

SERMON
OUTLINE

GOD’S RULE IN TIMES OF
MAN’S GODLESSNESS

JUDGES 17:1-13 I REV. LITO VILLORIA

After Samson’s fall in chapters 15-16, Israel was left without spiritual or national direction. Though Samson weakened the Philistines, his self-indulgence brought more chaos than peace. The narratives in the book of Judges shifted from national leaders to private lives, showing that the real crisis was not merely military or political—it was deeply spiritual and personal.

Micah, a man from Ephraim, admitted to stealing 1,100 pieces of silver from his mother. She responded by invoking the LORD’s name and dedicating the silver to make an idol. Despite their religious language, their actions violated the second commandment. This blending of Yahweh’s name with idolatry illustrated a people who wanted God’s blessing without

submitting to His rule (Judges 17:1-4).

Micah built a shrine, installed the idol, and appointed his son as priest. The text notes, “In those days there was no king... everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25). This was not freedom—it was spiritual anarchy. Religion had become a matter of personal taste, not divine truth. Micah’s household reflected a nation inventing worship on its own terms (Judges 17:5-6).

Later, a young Levite from Bethlehem came, seeking a place to stay. Micah hired him to become his priest, believing that this upgrade—from his son to a Levite—would guarantee divine favor. The Levite accepted, though his role should have been in service to the

Lord, not to private homes. Micah rejoiced saying: “Now I know the LORD will prosper me”—a claim rooted more in superstition than in submission (Judges 17:7-13).

God’s rule remains even when people ignore it. In seasons of moral confusion, He is still sovereign and holy. When worship is redefined and religion misused, God calls us back to truth.

Sermon Focus: Judges 17 is a mirror to every generation where God’s rule is replaced by personal preference. It warns us not to confuse sincerity with truth or activity with obedience. In times of godlessness, let us cling not to a religion of our own making, but to the unchanging rule of God as revealed in His Word. ✱

FROM CALLING
TO OUR COURAGE

REV. LITO VILLORIA

PARSON TO PERSON

Vision 2037 is more than a construction plan—it is a **faith journey** of calling and courage. It began when God clearly impressed upon our hearts: *“Take courage, step out in faith, and steward well the land and resources I have entrusted to you.”* From that moment, our hearts have been anchored in one conviction: the building is not the goal—the **building of lives** is.

Our Calling: A Journey of Clarity and Confidence

At the close of 2024, the Lord reminded us through Mark 1:14-39 that Jesus entered His ministry with clarity of purpose, dependence on the Spirit, and steadfast prayer. In the same way, He calls GCF South Metro to move with clarity in our purpose (to make disciples), in our plans (to raise leaders), in our power (to rely on the Spirit), in our priority (to pray above all), and in our program (to obey faithfully).

When the vision seemed overwhelming, God reminded us—as He did Jacob in Genesis 46—*“Do not be afraid to go down...I Myself will go with you.”* That promise continues to sustain our steps. Vision 2037 is not about what we can build for God; it is about what God will accomplish through us as we walk with Him.

Our Courage: Prayer, Perseverance, and Faith

In early 2025, we began the **40 Days of Prayer**, recognizing that courage is born on our knees. Through those days, the Lord realigned our hearts—teaching us

to seek His favor (Isaiah 66), trust His sovereignty (Psalm 33), depend on His provision (Philippians 4:19), and rest in His presence (Joshua 1:9).

Prayer was never a prelude to the work; **it became the work itself**. Each passage of Scripture reminded us that Vision 2037 would not stand by human effort but by divine grace. As Proverbs 19:21 declares, *“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that will stand.”*

Our Journey Together: From Faith to Fruitfulness

On our 28th Anniversary, January 19, 2025, we publicly declared Vision 2037: a twelve-year journey that looks ahead to the 2,000th anniversary of Pentecost in 2033 and continues toward the next generation of disciplemaking beyond it. That day we remembered Philippians 1:6—*“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.”*

Through this journey, we have seen God’s faithfulness in pastoral transitions, church plants, and ministry expansion. From the story of Gideon in Judges 7, the Lord continues to remind us: resist trusting in our strength, refuse to run from His command, recall the power of His hand, and remove all roots of pride.

Vision 2037 calls us to walk together in humility and courage—anchored not in what we can do, but in what God will yet do through us.

An Invitation: Pray, Reflect, and Share the Story

I invite everyone who considers GCF South Metro as your church family to **buy two copies** of the Vision 2037 Journey Booklet: From Calling to Courage for **P100 each**.

- **Keep one copy for yourself**—read it, reflect on it, and pray over our journey as a church.
- **Keep the second copy in prayer**, and after spending time seeking the Lord, **give it to someone He places in your heart**—a friend, a colleague, or a family member whom you believe God wants to encourage us or be involved in this faith journey.

Each booklet you purchase and share becomes part of the movement—**a testimony of how faith can multiply when God’s people pray, reflect, and obey**. Together, let us fill every home with stories of God’s faithfulness and courage.

Vision 2037 is not sustained by strategies but by surrender, not by wealth but by worship, not by numbers but by hearts aligned with God’s will. As we press on, may we all declare: *“The mission remains, the vision is clear, and the future belongs to the Lord.”*

Erratum (Nomination Letter, 2025)

Please note a correction in the October 5, 2025 letter on the 2026 BOE/BOD Nomination and Election Guidelines:

Elder Rey Melliza replaced the late Elder Raul Montifar and completed his term in 2023. He was re-elected in 2024; therefore, 2026 remains the third year of his current term. ✱

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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