

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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## SERMON OUTLINE

## JESUS AS THE ONE WHO FINISHED HIS WORK FOR THE FATHER

JOHN 19:1-42 | REV. DON GUICO

*"After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), 'I thirst.' ... <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." - John 19:28, 30*

In John 19, we see the last hours of Jesus' earthly ministry. What is calculated to be around 15 hours from His arrest in the garden to His death on the cross, He fulfilled many prophecies about the Messiah - how He would suffer and die, and be buried. In this series of events, there are conversations and happenings that directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, and nuances of symbolism and timing in the narrative that alluded to it (vv. 9, 18, 23, 28, 36, 37, 28). These assert, especially for us today, that

Jesus is King, the Lamb of God, the Great High Priest, and the Messiah. Jesus is who He claimed to be.

Jesus' claim of being the Son of God and King was central to His arrest in John 18. When He was handed over to Pilate, He was found to be innocent of all charges, not a danger at all to the Roman empire and its interests (vv. 1-12a). Despite having Him flogged in order to appease the religious leaders and the angry mob and hoping that they would show Him mercy and relent from pressing for His execution after seeing His broken body, the Jews remained relentless. Pressured by their threats, Pilate gave in to their demand for Jesus to be crucified (vv. 12b-16).

Up to His final moments on the cross, Jesus continued to suffer (vv. 17-29), and then uttered the word "Tetelestai," which translates to "It is finished," (v. 30). Upon His death, He completely and perfectly paid the price of sin, defeated the power of death and the grave, provided for man the only means for salvation, and made possible being restored to the Father. But to finish this work of redemption, Jesus experienced suffering, shame, submission, sacrifice, sympathy, and surrender, all for the glory of the Father, and to prove His love for you and me.

Indeed, there is no greater love than this, that a man would give his life for a friend. ✱

## THE GOD WHO ESTABLISHES HIS CHURCH!

REV. PARKIN YOUNG

*"and they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were benign done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> and all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47*

Last August 1, 2024 was my first day to be assigned to our Alfonso Church plant. It was an eventful day as my car broke down on the way to the bible study. It was an exciting first day for me. P. Vince and Ate Joy picked me up and we continued to go to the bible study. But, instead of dwelling on the car and what I should do next, God reminded me through being with the people what I should instead focus on. God reminded me that day of relying on God's peace amidst struggles and I was amazed at how God spoke. After the bible study, I was able to get a glimpse of what the church should be all about. I experienced the breaking of bread, the help that came from the people, and I experienced personally the awe on how God works mightily in our midst.

That day is a reminder that I will remember forever because of how God allowed me to experience what the church is like and what the church should do as it continues to function in the world. At that time, we only had 2 bible study groups that met regularly. Now, we have 3 bible study groups numbering 40 people in total regularly and we conducted our first worship service last October 20, 2024. And today, we will have our second worship service where we will celebrate the first anniversary of the first bible study group that was started. Praise be to God for His works here at GCFSM Metro Tagaytay. I am in awe of how God just continues to bring people here and allows us to build connections with the community here.

A few lessons that I have learned in my time here based on Acts 2:42-47 can help us to be reminded of what we ought to keep doing as a church as we keep meeting together.

### 1. Devote ourselves in God's word

We need to keep studying the word of God as we continue to gather in the church. Our only basis of the standard that we ought to follow as we continue to meet in the bible study groups and in the service is the word of God alone. It is the primary material that we ought to use in the church. That is why we ought to devote ourselves, to immerse ourselves in it.

### 2. Delight ourselves with God's people

## PARSON TO PERSON

As we continue to meet one another, we need to keep fellowshiping with one another as we journey together. We do that by breaking bread as I am sure we all enjoy. We do it by spending time together as we do life together. When we do, we learn more about God as we see Him in how He works in the lives of other people.

### 3. Demand ourselves to do God's calling

We, as children of God, are called by Him to love God and love others. We love God by obeying Him in what He calls us to do. When we love others, it means we help them in whatever they go through. That is not easy, but we keep doing so because it is our act of worship to God. As we obey God, His love is shared to the people around us.

Thank you, church family, for your support and prayers for us as we pursue God's work in GCFSM Metro Tagaytay. Pray for all of us to keep our devotion to God's word, to keep delighting ourselves in God's people as we continue to remind ourselves to do what God calls us to do. And, as we do so, more and more, I truly believe that many more people would come to know who our Lord and Savior is, none other than Jesus Christ, Himself! God Bless you all! Blessed Sunday! ✱

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