

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
BULLETIN ISSUE #08



SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #04

PREPARE THE WAY, FOLLOW THE LORD

LUKE 3:1-38 | REV. DON GUICO

Luke 3 moves from promise to preparation. Before Jesus begins His public ministry, God prepares the way through repentance, revelation, and the public affirmation of His Son. Discipleship does not begin with activity but with alignment. If we are to follow the Lord, our hearts must first be prepared for the Son whom God has revealed in history and declared from heaven.

Luke anchored the gospel in real history by naming rulers and authorities, showing that God sovereignly initiated the moment of preparation (Luke 3:1-2). The word of God came not to political power but to John in the wilderness, demonstrating that divine authority governs redemptive timing and that God's purposes advance independent of human control or institutional approval.

John proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, fulfilling Isaiah's call to

prepare the way of the Lord (Luke 3:3-6). Preparation required moral leveling—pride lowered, crooked paths straightened, rough places smoothed. Repentance demanded fruit. John confronted false security in ancestry and rejected confidence in heritage. He required visible ethical transformation in daily life, addressing generosity, honesty, contentment, and justice (Luke 3:7-14). The axe at the root of the trees underscored the urgency and seriousness of genuine repentance.

As expectation grew, John clarified that he was not the Christ. The Coming One would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, bringing renewal and judgment. The imagery of the winnowing fork emphasized separation and accountability (Luke 3:15-20). Preparation pointed beyond the messenger to the Messiah and demanded clarity about His authority and mission.

At Jesus' baptism, heaven opened, the Spirit descended, and the Father

declared, "You are My beloved Son" (Luke 3:21-22). Before Jesus performed any public ministry, God publicly affirmed Him as the royal and beloved Son. His authority did not arise from popular recognition but from divine declaration and Spirit-anointing.

Luke then traced Jesus' genealogy back to Adam, presenting Him as the true and representative Son who stands at the head of renewed humanity and succeeds where the first son failed (Luke 3:23-38).

Luke 3 teaches that God prepares His people to follow the Lord through repentance, revelation, and the public affirmation of His Son. The purpose of this sermon is to assure believers that discipleship begins with prepared hearts and confident trust in the divinely affirmed and historically established Son of God. ✠

AT THE CROSSROAD: FORMED TO MULTIPLY

REV. LITO VILLORIA

The Lord continues to align us around one clear calling: to follow Jesus and to multiply disciples. As we move deeper into this year of preparation, March presents two crucial opportunities for us to take concrete steps in that direction.

The first is our **Women's Crossroad Weekend**, happening on **March 13-15, 2026 at Center for Community Transformation, Tagaytay City**. The theme this year is: **"Arise: Walking in the Light of God's Glory."**

This invitation is extended to every woman in our church—young adults, professionals, wives, mothers, widows, and seniors. Crossroad Weekends are not merely events; they are intentional spaces for spiritual alignment.

Our philosophy for Crossroad Weekends—whether for men, women, couples, or NextGen—is consistent. God is actively at work in our lives, forming us into the likeness of Christ. Yet we often resist His leading. We insist on our own pace and preferences. We move without reflection. We serve without stillness. Over time, we become weary and restless.

A Crossroad Weekend gives us time to pause long enough to discover what God is doing and to decide to do what God wants done in our lives. It is a call to be still before God, to examine our walk honestly, to lay down burdens, and to respond in obedience. If we desire multiplication, we must first pursue depth.

Formation must precede function.

The registration fee for the Women's Crossroad Weekend is **P4,500**, inclusive of accommodations, meals, and materials. You may register at the Women's Crossroad Weekend table at the second floor lobby.

I strongly encourage our women not only to attend, but also to invite others in your Growth Group and other spheres of influence. Let this be a defining moment of renewal and resolve.

The second key event is **IDMC Manila 2026**, happening on **March 28, 2026**. As shared last Sunday, the theme is: **"Unshakable: Empowered in Warfare, Weakness, and Witness."**

IDMC is a strategic gathering that reinforces our commitment to intentional discipling. If Crossroad focuses on personal alignment, IDMC emphasizes corporate mission. One shapes the heart. The other mobilizes the church.

Through plenary sessions and focused workshops, we will examine how to stand firm in spiritual warfare, endure through weakness, and remain faithful in witness. This conference directly supports our thrust of multiplying disciples across generations, ministries, and callings.

The conference fee is **P500**, inclusive of lunch, snacks, and conference materials. I encourage our Growth Groups, ministry teams, families, and partner churches to attend together.

PARSON TO PERSON

Register as a group. Sit together. Debrief afterward. Let it strengthen our discipling culture in church.

If we are serious about multiplication, we must create environments where convictions are clarified and commitments are strengthened. These two March events are not optional add-ons; they are aligned steps toward becoming a discipling church.

This weekend, I am away from our Sunday gathering as I lead the Philippine Council for Evangelical Churches' (PCEC) National Discipling Campaign (NDC) 101 Conference in Tagbilaran, Bohol. As Executive Chairman of PCEC's NDC Committee, I am serving alongside Bishop Noel Pantoja, General Director of PCEC, as we advance discipling across our nation. Meanwhile, Rev. Don Guico, our Executive Pastor, is preaching our fourth sermon in the *Following Jesus* series entitled, "Prepare the Way, Follow Jesus," based on Luke 3. As you gather today, worship faithfully and continue walking closely with Christ as a church family.

Whenever I am away for ministry—whether in Bicol, Bohol, or other parts of the country—it is always with one burden: that the church in the Philippines would multiply disciples intentionally and faithfully. This has been our heartbeat in GCF South Metro. We are not simply aiming for attendance. We are praying for transformation. We are not merely gathering crowds. We are forming disciples who will make disciples for the building up of the Church and the glory of God. ✠

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