

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

MAY 25, 2025
BULLETIN ISSUE #21



SERMON OUTLINE

GOD'S COMPASSION AMIDST MAN'S STUBBORNNESS

JUDGES 2:6-3:6 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

This section emphasizes God's response to Israel's disobedience—His righteous judgment and tender compassion. Though the people were stubborn, repeatedly turning to idols, God remained merciful, raising judges to rescue them. Yet, His mercy was not to be presumed upon. Their continued compromise would result in deeper consequences. God's compassion shone through His patient dealings with Israel, proving that divine mercy is greater than human cycles of sin.

This passage reveals the tragic transition from faithfulness to apostasy. After the death of Joshua and the generation that followed him, a new generation arose who neither knew the LORD nor what He had done for Israel. They turned away from Him to serve the Baals and Ashtaroth, provoking His anger. As discipline, God gave them over

to enemy nations who oppressed and plundered them. (*Judges 2:6-15*)

Yet, even in judgment, God's compassion was evident. He raised up judges to deliver them, moved by their cries of suffering. But, the people's repentance was short-lived. With each judge's death, they returned to sin, becoming increasingly corrupt. Their spiritual descent was marked by stubbornness and an unwillingness to change. (*Judges 2:16-19*)

Because of their unfaithfulness, God chose not to drive out the remaining nations. These nations were left to test Israel's obedience and train them in warfare. Sadly, Israel failed both tests. Instead of standing apart, they blended in—intermarrying with pagans and serving their gods. The dangerous pattern of Judges—disobedience,

discipline, deliverance and relapse begins here. (*Judges 2:20-3:6*)

This story reminds us that God's compassion is real, but not to be taken lightly. When we forget Him, we drift. When we compromise, we invite judgment. But when we cry out, He hears. When we repent, He restores.

Sermon Focus: There is no human stubbornness too great for God's compassion to break. But those who persist in their stubbornness will surely face the consequences. There is an urgent call for us to avoid what happened to Israel, so we do not become forgetful, stubborn, and cyclical in sin. The key out of this dangerous cycle is a dedication to constantly tell others who God is and the great works He has done! ✨

GIVE YOUR ALL TO JESUS

PASTOR SEAN FUERTE

One of the many things I'm truly thankful for in the first half of the year is seeing how God is moving mightily in the life of our church. I am excited to witness not only personal growth but likewise the growth of our people across the many ministries that are actively meeting needs, nurturing faith and expanding the body of Christ. There is a deep sense of joy and privilege in being part of what God is doing in His church.

But even in the midst of this excitement, I sometimes find myself asking God, "Can I really do what You have entrusted to me?" Doubts arise. Confidence wavers. Even the sense of calling that once felt so clear can get clouded by feelings of inadequacy.

During one of my devotions last year, I came across a story that's familiar to many of us, from Sunday School to the pulpit: the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus was faced with a massive crowd, and He asked Philip where they could buy bread to feed them (John 6:5-6). Philip responded by pointing out that even months of wages wouldn't be enough to feed so many people (v. 7). Then, Andrew mentioned a boy who had five loaves and two fish (vv. 8-9). Jesus took what the boy offered, gave thanks, and distributed it to the people—so much so that they all ate as much as they wanted, and still there were leftovers (vv. 10-11). That day, the story struck me

differently. I saw myself in Philip—so quick to focus on what I didn't have in my hands. He was focused on the impossibility of the task. But what changed everything wasn't the disciples' strategy or strength. It was a child's simple offering, placed fully in Jesus' hands.

And that's the powerful truth: **To fulfill a God-sized task, we don't need to have it all. We just need to give our all and our best to Jesus.** God allows us to face challenges beyond our capacity, not to crush us but to redirect our confidence. He reminds us that He is with us—and He is more than enough. It's not about our limitations and inabilities, but it is about the Lord's sufficiency.

So, what challenge do you face right now? If you're a student, maybe it's academic pressure. If you're working, maybe it's a difficult project or a relational tension. Perhaps it's something else altogether—family, finances, future uncertainty.

The good news is that you may not have all the answers, but you do have something: your best five loaves and two fish. Offer it. Bring your whole self—however small it may feel—into the hands of Jesus. Seek His wisdom in His Word. Surround yourself with godly counsel. And, most importantly, trust the One who turns scarcity into abundance.

See the Lord's great work. Do the Lord's great work. Give your all to Jesus.

PARSON TO PERSON

All for Jesus: DVBS 2025 Thanksgiving

We praise God for the 54 children and over 30 dedicated teachers and assistant teachers who gave their all to Jesus during last week's Daily Vacation Bible School!

It was a week full of fun, learning, and spiritual growth as the children journeyed through the Bible and discovered God's miracles along the way. Each day was filled with singing songs, playing games, being creative, and learning more about Jesus in a joyful and engaging environment.

The week culminated in a special celebration and graduation last Saturday, witnessed by the children's families and loved ones—a beautiful moment of thanksgiving and encouragement.

We are grateful to all the parents and guardians who entrusted us with the opportunity to journey with their children in discipleship. It is our prayer that each child will continue to grow in their love for Jesus and live each day with the desire to give their all to Him.

Let us keep this next generation in our prayers that they may walk with Jesus daily and live boldly for His glory! ✨

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