

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

#RealTalk 01

WHEN WALLETS RUN DRY: TRUSTING GOD IN TOUGH TIMES

MATTHEW 6:25-34 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

When wallets run dry, anxiety rises quickly. Bills pile up, options feel limited, and life can begin to feel reduced to numbers and needs. Jesus understands this pressure. In Matthew 6:25-34, He spoke directly to people worried about food, clothing, and daily survival. He did not deny hardship, but reframed how His disciples are to live when scarcity threatens their security.

Jesus began by commanding His disciples not to worry about life or body, specifically food, drink, and clothing. These are basic necessities, yet Jesus insists that life is more than what sustains it. Worry revealed misplaced trust, reducing life to survival and subtly tying the heart back to mammon rather than God. Anxiety narrowed vision and caused disciples to measure life by what money can secure rather than by God's purpose (Matthew 6:25).

Jesus then pointed to the birds and flowers to show that God already provided apart from anxious striving. Birds were fed without storing grain, and flowers are clothed with beauty surpassing human splendor. Both are of lesser value than human beings, yet God cared for them. Worry cannot extend life or secure outcomes. Anxiety exposes "little faith," not because needs are unreal, but because God is a caring Father attentive to His children (Matthew 6:26-30).

Jesus contrasted pagan anxiety with the disciple's trust. Those without God as Father pursued necessities as if no one else will provide. Disciples are to live as children of a Father who knows their needs. Jesus commanded them to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness. Necessities are not denied but promised as "added," once life is rightly ordered under God's reign rather than fear of lack (Matthew 6:31-33).

Jesus closed by calling His disciples to stop worrying about tomorrow. Trouble is real and unavoidable, but God meets our needs one day at a time. Faith rests in present dependence, not future control. Trust is lived daily through reliance on God's provision today (Matthew 6:34).

Jesus teaches that worry is not merely emotional strain but a theological failure of trust. God's fatherhood, kingdom priority, and daily provision form the foundation for faithful living. Scarcity reveals what governs the heart, not whether God remains faithful.

In this sermon, we will learn how to trust God in tough times—especially when wallets run dry and financial pressure exposes anxiety and fear. ✨

COMING TO THE TABLE: RE-CENTERED IN CHRIST, RE-COMMITTED TO FOLLOW

REV. LITO VILLORIA

As we gather this Sunday around the Lord's Table, we are given a gracious invitation to slow down and remember. Communion calls us back to the center—not to a program, a plan, or even a vision—but to Jesus Christ Himself. In a season where God has been aligning our hearts and clarifying our direction, the Table reminds us that everything we are called to do flows from who Christ is and what He has done for us.

Over the past five weeks, the Lord has been shaping us as a church with clarity and intention. We began the year by reaffirming a simple and essential focus: Following Jesus. We were reminded that preparation always comes before expansion, and that spiritual alignment must precede advancement. Before we build further, expand wider, or multiply more, we must ensure that our walk with Christ remains faithful, humble, and obedient.

This journey continued through our Church Anniversary, our Prayer and Fasting Week, and our Leadership Summit. Each moment carried the same underlying emphasis: God is more concerned with who we are becoming than how fast we are moving. He is forming a people who walk closely with Him—leaders and members alike—anchored in His Word, dependent on His Spirit, and committed to faithful stewardship.

Communion Sunday brings all of these themes together. At the Table, we remember that following Jesus begins at the cross. The bread and the cup remind us that our faith rests not on our effort, but on Christ's finished work. His body was broken. His blood was shed. Our salvation, our calling, and our future are grounded in grace before they ever become a responsibility.

This is why Communion is such a vital part of our spiritual formation. It confronts spiritual drift and calls us back to repentance before our hearts grow distant from God. It calls us to examine our hearts, realign our priorities, and renew our trust in the Lord. In this season of preparation, the Table embodies that posture. We pause. We remember. We realign.

At the Table, we are reminded of accountability—not as pressure, but as faithful stewardship before God. We acknowledge again that Jesus is Lord, and that our lives belong to Him. We are reminded of intentionality—not driven by busyness, but shaped by daily obedience, prayer, and dependence on His Word. And we are reminded of sustainability—not drawing strength from ourselves, but from Christ, who alone sustains His church.

Communion is also deeply communal. We do not come as isolated individuals, but as one

body. We remember that we are being formed together—across ages, ministries, and generations. As we prepare for the years ahead toward Vision 2037, the Table reminds us that this vision has never been about a facility or a timeline. It has always been about forming a people who follow Jesus faithfully and help others do the same.

As we partake of the bread and the cup today, we are not only remembering what Christ has done; we are also renewing our commitment to follow Him. We come to the Table to be re-centered in Christ, and we leave the Table to walk in obedience. Following Jesus is not rushed or superficial. It is a daily posture—denying self, taking up the cross, and walking with Him faithfully where He leads.

My prayer for us as a church is simple: that this Communion Sunday would deepen our love for Christ, strengthen our unity as a body, and renew our commitment to follow Jesus together. May we be a church that remembers Christ's sacrifice, walks closely with Him, and lives faithfully—grounded in grace and guided by God's Word.

As we come to the Table, let us do so with grateful hearts. And as we leave the Table, let us continue the journey—**Following Jesus**, together. ✨

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