

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JULY 21, 2024  
BULLETIN ISSUE #29



## SERMON OUTLINE

## JESUS AS THE ANOINTED SUFFERING SERVANT

JOHN 12:1-11 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

John 12 records the last public ministry of Jesus. The event at the house in Bethany highlighted the anointing of His feet as He looks forward to His suffering, death, and burial. It was six days before the Passover when Jesus was hosted for dinner. Lazarus, Martha, and Mary were there with the other disciple (vv. 1-2).

While Jesus was reclining at the table, Mary took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard. She anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with fragrance. The amount of oil and its pure quality revealed Mary's complete devotion to Jesus (v. 3).

Judas Iscariot objected to why waste such expensive oil. Being the "treasurer" of the disciples, he said this expensive oil could

have been sold for almost a year's wage and used to help the poor. Judas did not really care for the poor. What he cared about was the lost opportunity to steal the proceeds of the sale (vv. 4-6).

Jesus recognized Mary's devotion to Him as He looked forward to His suffering, death, and burial. He told Judas to leave Mary alone because the poor would always be there. Jesus did not mean He did not care for the poor. Rather, Jesus implied that He was leaving soon, and the disciples must make the most of their time with Him just as Mary did (vv. 7-8).

A large Jewish crowd went to Bethany not only to see Jesus but also Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. Many Jews started to believe in Jesus.

Because of this, the chief priests made firm their plans to put Jesus to death, as well as Lazarus (vv. 9-11).

This narrative contrasted the postures of Mary and Judas. Mary gave everything she had to honor Jesus. Judas wanted to get everything that was supposedly used to honor Jesus. There are also many Jews who believed in Jesus while their leaders rejected and wanted Him dead.

In this sermon, we will be challenged to believe and give all our devotion to Jesus as the Anointed Suffering Servant who gave His all for us. ✱

## BATTLING GIANTS

REV. MIKE TRINIDAD

Myriad scenes came flashing in my mind as I wrote this, potent reminders of the Lord's goodness and faithfulness in my life. Tomorrow, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, I celebrate my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, a personal milestone that is made more meaningful because of the health challenge I am currently in. As I wind up my eight sessions of chemotherapy, I will then prepare for 30 days of radiation therapy. Both are adjunct measures to ensure that I remain cancer-free (and to prevent the return of any cancer cells). In all this, I give the highest honor and resounding praise to our mighty and prayer-answering God!

I would also like to thank the countless people from GCFSM who have reached out by text, private message, or through some of my social media posts since the start of my journey, from my initial diagnosis at the beginning of February to the present. It's hard to believe that it's been five months since my total gastrectomy (complete removal of my stomach). Many have been asking if I am on a liquid diet since I no longer have a stomach. I am glad to report that I am on a full diet now and can eat almost everything (albeit in tiny portions) and at long intervals between spoonfuls. As a matter of fact, a generous GCFer (who prefers to remain

anonymous sends me home-cooked kare-kare, for example).

All Glory to God for what He has done and continues to do in my cancer journey (in my battle against this giant)! I am so grateful for the many prayers lifted up to our Mighty God. It is not an exaggeration to say that my wife and I have been immensely blessed knowing that your prayers are being lifted to our Mighty God. And, more importantly, how our gracious God has answered your collective and fervent prayers. My most recent PET scan taken last month showed my body to be cancer-free. Praise our Mighty and Awesome God!

While my current challenge is health-related, I know that many are going through their own "cancer" journeys of varying intensity, may it be related to financial struggles, strained relationships, or unforgiveness (as Pastor Lito has reminded us from his last week's sermon). Some of these challenges may have caused some people to question or doubt God's love for them. Some who face seeming "giants" in their struggles can find comfort from a post I shared on social media – *David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD*

*Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:45-47).*

Indeed, the Word of God tells us from this passage that our LORD Almighty is a powerful and awesome God. He is mightier and more powerful than any sword or spear that may be thrown against us! This is a strong reminder for those of you who may be facing formidable "cancers" in life. Never give up because the LORD fights the battles for you. The battle is not yours but God's! Believe in faith and rely on His steadfast love and all-sufficient grace, especially during those moments when you cower in fear of the unknown. Trust in God's Word during those times when the enemy may be lashing you with lies and fears.

Trust. Believe. Be still. Rest in the goodness and faithfulness of the LORD. ✱

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