

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE ONE WHO CALLS HIS DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW HIM

JOHN 21:1-25 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

This last chapter of the Gospel of John records the third and final appearance of Jesus to His disciples after His resurrection. Peter and the other disciples went fishing in the Sea of Tiberias when Jesus revealed Himself to them at the seashore. Since they caught no fish all night, Jesus instructed them to cast the net on the right side of the boat. When they hauled a large number of fish, they recognized it was the Lord Jesus. Peter jumped out of the boat towards Jesus as the other disciples dragged the net full of fish to shore (vv. 1-8).

When they reached shore, they saw a charcoal fire in place with fish and bread being prepared. The Lord asked the disciples to bring the fish they just caught and invited them for breakfast. None among the disciples

dared ask if, indeed, it was the Lord for they knew it was He whom they had deserted. Yet, despite this, Jesus served them (vv. 9-14).

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him more than the disciples did. Peter answered three times, "Lord, you know I love you." However, when asked for the third time, Peter was deeply hurt. He remembered how he denied Jesus three times around a similar charcoal fire (John 18:18; 25-27; Matt 26:33). Yet, despite this, Jesus forgave him (vv. 15-17).

Then, Jesus predicted Peter's death by crucifixion. Peter was curious and asked whether the Beloved Disciple would suffer the same fate. Jesus replied it was none of his business

to know. Instead of minding the destiny of others, Jesus commanded Peter to be preoccupied with following Him (vv. 18-23).

As we end our "Knowing Jesus" sermon series, the concluding verses remind us that we will never know Him fully. But, whatever we have learned about Jesus in the Gospel of John should be enough reason for us to follow Him fully (vv. 24-25).

In this last sermon, despite the fact that at times we may falter along our journey of faith like the disciples, we will be challenged to follow Jesus fully until the end.✳

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

REV. VINCE SYYAP

It is December once again. People are busy shopping, buying gifts, attending parties, and planning family vacations. Somehow, the world has commercialized Christmas and made it into a big business.

People tend to forget what Christmas is truly about. Marking the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to the world, lived a perfect life, and became our ultimate sacrifice. It is the greatest demonstration of love the world has ever seen. 1 John 4:9-10 say, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

It is because of this love that we also should learn how to love each other. As we gather with family and friends, we are reminded to extend our hearts beyond our immediate circles, reaching out to those who may feel isolated or in need. Acts of kindness, generosity,

and compassion during this season reflect the love of Christ and serve as a testament to His transformative power in our lives.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus Christ, He demonstrated radical, unconditional love. He reached out to sinners, outcasts, and the sick. He taught His followers to love one another, stating in John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Church, let us show the world the love of Jesus as we love one another the way Jesus did.

We can only love like Jesus when we are in Him. We can love one another when we always put to mind what the Lord has done for us. Whenever I think about how the Son of God lived the perfect life, I am awed and much more awed because He chose to give it up for me by coming to this earth and, ultimately at the cross. Every time I think about what Jesus went through during the final moments of his life- the ridicule

and mockery, extreme pain, and torture, I weep because Jesus did not deserve it. He is the perfect one, and I am the sinner - the one who deserved the punishment and death. But yet, Jesus took it for me- that I may be reconciled restored and redeemed for His glory! I am not perfect but I am truly grateful for God's love and grace towards me a sinner- thus, my only proper response is to love Him and love others just as He commanded.

I pray that if you're reading this today and feel a conviction in your heart, follow that conviction. Christmas is a great time to make peace with those who have hurt you and those you have hurt. It is a perfect time to start, but the goal is to live lives that would demonstrate to others the love of our Lord Jesus Christ 24/7, 365 days a year for life. It all starts by reaching out to the people around you. Go ahead, make the first move, just like Jesus did. Remember, He did it for you!

Love one another. ✳

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