

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

IF GOD IS JUST, WHY DOES INJUSTICE SEEM TO PREVAIL?

REV. LITO VILLORIA | PSALM 94

God is described in Scriptures as the Righteous Judge of all the earth who will do what is just. He is the Rock who protects and provides refuge for His people. He is perfect and just in all His ways. He fulfills what He says and does not break His promises. He assures deliverance for all those who suffer injustice (Psalm 7:10-11; Deuteronomy 32:4; Genesis 18:17-19; Psalm 103:6).

As God's people we are mandated to reflect God's justice for He loves justice and it is the foundation of His kingdom. God uses His people to be instruments of justice for people in their spheres of influence. He rewards those who promote justice and judges those who are unjust (Isaiah 61:8; Jeremiah 22:3;

Micah 6:8; Psalm 89:11-14; Psalm 97:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10).

These theological truths about God should serve as our firm foundation when we think about the injustices around us. We must accept the fact that we have to contend against injustice as long as we live in this temporal world. Our hope should be anchored upon the return of Jesus Christ, our Righteous Judge, who will judge the living and the dead (Proverbs 19:28; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 20:11-13).

However, when injustice seems to prevail, we sometimes wonder if God is really just, "Why would He allow evil to triumph over good? Why would

He tolerate the oppression of the weak? Why would He let the innocent suffer unjustly?"

Psalm 94 is a psalm that affirms that God is a just God who prevails over injustice. The Psalmist prayed for the God of vengeance to repay the wicked for their evil actions (vv. 1-7). He then warned the wicked that God knows their evil intentions and will vindicate the righteous (vv. 8-15). In the end, he asserted that God's steadfast love held him up, kept him safe, and gave him victory over the wicked (vv. 16-23).

In this sermon, we will learn principles on how to respond when injustice seems to prevail, especially when we ourselves are at the receiving end of it. ✱

GOD IS AT WORK IN BALABAC!

PATTY NERMAL

The Molbog Tribe is one of the 13 people groups least reached by the Gospel in the Philippines. The Molbogs are settled on Balabac island, in the southwestern part of the Province of Palawan. From March 21 to 25, Elder Jun Espiritu, Pastor Jonar Garcia and I had the opportunity to visit our ministry partners in Balabac, Palawan.

During our short visit, we met the current church leaders of Molbog believers from four different barangays. We witnessed their passion to minister to their fellow Molbogs even as they experience hostility and discrimination from the surrounding community. Their passion for the Lord and His work is evident because we never once heard a complaint about how difficult life is on the island. They persevere in their Christian life as they continually pray and master bible stories so that they can be retold to their fellow villagers.

The Molbog believers are selfless. Their dreams are always directed towards the good of the community. They pray to have more learning centers that would help improve the education of the Molbog youth since lack of education is one of

their identified challenges in understanding the gospel. These learning centers also serve as a place where the community of believers gather for worship. It is also the place where they orally learn and master Bible stories—their unique way of discipleship!

During this visit, we partnered with The Giftbox Project, GCF Iloilo's ministry to children. We distributed boxes of toys and learning materials to 150 Molbog children in two barangays. It was a joy to witness how a simple act of kindness can make a child feel the love of Jesus.

Prayer is Essential in Missions

Apart from being in awe of God's work in Balabac, the Lord reminded me to be in awe of Him as He is the one who sent us there. Upon taking my first step in the makeshift port of Balabac, I already felt spiritual resistance. God reminded me that mission trips are not just mere activities but spiritual matters requiring spiritual intervention. As I felt the loneliness of fighting in a battle, God reminded me of His presence through prayer and His Word in Genesis 16:13 which says, "So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing,"

for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." Just as God saw the pain of Hagar when she was fleeing because of fear, He also saw mine. His Word gave me the courage to continue the work He called us to accomplish in Balabac and not be paralyzed by my fears.

The presence of the faith community through prayer is essential, and the team personally experienced its power knowing that the church was praying for us. I could not imagine missions without a praying church. Prayer is crucial and essential in missions as the work of the one who goes.

Despite some inconveniences we experienced, as well as the difficulty and associated dangers of the trip, it is evident that God is at work among the Molbogs. Therefore, we must continue seeking the Lord for His wisdom and guidance on how we, as a church, can continue to participate in making Jesus known among all nations. May we also remember to pray for the many missionaries who left the comforts of their homes so that the Gospel may enter the homes of even those living in the ends of the earth. ✱

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