fishing, Jesus came and helped them catch a large amount of fish. The disciples then realized that the man who came was Jesus Himself. After fishing, Jesus spent an unhurried time with His disciples. This time with their Lord Jesus was very important especially for Peter. During this intimate fellowship, Jesus reinstates Peter by giving Peter a chance to affirm his love for Him, not once but thrice.

In verses 12-19, Jesus gave three commands to Peter, which highlights three important facets of Peter's love for Jesus. As we reflect upon the passage, may the timeless principles help us renew our perspective in loving Jesus.

Knowing Jesus is REQUIRED to love Him.

Jesus' first command to Peter is this: **"Come and have breakfast."** (v.12). Jesus highlights the value of relationships. As He invites His disciples to have breakfast with Him, Jesus initiates intimacy with them. And intimacy nurtures a loving relationship.

However, the key to having an intimate and loving relationship, is to know the person. In the case of the disciples, **"they knew it was the Lord"** (v.12). One important aspect of loving Jesus is to know Him. We can only have a loving relationship with Jesus, if we spend time knowing Him intimately.

Serving Jesus is the RESULT of loving Him.

The second command of Jesus to Peter is this: **"Feed my lambs."** (vv.15, 16, 17). In this command, Jesus highlights service. Service is an eventual result of loving Jesus. There seems to be a disconnect when one claims to love Jesus but is not driven to serve Him. The love of Christ compels us to love and serve Him from the overflow of our hearts. Consequently, service motivated by Christ's love is not easily discouraged but all the more empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Obeying Jesus REFLECTS our love for Him.

The last command of Jesus to Peter in this passage is: **"Follow me."** (v.19). Jesus emphasizes the importance of obedience. When He said to Peter, 'follow me', Jesus was not pertaining about service anymore. Instead, Jesus highlighted Peter's obedience. If Peter truly loves Jesus, he will definitely follow Him.

Jesus said to His disciples, **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."** (John 14:15). The most important mark of one who loves Jesus, is obedience. Knowing Jesus is the prerequisite, serving Jesus is the product, and obeying Jesus is the proof of loving Jesus. If we love Jesus, we will obey His commands in joys and in sorrows, in victories and in defeats, and in rejoicings and in sufferings.

Knowing these key principles of loving Jesus, it is good for us to ask ourselves these questions:
*How is your "time" with Jesus?
How is your service for Him?
How is your obedience to Him?*

May these three principles and questions help you reflect upon your love for the Lord Jesus Christ this week. ✨

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