

SERMON
OUTLINE

GOD KNOWS THE WAY WE
TAKE

JOB 23:8-14 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

As Christmas approaches, we reflect back with gratitude and look ahead with confidence. This year brings moments of stretching and strengthening—financial pressures, ministry breakthroughs, unexpected trials, and many reasons to rejoice as God moves in our families, Growth Groups, and our church community. In seasons when God seems silent or hidden, one question arises: *“Can we still trust His way?”*

Job was a man of integrity—righteous, upright, God-fearing, and turning away from evil. He was blessed, respected, and prosperous, yet in a single shocking day he lost his wealth, his children, and his health. His friends insisted he was being punished; Job, however, knew he had not abandoned God. He was not being condemned—he was being refined.

Job 23 captured the heart of his struggle. He longed to present his case before God, convinced he would be vindicated. He looked in every direction—forward, backward, left, and right—but God seemed hidden. This painful sense of divine silence became the backdrop for his profound confession in verse 10: *“But He knows the way that I take.”*

Job acknowledged that even when he could not find God, God knew exactly where he was and what he was going through. Job believed that his suffering was not random; it was like a refining fire that purified gold. God was not destroying him—He was shaping him. Job also insisted that he had held firmly to God’s path, kept His ways, and treasured His words more than daily food. In other words,

he clung to God even when the situation made no sense.

This posture prepares our hearts for Christmas. In Christ, God shows that He is never distant or indifferent. The birth of Jesus is the ultimate assurance that God sees, knows, and enters our suffering. He is Emmanuel—God with us. Because of Christ, we know that God’s purposes—even in hardship—are always loving and redemptive.

As we present our 12 Baskets thanksgiving offering this Christmas, we respond to God’s greatest gift—Jesus Christ. Job 23 reminds us that the God who knows our way also leads our way. Because He refines, guides, and completes His purpose, we give thanks with confidence and anticipation.✱

ROOTED TO RISE

PASTOR SEAN FUERTE

PARSON
TO PERSON

I personally enjoy Crossroad Weekend experiences because they give me a chance to withdraw from my usual routines and responsibilities in order to pause and reflect on who God is and what He is teaching me in this season. These experiences allow me to find physical rest and to re-focus my attention on the character of our Master whom we serve.

Such was the theme of our NextGen Leaders Crossroad, *Rooted to Rise*, anchored in Colossians 2:6-7. Before we rise to lead others, we must first be rooted deeply in Christ. The Crossroad Weekend was a call to every NextGen leader to return to the heart of discipleship—where being precedes doing, where leadership is servanthood, and where integrity and empowerment flow from intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

What I appreciated in our time together was the group’s willingness to be vulnerable and teachable so that we could know Jesus more and serve Him out of gratitude. We had four plenary sessions, and each session included a testimony before the message.

In the first plenary, Zeb Usana shared how the Lord used her to begin discipling just one person. Though hesitant at first, she felt the strong conviction of the Lord to obey. God answered her prayer. Now her disciples are discipling others, and their disciples are discipling others—already reaching fourth-

generation disciples. It is amazing how God used her desire to serve Him to produce four generations of disciplemakers. Glenn Albano then spoke on becoming the people God wants us to be as we serve Him. He reminded us that we are “Called to Follow, Commissioned to Disciple,” emphasizing the urgency of following Jesus so we can become fishers of men.

In the second plenary, Deaconess Mai shared how the Lord raised her to be the leader she is today. Like Zeb, she was initially hesitant when leadership roles were offered to her. But as the Lord molded her heart, she eventually surrendered to His call. What struck her deeply was Jesus’ model of servant leadership. Today, she serves as a director in the school where she works. For this plenary, T. Karen Monroy taught on Jesus’ example of servanthood. She highlighted that in Jesus’ time, foot washing was the task of the lowest servant—underscoring the humility of our Lord. She ended the session by leading the participants to wash one another’s feet for an immersive experience of Christlike humility. It was a deeply humbling moment—cleaning others’ dirty feet while being accepted and cleansed despite our own.

The third plenary was titled “Set Apart: Integrity in Ministry.” Jonathan Monroy, who works for a well-known convenience store company, shared his testimony. He witnessed corruption and under-the-table dealings among his peers, creating a difficult tension between compromise

and conviction. Eventually, the Lord led him to transfer to another company. Pastor Lito reminded us that integrity is not perfection but progression. We can never be perfect, but we must consistently strive to be right with God. He closed the session by inviting us to let God search our hearts, write down what He was revealing, and toss those papers into the fire as a symbol of surrender.

The fourth plenary, “Power to Lead: Empowered by the Holy Spirit,” featured the testimony of Kat Roxas. Naturally reserved, she nevertheless reached out to others and made disciples through BSO—for God’s glory. By the Spirit’s empowerment, she overcame her fears and is now journeying with several young people entrusted to her care. I delivered the final plenary message, emphasizing that we are indwelt by God’s Spirit to be faithful witnesses for Jesus. I exhorted our leaders to trust the Spirit’s convicting work, develop an appetite for God’s Word, and respond obediently to His call.

We ended our time by sharing our insecurities and flaws and praying for God’s empowerment over one another. To officially conclude our Crossroad Weekend, we spent time encouraging one another in the Lord.

Mountain-top moments are always sweet. As we continue serving Jesus, please pray for our NextGen leaders—to stay rooted in God, to guard their being, to serve humbly, to do what is right even in secret, and to trust the power of the Holy Spirit. ✱

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Let us continue to be found faithful in our giving. You may deposit your giving to:

ACCOUNT NAME:
GCF South Metro, Inc.

SECURITY BANK
BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Current Acct. No:
0000-0063-65400

CHINABANK
BRANCH: AYALA ALABANG

Current Acct. No:
128-195-0910

BDO
BRANCH: MADISON

Current Acct. No:
00650-802-2882

BPI
BRANCH: ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Current Acct. No:
1591-0091-56

SECURITY BANK DOLLAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT
BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA
Dollar Account Number: 0000013183012
Swift Code: SETCPHMM
Bank Code: CHIPS UID 010457