

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE ONE WHO SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT

JOHN 15:18-27; 16:1-15 | REV. BOBOT ANDALIS

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning." - John 15:26-27

In our passage, Jesus shared an essential part of His farewell discourse with His disciples. He gave profound teachings about their relationship with the world and the Holy Spirit's role in their lives.

The passage began as Jesus warned His disciples about the unbelieving hate toward Him. He explained that as His followers, they should expect hostility because they no longer belong to the world but to Him. The world's opposition arises from its rejection of God's values, mirroring how it treated Jesus. This hatred has

several causes: ignorance of God, conviction of sin by Jesus' words and works and fulfillment of Scripture, as seen in prophecies about the rejection of the Messiah (15:18-25).

Amid this warning, Jesus introduced the role of the Holy Spirit. He described the Spirit as the Advocate or the Helper sent by the Father to testify about Him. The Holy Spirit would bear witness to Christ, continuing His ministry through the disciples. Additionally, having been with Jesus from the start, the disciples themselves would provide a dual witness to His life and teachings (15:26-27).

Moving forward, Jesus warned the disciples of future persecution. He spoke of religious exclusion, even violence, by those who wrongly believe they are serving God. The persecution to come aimed to

remind the disciples that these trials are to be expected because they now belong to Jesus and not to the world! Jesus spoke to the disciples about the necessity of His departure so the Helper could come. Jesus explained the Holy Spirit's work, which is twofold: convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, guiding believers into all truth, revealing Christ's teachings, and glorifying Him (16:1-15).

This passage confirmed Jesus' divine nature and the Holy Spirit's essential role in believers' lives. It also prepared believers for persecution while providing comfort in the Spirit's presence and help.

From this message, let us allow the Holy Spirit to take center stage as we continue our mandate to make disciples amid the world's hate. ✨

KEEP ON TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION!

REV. PARKIN YOUNG

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

This month is all about the family. We all are part of a family, whether it is biological or for us in the church, a spiritual family. The family we are part of plays a big part in how we live life because of the influence it gives to us in our formative years. This year, as Tobi starts his schooling, we realized, as parents, that it is so important to teach him important lessons in life. Most especially because these are his formative years.

When Tobi was about to be born, while I was in the waiting room, I penned a letter for him. A sentence in that letter that I wrote was "I will do my best to bring you up the right way and teach you to be the best man that you can be like your lolo has taught me." In no way am I saying that we have a perfect family. There are so many lessons that our family had to learn from God in how we are to fulfill our family responsibilities. One of those lessons was on how to teach children the right way. I grew up to be a rebellious and hard headed person and I praise God my parents never gave up

on me. All those lessons that they taught me, it remained in me even as I went through that rebellious period in my life.

Now, as a dad, I know this is the same responsibility that I have to keep teaching Tobi and Mori the right way. But how do I do that when I am challenged to keep being the parent my kids deserve? And how do I, as a child of my parents, continue to fulfill my responsibility as a son or daughter? Let's remember two things that can help us in our journey as a parent or as a child.

1. Know Jesus intimately

We need to really know Jesus as we follow Him because He is the right way! He is the epitome of what we need to teach our children. For me to know Jesus more and more enables me to be able to teach Tobi and Mori who Jesus truly is. I need to keep teaching my kids the right way and that is why I need to know what or who I am teaching about. And, as children, as we continue to know Jesus, we would see that we are to keep honoring our parents in the Lord. Knowing that enables us to keep building and protecting the relationship in our families.

2. Know ourselves honestly

We need to know who we are truly in terms of what our standing is before God. As a dad, I know that I will never be a perfect father, that is why I need to keep following Jesus because He is who my children need to know. As a child, I also need to know that I am not a perfect child who always listens and follows my parents. We will never be perfect because it is only Jesus who is perfect. That is why I need to remember who I am always and that should lead me (and us) to be more understanding of our family members.

Knowing these two things will remind us of how we can fulfill our God given responsibilities in our families. We need all the help we can get because of who we are. That is why we continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus because He alone is the best person to follow in our lives. May we continue to show love and share that love that we received from God through Jesus as we continue to be positive influences in our families. May the next generation indeed not depart from the way that we all should go! God bless all of you this Sunday! ✨

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