

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JUNE 2, 2024
BULLETIN ISSUE #22



SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE ONE WHO SETS SINNERS FREE

JOHN 8:31-59 | REV. VINCE SYYAP

This section opens with Jesus speaking to those who believed (v.30). He told them that as they believed, they were to abide and know the truth for them to be set free. The Jews did not understand what Jesus meant and were indifferent to what Jesus was speaking about. Jesus declared that everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin, and the only way out of it is through the Son (vv. 31-36).

Jesus continued the conversation by touching on who Abraham's true offspring was. He pointed out to them that those of Abraham would know Him and would not seek to kill Him. After reiterating these truths, Jesus clearly emphasized that they were not of Abraham because they intended to kill

Him, which is the work of their 'father.' The Jews did not understand what Jesus said regarding the "father" thus they remarked that they were not born out of immorality and even called the Father their God. Jesus now directly tells the Jews that they are of the devil, and their will is to do what he desires. Jesus then confronts them with the truth that the reason they do not hear and believe in Him is because they are not of God (vv. 37- 47).

The Jews were infuriated that they called Jesus a Samaritan and having a demon. Jesus now tells them who He is - that He does not have a demon but honors and glorifies the Father. Jesus then declares to the Jews that whoever keeps

His word will not see death. Again, Jesus led them back to who the Father is: the One who glorifies Him, the One who knows Him, and whom He obeys. Jesus tells them that this is what Abraham would rejoice about. This led the Jews to ask Him again if He had seen Abraham, to which He said, 'Before Abraham was, I am'. This statement led the Jews to stone Jesus, for it revealed His divine origin (vv. 48-59).

Despite Jesus' revelation of who He is, the Jews did not receive the truths they had heard. Their unbelief did not allow them to believe in Jesus. In this sermon, the Lord Jesus invites us to believe in Him so that we may be set free of the sins that enslave and bind us. ✱

GCFSMCS GRADES 11 AND 12 CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS EXPOSURE TRIP

T. MIR MONROY

"There is more to life than what I thought" is a phrase that most of the Grades 11 and 12 students shared when we had our debriefing after our 5-day Missions Exposure trip in Davao.

The students conducted a two-day Daily Vacation Bible School in two different public schools in Davao City. During the activity, they were able to minister to selected Grades 3 and 4 students from the schools. It was a great two days filled with games, singing, Bible stories, arts and crafts, and life-on-life moments.

However, the journey was not without its challenges. The flight to Davao from Manila was at 6:05 a.m. This meant that the team had to be at the airport very early, resulting in a lack of sleep. We spent the first day of the trip preparing for the logistics. We also took time to surrender everything to the Lord in prayer. For the whole duration of the trip, the extreme heat welcomed us but our students carried on despite the challenges.

After our two-day DVBS, we went uphill to Talaingod and visited a tribal church. Since the side roads in the mountain were not yet fully constructed, we walked under the heat of the sun for 20-25 minutes. When we reached our destination, the

students spent time in prayer, lifting all the twelve tribal pastors and their respective churches, ministries, and families.

Praise God for His sustaining grace. Amidst all those challenging circumstances, the students did their best to minister to everyone and anyone whom the Lord allowed us to interact with. The students learned to think of others before their own. The students did not let any selfishness or self-centeredness overcome themselves but instead chose to hold on to our mission exposure trip objective, which was **"to show and share the love and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."**

The students were thankful that GCF South Metro Christian School has an elective course on Cross-Cultural Missions. Without this subject, they acknowledged that they would likely not have the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural missions.

The Lord allowed us to learn from Romans 10:14-15, which says, *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?[a] And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful*

are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" This was a passage the Lord led me to share with the group before and even after the exposure trip. The Lord reminded us then of the great work we are to embark on. During the debriefing time, the Lord once again reminded us of the importance of being able to intentionally share the Gospel and the blessing for those who speak the good news to the people!

The CCM Exposure Team is thankful for everyone's generosity. We were able to raise some money during our cake sale. Apart from that, we were able to gather an additional P45,000! Praise the Lord!

Prior to the trip, our Grades 11 and 12 students lacked knowledge about how to participate in missions. Some go (just like the students), and some are led to pray, encourage, and give. Truly, we can all take part in the missions.

Praise God for using the church. You are all part of what the Lord has done in our Davao mission trip through the lives of our Grades 11 and 12.

The Lord bless you. Truly, there is more to life—ETERNAL LIFE! ✱

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