

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JUNE 22, 2025
BULLETIN ISSUE #25



SERMON OUTLINE

GOD'S VICTORY AND MAN'S VINDICATION

JUDGES 5:1-31 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Judges 5 is a poetic retelling of the events in Judges 4, celebrating the LORD's victory over Sisera and the Canaanites. Deborah and Barak broke into song, praising God's mighty hand in battle and honoring the leaders who stepped up. The chapter contrasts those who courageously obeyed with those who hesitated or refused to help.

On the day of Sisera's defeat, Deborah and Barak sang praise. They blessed the LORD for leaders who stepped forward and people who offered themselves. Deborah summoned kings and rulers, vowing to sing to the LORD and recount His mighty acts. (Judges 5:1-3)

She recalled how God marched from Seir and Edom. In His presence, the earth shook, rain poured and Sinai trembled. (Judges 5:4-5)

In those days, travel was perilous and villages abandoned. Israel

lacked freedom until Deborah rose as a mother in Israel. The people turned to false gods and war came—but no weapons were found. (Judges 5:6-8)

Deborah honored the commanders who volunteered. She called on all—whether riding or walking—to tell of God's victories. At watering places, His triumphs were retold. Israel rallied at the gates. (Judges 5:9-11)

Deborah called herself to sing and summoned Barak to lead. A remnant responded to the call, while others wavered or delayed. Yet, some risked their lives in battle. (Judges 5:12-18)

The Canaanite kings fought but gained nothing. The stars battled from heaven, the river swept them away and their horses panicked. Meroz was cursed for not helping. (Judges 5:19-23)

Deborah praised Jael for her courage. She gave Sisera milk,

comforted him, then struck him down as he slept. He fell, lifeless at her feet. (Judges 5:24-27)

Meanwhile, Sisera's mother waited, wondering why he delayed. Her attendants guessed he was dividing spoils. Deborah ended with a prayer: may God's enemies perish, but those who love Him shine like the sun. The land had peace for forty years. (Judges 5:28-31)

Sermon Focus: This story reminds us that God alone gives victory, but He vindicates those who respond in obedience. Do not remain on the sidelines when God is on the move. Join Him with tremendous faith. Speak when He calls. Act when He leads. For in the end, those who follow Him will shine like the sun and experience His peace. ✨

REWARDS AND CHALLENGES OF OBEDIENCE

REV. VINCE SYYAP

Starting a new church is one of the most courageous, exciting, scary and humbling journeys a believer can ever take. It demands prayer, dependence on the Lord and unwavering faith. Personally, it's something I never imagined doing. I felt unqualified, but deep inside, I always wanted to be part of a church plant. I just didn't know how.

But what happens when God begins moving you in that direction—when doors open so quickly you find yourself running to keep up? The journey becomes both joyful and challenging. I've learned that when God leads the way, He equips. He provides passion, strength, wisdom and people to come alongside the journey. Let me share some of the rewarding joys and real challenges in this new assignment.

The Joyful Rewards

1. Witnessing God's Hand at Work. One of the greatest joys is watching God move so clearly. From unexpected resources to divine connections, I've seen the truth of Isaiah 55:9 unfold: *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* God has paved the way by preparing hearts, opening doors and proving that this church plant is His plan. It's awe-inspiring to witness His hand at work.

2. Seeing Lives Transformed.

When God moves quickly, it's often because hearts are ripe for the gospel. Seeing lives changed—people saved, families restored, faith renewed—is deeply fulfilling. The people I've met in the Royal Tagaytay community were complete strangers, but today we enjoy weekly fellowship in the Word. Watching them grow in faith gives me tremendous joy.

3. A Faith-Filled Community.

Starting a church at God's pace, not mine, has formed a community marked by faith rather than convenience. There's much work involved—for myself, my wife Joy, Pastor Parkin and the team. The distance we travel is long, but the reward far outweighs the cost. Those who come are drawn by the Spirit's leading. *"And all who believed were together and had all things in common"* (Acts 2:44). The unity brought about is one of the sweetest fruits of trusting God's timing.

4. Deep Personal Growth. Leading something I didn't feel ready for has driven me to rely on God more than ever. I've matured spiritually in ways I never expected. *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'"* (2 Corinthians 12:9). I've found strength in surrender and confidence not in myself, but in God's presence. There's still so much to learn, but knowing He has my back is enough.

The Real Challenges

1. Feeling Unqualified and Unprepared. When God moves fast, there's little time to feel "ready." The weight of responsibility can be overwhelming. Just like Moses, I also said: *"Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent... I am slow of speech and of tongue"* (Exodus 4:10). But God responds as He did to Moses: *"I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak"* (Exodus 4:12). My lack doesn't limit God's wisdom.

2. The Emotional and Physical Toll of Leadership. God's pace is exhilarating but can be exhausting. Leadership can feel lonely, and the emotional burden is real. But Jesus offers rest: *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). I'm grateful for my wife Joy and Pastor Parkin who walk with me in this calling, but most of all, I'm thankful for God's constant guidance.

When God moves faster than I feel ready for, I've come to see it not as a disruption, but as grace. His pace stretches my faith, grows my trust and draws me deeper into dependence on Him. This journey isn't easy, but it is well worth it. All for His name, His people and His kingdom! ✨

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