

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

AUGUST 24, 2025  
BULLETIN ISSUE #34



## SERMON OUTLINE

## GOD'S PEOPLE AND GOD'S ENEMIES

JUDGES 12:1-15 | REV. ERWIN AMADOR

This chapter shows the devastating effects of pride and division among God's people. Instead of celebrating victory over the Ammonites, the Ephraimites confronted Jephthah with a grievance. They accused him of excluding them from the battle and even threatened to burn his house—a cruel irony after his sacrifice of his daughter.

Jephthah responded not with humility but with ego and anger, invoking Yahweh to justify his actions. Unlike Gideon's earlier restraint, Jephthah escalated the conflict, and civil war erupted between Israelite tribes (Judges 12:1-4).

The division deepened through cruel tactics. Jephthah and the Gileadites set a trap at the Jordan River, using a dialect test to identify and execute the fleeing Ephraimites. Forty-two thousand of

their own kin died. This was not a war against oppressors, but a war within a nation destroying itself. The absence of God's voice is striking. He was neither sought nor heard. His silence was deafening as His people acted like enemies of one another (Judges 12:5-6).

The aftermath was tragic. Jephthah's leadership lasted only six years. His story ended without mention of peace or rest. Once a deliverer of Israel, he died having slaughtered his own brothers. His unchecked pride and insecurity, along with Ephraim's arrogance, revealed how internal conflict can be as devastating as external threats (Judges 12:7).

Following Jephthah, three minor judges—Ibsan, Elon, and Abdon—ruled in relative peace. Their stories mention daughters, sons, donkeys, and prosperity, but lacked spiritual depth. These

leaders reflect societal success, but not covenant renewal. While the civil war ceased, the spiritual decline continued. God's people remained vulnerable, not because of their enemies, but because of their hearts (Judges 12:8-15).

This section exposed civil conflict between the tribes. Ephraim's pride led to bloodshed. God calls His people to humility and reconciliation, not division.

**Sermon Focus:** God's people must remember: our real enemies are not one another. Pride and internal strife weaken our witness and grieve God's heart. May we walk in humility, celebrate God's victories together, and stay united for His glory. Let us resist the urge to tear down and instead build up the body of Christ. ✨

## WORSHIP @ GCFSM ALFONSO

REV. PARKIN YOUNG

*"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup> God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places."*  
- Habakkuk 3:17-19

Last August 10, we had our first worship service at our new venue in Alfonso. We did not yet have all the equipment we needed to buy that day, but when the core team gathered to talk and pray, one thing was clear—we wanted to worship God even without all the equipment present. The Saturday before, the team went to the venue to clean and arrange everything in preparation for the service.

While we were preparing, one overwhelming feeling I had was gratefulness. I was amazed at how the whole journey has been for me and my family since we were assigned to Alfonso. It has not been easy—there have been many challenges—but none of those situations will hinder me and my family from praising God for all He has done!

In the book of Habakkuk, the prophet questioned God about the difficult situation he was in. We, too, may sometimes question the challenges we face, but like Habakkuk, we must not let them keep us from rejoicing in God. God's answer to Habakkuk's prayer surprised him because it was not what he expected. Yet, God's answers are always consistent with His character, and that should assure us that His answers are always perfect and never meant to harm us. What we must ensure is that we are truly hearing from God.

Last Sunday, we worshiped again—now as a weekly gathering. As we prepared to install most of the needed equipment, our team also faced many trials and challenges. But instead of being discouraged, we prayed, did our best, and let God take over. We could have easily given in to discouragement when things did not go our way, but we remembered the countless blessings and the many ways God had already led us.

We remembered the blessings that came from your generosity to GCFSM Alfonso. We remembered how God led us to this new venue and how He grew

the ministry so that we now have weekly services. We remembered how God raised people to serve in ministries and Growth Groups here in Alfonso. When we look back and remember who God is, we rejoice—not because every problem has been solved, but because God is faithful. And that truth strengthens and comforts us through the challenges we face today.

Please continue to pray for P. Vince Syyap, myself, and the core team as we prepare and serve at GCFSM Alfonso. Our desire is that people will grow and mature in their walk with God and, in turn, help others grow in their relationship with Him.

Our new venue is located at **Tagaytay Clifton Resort Suites, 2nd floor of the Sales Pavilion.** Worship services are held every Sunday from **10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**, with Bible studies scheduled throughout the week. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining a church near the Alfonso area, please let me or P. Vince know so we can connect with the believers here at Alfonso, Cavite.

A blessed Sunday to everyone! ✨

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