

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JANUARY 25, 2026  
BULLETIN ISSUE #04



## SERMON OUTLINE

## FOLLOWING JESUS WITH CERTAINTY

LUKE 1:1-25 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Following Jesus requires more than enthusiasm—it requires confidence that God can be trusted. Before Jesus ever calls disciples to deny themselves and follow Him, Luke begins his Gospel by establishing certainty. This opening passage shows that discipleship rests on God's faithful action, not human impulse, emotion, or resolve.

Luke opened his Gospel by explaining his purpose: to provide certainty concerning the message about Jesus. He wrote to believers who already knew the story but needed assurance that what they had received was reliable and true. Faith, Luke explained, was grounded in fulfilled events, eyewitness testimony, and careful, orderly proclamation (Luke 1:1-4). Certainty, therefore, is not emotional confidence or blind belief; it is assurance rooted in God's revealed and trustworthy truth.

Luke then demonstrated that certainty through history. He introduced Zechariah and Elizabeth as righteous and obedient before God, faithfully walking in His commandments. Yet they experienced long years of barrenness and waiting (Luke 1:5-7). Luke intentionally placed faithfulness alongside unfulfilled longing to show that certainty did not eliminate delay. God remains trustworthy even when His promises seem slow in coming.

While Zechariah faithfully served in the temple, performing his ordinary priestly duties, God broke centuries of prophetic silence. An angel announced the birth of John, who would prepare the way for the Lord and turn hearts back to God (Luke 1:8-17). Salvation advanced not through human initiative or strength, but through God's sovereign action. God initiates salvation while His servants are simply obeying.

Zechariah responded with hesitation, questioning how God's promise could be fulfilled given his circumstances (Luke 1:18). God responded with both assurance and discipline, silencing Zechariah—not as rejection, but as formation (Luke 1:19-23). Finally, God quietly fulfilled His word as Elizabeth conceived, confirming that His promises unfolded faithfully, even without public recognition or immediate celebration (Luke 1:24-25). Certainty grows as God proves Himself faithful over time.

Following Jesus with certainty is grounded in the faithful God who reveals His truth clearly, remains trustworthy through waiting and weakness, and fulfills His promises in His time.

The purpose of this sermon is to assure believers that discipleship begins with confidence in God's faithfulness, making obedience, trust, and perseverance possible as we follow Jesus. ✱

## FOLLOWING JESUS: FROM SEEKING GOD TO WALKING WITH HIM

REV. LITO VILLORIA

This Sunday marks an important transition in our life as a church. Over the past week, from January 19 to 23, we intentionally slowed down as a church family through our Prayer and Fasting Week. We quieted our hearts, set aside distractions, and positioned ourselves before the Lord—not to rush ahead, but to draw near. It was a week of seeking God together, staying close to Him, and allowing His Word and Spirit to realign our hearts.

Prayer and fasting are never ends in themselves—they help re-center our hearts on what truly matters. As we conclude this focused week of seeking God, the question before us now is simple but searching: **How will we live in light of what God has been reminding us?** Seeking God must always lead to walking with Him.

It is in this context that we begin our new year-long sermon series today on the Gospel of Luke, titled **Following Jesus**. This series is not a thematic shift away from what we have just done in prayer and fasting; rather, it is a continuation of it. Prayer and fasting call us to stay close to Jesus. The Gospel of Luke teaches us how to follow Him faithfully, daily, and intentionally.

Luke presents Jesus as the Savior for all people—the Son of Man who enters real human history, walks among ordinary people,

and calls them into a life-shaping journey of discipleship. More than any other Gospel writer, Luke emphasizes the humanity of Jesus, His compassion for the marginalized, His dependence on prayer, and His empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Luke reminds us that following Jesus is not merely believing the right truths, but responding with obedient lives shaped by His teaching, His example, and His mission.

The key verse anchoring this series is Luke 9:23: **"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."** This verse frames discipleship not as a momentary decision, but as a daily posture. To follow Jesus means to walk with Him consistently—learning His ways, submitting to His lordship, and participating in His redemptive work in the world.

As we move deeper into 2026—our Year of Preparation toward Vision 2037—this series serves as a needed reminder that preparation is first spiritual before it is strategic. Before we build further, expand wider, or multiply more, we must be certain that we are walking faithfully with Christ. Vision 2037 has never been primarily about a facility or a timeline. It has always been about forming a people who know Jesus deeply and help others follow Him intentionally.

## PARSON TO PERSON

Our recent Prayer and Fasting Week reminded us that closeness to God is cultivated through dependence, humility, and obedience. The Gospel of Luke now invites us to live that out—week after week—by listening carefully to Jesus, learning from His life, and aligning our priorities with His kingdom purposes. Following Jesus means trusting God in seasons of transition, depending on the Holy Spirit rather than our own strength, proclaiming Christ with courage, clinging to God's presence in dry seasons, and holding fast to Him in love until the end.

As your pastor, my prayer is that this series will not simply inform us, but form us. That it will shape how we think, how we pray, how we relate, and how we serve. That it will deepen our walk with Christ and strengthen our witness as a church—at home, in our Growth Groups, in our communities, and beyond.

Having sought the Lord together in prayer and fasting, let us now walk forward together in obedience. Let us follow Jesus—not hurriedly, not superficially, but faithfully and closely—trusting that as we do, He will continue to prepare us for all that He has entrusted to us.

Let us keep the main thing the main thing.

Following Jesus, together. ✱

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