

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

APRIL 7, 2024
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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE SON OF THE FATHER

REV. REVIN VASALLO | JOHN 4:43-5:18

In John 4:43-5:18, Jesus continued to perform miracles in Galilee. An essential truth in this section is John 5:17, which says that Jesus is the Son of the Father who is continually at work. Several events leading up to this truth remind us that Jesus is continually at work in various seasons of life!

After two days of staying in a town in Samaria, Jesus departed for Galilee, where Jesus did miracles and signs at public events. Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana, and He worked signs and wonders at the feast in Jerusalem. And in both events, His disciples and some Jews believed in Him. **Jesus is continually at work in joyful events (4:43-46a).**

When Jesus arrived in Galilee, an official from Capernaum walked about 25 miles to ask Jesus to heal his son. Jesus

said, "Go, your son will live." The official believed Jesus' word and went home. Walking towards home, he was met by his servants telling him that his son was well. Upon learning that the time he got well and when Jesus said 'he will live' was at the same hour, the official and all his household believed. In this scenario, **Jesus is continuously at work during uncertain times (4:46b-54).**

In Jerusalem, Jesus saw a man who had been invalid for 38 years. He asked the man if he wanted to be healed. The sick man did not answer but stated his inability. Jesus commanded the man to "get up, take up your bed, and walk!" and the man was instantly healed! However, despite the miracle Jesus performed, the Jews did not believe. **Jesus is continually at work even in hopeless situations (5:1-9).**

Jesus healed the invalid man on a Sabbath day when doing any work was restricted. So, upon knowing what Jesus did, the Jews sought to persecute Him. During their confrontation, Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." And since Jesus is the Son of the Father who gave the law of the Sabbath, it implies that Jesus can work beyond any restriction. **Jesus is continually at work even amidst prevailing restrictions (5:10-18).**

This sermon reminds us that Jesus is continually at work in joyful events, uncertain times, hopeless cases, and even amidst restrictions. As we experience His work in different situations in life, may we continue to believe in Jesus and obey His Word. ✨

IN CHRIST IN VARIOUS SEASONS

REV. MIKE TRINIDAD

The soaring temperatures that our country (as well as the rest of the world) is experiencing, is a potent reminder of the extreme heat prevailing that came as a result of the global warming phenomenon. As the entire world has been warned about this formidable phenomenon for many years now, sadly, because of the wanton disregard about its disastrous effects, we are now reeling from this unwanted, but sadly preventable, crisis.

As we try to relate this phenomenon to our own lives, wherein we experience some kind of heat in various forms, we cannot help but accept the reality that we experience extreme seasons to which we need to adapt, no matter how difficult our circumstances may be. This can manifest as we navigate through an unexpected health crisis (as I myself have experienced), a sudden death in the family,

a breakdown in relationships with family or loved ones, etc. In such situations, we need to find cover and be protected from the heat.

In his letter to the saints and faithful believers in Colossae, Paul admonished them this way - "Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk IN HIM, rooted and built up IN HIM and established IN THE FAITH (IN HIM), just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving (IN HIM) Colossians 2:6-7.

In his letter, Paul overflowed with thanksgiving and prayer for the new believers, as he commended them for their faith in Jesus and how they put their new found faith into action, when they showed love for their fellow believers. It was Paul's earnest desire and prayer that the Colossian believers would grow in the faith and knowledge of Jesus as they bear fruit in sharing

the gospel to those who may be caught in "hot situations" in life and need to be set free from darkness and grow into the light of Jesus!

Indeed, only in Christ are we able to find comfort, draw strength and find the ability to beat the heat, so to speak, amidst inevitable challenges that we face. We can certainly apply Paul's exhortation to our present context of experiencing scorching heat in our lives. By walking in Christ, being rooted and built up in Christ, established in our faith in Christ and abounding in thanksgiving, we have a sure fire formula on how to thrive in the sweltering heat.

Whether in seasons of heat or seasons of joyful thanksgiving, let us heed Paul's exhortation to be firm and grounded in Christ if we want to thrive (not just survive) in our current season in life! ✨

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