

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

MARCH 22, 2026
BULLETIN ISSUE #12



SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #07

THE CALL TO FOLLOW AND FISH FOR PEOPLE

LUKE 5:1-39 | REV. DON GUICO

As we continue our journey in Following Jesus, Luke reminds us that discipleship begins with knowing who Jesus is. He reveals His authority, mercy, and mission so that we may trust Him, repent, and follow Him. This passage calls us to leave what must be left behind and follow Christ fully.

Jesus revealed His authority in calling Simon and others through a miraculous catch, leading them to recognize their sin and leave everything to follow Him. Their ordinary work became the setting where Jesus redirected their lives toward His mission, showing that our own understanding is not the final authority—His Word is. (Luke 5:1-11)

He then cleansed a man with leprosy who came in humility, showing that He was willing to receive and restore those considered unclean. Jesus

touched him, removed his condition, and instructed him to follow the Law. As His reputation spread, He continued to withdraw to pray, showing dependence on the Father. (Luke 5:12-16)

Jesus addressed a paralytic by first forgiving his sins, showing that His authority extended beyond physical healing to the deeper issue of sin. When questioned by religious leaders, He healed the man publicly to demonstrate that the Son of Man had authority on earth to forgive sins, confronting their reasoning. (Luke 5:17-26)

He called Levi, a tax collector, who left everything and followed Him. Levi hosted a meal where many sinners gathered. Jesus responded to criticism by declaring that He came not for those who considered themselves righteous, but to call sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:27-32)

Finally, Jesus answered questions about fasting by describing Himself as the bridegroom. Through images of new garment and new wine, He showed that what He brought could not fit into existing forms, and exposed resistance from those who preferred what was familiar. (Luke 5:33-39)

Jesus reveals His authority, extends mercy, forgives sin, and inaugurates the new kingdom, calling sinners to repentance and exposing self-righteousness that resists His work.

This sermon calls believers to repent, leave what must be left behind, and follow Jesus wholeheartedly so their lives are shaped by Him and engaged in His mission. ✨

PREPARE FOR THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

REV. DON GUICO

PARSON TO PERSON

Christians are called to remember and observe the passion of Jesus because it lies at the very heart of our faith. The suffering, death, and sacrifice of Christ are not simply events to recall, but truths to enter into. They reveal both the depth of human brokenness and the immeasurable love of God. When we pause to reflect on the cross, we are reminded that salvation is not something we achieve, but something freely given through grace. The passion narrative invites us to confront our own sin, recognize our need for redemption, and receive the costly mercy extended to us through Jesus.

Preparing to observe the passion of Christ is just as important as the observance itself. In a world that constantly demands our attention, intentional preparation allows our hearts to slow down and become receptive. It calls us to step away from distractions and enter a posture of humility and reflection. This preparation may look like setting aside time for prayer, meditating on Scripture, or even practicing silence before God. It is an invitation to examine our lives honestly—to acknowledge where we have fallen short, where we need healing, and where we are being called to surrender more fully.

As we prepare, we are reminded that the cross was not distant or detached from human experience. Jesus entered into suffering fully and willingly. He understands grief, betrayal, injustice, and pain. Taking

time to reflect on these realities helps us bring our own burdens before Him. In doing so, the passion becomes deeply personal. It is no longer just a historical account, but a living truth that speaks into our present struggles and circumstances. Preparation allows us to approach the observance not as spectators, but as participants in a sacred story of redemption.

Observing the passion also shapes our spiritual lives in lasting ways. It draws us into deeper repentance, gratitude, and surrender. As we journey through Christ's suffering, we begin to see more clearly the weight of sin and the beauty of grace. We are reminded that forgiveness was not cheap—it was paid for through Christ's sacrifice. This realization leads us to respond with worship and renewed devotion. The cross speaks into every human experience, offering both honesty about suffering and hope that transcends it.

We warmly invite you to join our Good Friday observance on **April 3, from 2:00 to 4:30 PM**, as we reflect together on this profound truth. Our time will begin with Silence and Solitude, creating space for personal preparation and encounter with God. You will have the opportunity to prayerfully move through eight stations spread throughout our facility. Each station is designed to guide you through key themes of the passion, with Scripture readings, reflection prompts, and moments for prayer.

These stations will lead you through a journey of surrender, personal failure, injustice, salvation by grace, lament, forgiveness, restored access to God, and waiting with hope. This portion of the observance is intentionally unhurried, allowing you to engage at your own pace. It is a sacred environment where you can come honestly before God—bringing your questions, your struggles, and your longing for renewal.

Following this time of personal reflection, we will gather for our Good Friday Service centered on the theme, **"The Cross: From Sorrow to Hope."** Together, we will remember Christ's sacrifice and celebrate the hope that flows from it—a hope that continues to transform lives even today. Our time will culminate with the Lord's Table, where we participate in a powerful act of remembrance and grace, reflecting on Christ's body broken and His blood shed for us.

Because this message is for everyone, we encourage you to invite your family, friends, neighbors, and relatives. Preparing for and observing the passion is not meant to be done in isolation, but in community. It is an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus and to create space for others to encounter Him in a meaningful way.

Come and behold the cross. Come with a heart prepared to reflect, repent, and receive. And come ready to rediscover the hope found in Christ alone. ✨

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