

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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## SERMON OUTLINE

## JESUS AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 8:1-30 | REV. MARK MAGANGAT

After the eventful confrontation in chapter 7, John 8 opens with the Pharisees who brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus while He taught in the temple. The religious leaders did this to trap Him so that they would be able to make a charge against Him. Jesus quietly bent and wrote on the ground, after which He asked those who were without sin to cast a stone at her (v. 8). Jesus once more bent, and the woman's accusers went away. After everyone had left, Jesus told the woman that no one condemned her and neither did He. Jesus then ended their conversation with an exhortation for her to sin no more. In this section, we see Jesus confronting the sin of the woman and, at the same time, extending mercy (vv. 1-11).

Jesus now declares to the Pharisees, **'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will**

**not walk in darkness but will have the light of life (v. 12).** The Pharisees challenged Jesus' witness as He emphasized that what He says is true (v. 13). Jesus also declares His divine origin and destiny. He also tells them about His unique relationship with the Father as the judge and the one who sent Him (vv. 14-18). Jesus points out their ignorance of Him and the Father (v. 19). Despite their hostility, no one seized Him because the time had not yet come. Verses 12-20 show us the increasing animosity between Jesus and the religious leaders. Despite the challenges, Jesus never stopped revealing Himself to them.

Jesus speaks to the Jews that He is leaving soon for a place where they could not go. He continued to tell them about His divine origin and destination vis-a-vis their earthly origin and destiny unless they believed in Him

(vv. 21-24). This led the Jewish religious to once more ask as to who He is (v. 25). The Jews did not understand what Jesus was trying to say, but Jesus further said that there would come a time when they would - when they had "lifted up" the Son of Man (v. 26-28a). He once more speaks about the one who sent Him, the one who has the authority, and the one He obeys - the Father (vv. 28b -29). John closes the section by citing that many believed in Jesus at that time (v. 30). In this section, we see that no animosity and confusion can hinder the truth and power of Jesus' words, so that people may believe (vv. 21-30).

Jesus is the light of the world who illumines our hearts and minds so that we may believe in Him. We pray that, as followers of Jesus, we will all continue to walk in His light! ✨

## MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING

REV. DONG VILLATITO

Many believers fail to see the connection between disciple making and planting churches. This may be due to several factors. Some may view disciple making primarily as a personal effort focused on helping an individual come to know Christ and journeying with him toward spiritual maturity. They focus on individual salvation and discipleship without seeing it as being intricately linked to church planting.

While this might be true in some sense, the process of multiplying disciples is part and parcel of how the Scripture defines disciple making. We must understand that disciple making is not just an individual endeavor, it has a global impact (Matthew 28:19-20). It starts with one person and expands to many others.

Some years ago, I was able to start a small bible study in our office. The group started with a simple breakfast and coffee table talk each morning before office hours. The discussions initially focused on work-related

matters that gradually shifted to personal and family issues, eventually leading to the truth of the Scripture. The small group usually concluded with a word of prayer before we parted ways to our individual work assignments.

The group, primarily composed of new believers, eventually grew. Due to the distance and varied locations of their residences, the challenge of assimilating them to a local church for spiritual nourishment and worship on weekends became evident. We initially contemplated the idea of setting up a local church for these new believers, but the complexity of the process and requirements needed to realize this vision led us to discard the idea.

From this experience, I concluded that church planting and disciple making are directly connected. The role of the local church is crucial. The local church is the community that would assimilate these new believers, consistently nurturing their spiritual growth

and instilling in them the biblical discipleship culture and ethos. The absence of the church would pose a great threat to the kind of disciples we reproduce.

GCF South Metro church is privileged to be at the forefront of the disciple making movement. To bring the gospel and the culture of disciple making to distant and remote areas, church planting efforts become necessary. Church planting is not just about establishing a new church but about transforming lives and communities through the power of the Gospel. We invite you to join us in this exciting journey of faith. Together, we can make a difference in our community and beyond. Let us plant seeds of faith, hope and love that will grow into a healthy and thriving church.

May the Lord continue to bless our disciple making efforts that will eventually lead to birthing healthy churches. Both have local and singular beginnings but with a global and communal impact (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Revelation 7:9). ✨

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