

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

APRIL 20, 2025
BULLETIN ISSUE #16



SERMON OUTLINE

KEEP PROCLAIMING THE RISEN CHRIST

ACTS 5:27-32 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

In Acts 5, Peter and the apostles performed many signs and wonders in Jerusalem, particularly at Solomon's Portico, drawing attention and admiration from the people. As multitudes were added to the Lord, bringing the sick and demon-possessed to be healed, the religious leaders, especially the high priest and the Sadducees, grew increasingly jealous. In response, they had the apostles arrested and thrown into prison (Acts 5:12-17).

However, during the night, an angel of the Lord miraculously opened the prison doors and commanded the apostles to return to the temple and proclaim "all the words of this life" (Acts 5:20). The apostles obeyed without hesitation and resumed teaching at daybreak (Acts 5:18-21a).

The next morning, the high priest gathered the full council and sent for the prisoners, only to find the jail empty. Upon hearing that the apostles were again teaching in the temple, the captain and his officers brought them before the council, this time without force, for fear of the people. Standing before the council, the high priest rebuked them for disobeying orders and accused them of intending to blame the Sanhedrin for Jesus' death (Acts 5:21b-28).

Then, Peter, speaking on behalf of the apostles, responded with a bold declaration: "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). He proclaimed that the God of their ancestors had raised Jesus, whom they crucified, and exalted Him as both Leader and Savior to grant repentance and forgiveness to Israel. Peter

concluded by declaring that they were witnesses of these truths, along with the Holy Spirit, who is given to all who obey God (Acts 5:30-32).

This passage reveals the apostles' fearless resolve to proclaim the risen Christ, even when confronted by the powerful religious authorities. Their unwavering obedience and Spirit-empowered witness serve as a powerful example of what it takes to be a witness for Christ. From Peter's response to the high priest's accusations, we will learn five theological truths about the Risen Christ that should strengthen our conviction to continue preaching Him and proclaiming the gospel-- without fear or favor, no matter the cost.✳

JESUS IS RISEN!

REV. MIKE TRINIDAD

PARSON TO PERSON

Undoubtedly, this is the single most important declaration that all believers can boldly proclaim and declare because by Jesus' death and resurrection, He proved to one and all that sin has been defeated when Jesus was nailed on the cross and after three days, rose again from the dead! Hallelujah to the Lamb that was slain! For He has indeed defeated death. Victory has been won and continues to be available to those who put their faith and trust in Jesus!

For those who already follow Jesus and live according to His righteous ways, this continues to give us hope against whatever trials and tribulations we may go through as we trod our journey called life.

TWISTS AND TURNS

My 65 year old body has been showing signs of wear and tear that may necessitate a tune-up or major overhaul. There is simply no denying that mine is no longer the body of a spring chicken especially as I continue to conquer cancer through Jesus Christ!

The past two months have been challenging as I've had to grapple with some unexpected twists and turns that left me baffled and perplexed at what seemed like a circus going on in my body.

During our Thailand trip last February, I experienced pain and frequent urination that progressively worsened by the day. My immediate concern was that it might be indicative of metastases in my prostate. I had been monitoring my prostate and PSA levels for the past so many years and I thought for sure that the pain was related to it. But, lo and behold, the urologist suggested that it could be a side effect of my radiation therapy that ended in the first week of December. Research showed that this symptom could appear six months up to a year after radiation therapy. My symptoms fit the description to a T, and so I heaved a sigh of relief that it is not prostate related.

As you may also be aware, I had abdominal fluid build-up that necessitated draining fluids from my stomach area. The presence of the fluid is more concerning for my oncologist, as it is a form of metastatic adenocarcinoma. He immediately recommended that I undergo immunotherapy and chemotherapy, as well (using another type of chemo drug) that will be more responsive to this type of cancer. He wanted me to begin the new treatment regimen immediately but my creatinine level went up considerably which prevented me from starting the treatment.

In all this, I once again lift it all up to God who is mighty and is above

all things. I covet your prayers that these procedures will be performed successfully and that no further adverse findings will appear. Dr. Cornelio suggests that the fluids could be coming from the lymph nodes. In all this, Scripture reminds me, "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, THEN I AM STRONG" 2 Cor 12:10. My strength comes from Jesus, my Great Healer alone!

Indeed, my Lord gives me strength and the courage to face these twists and turns with confidence in my heart that He will once again see me through! Please join me in praying that all of these procedures will be done successfully and that I would respond favorably to the new treatment regimen.

All glory, honor and praises to our Mighty God! And, thank you for your prayers and support. It means the world to us that the GCFSM family continues to storm heaven with prayers for my healing and full recovery. Please pray for Joy, Mika and Tin that the Lord would continue to sustain them with strength, wisdom and power as they are my primary caregivers.

In all of this, I give the highest praise to my healer, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord! ✳

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