

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

MAY 17, 2026
BULLETIN ISSUE #20



SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #12

THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

LUKE 9:28-50 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

We often want the crown without the cross. We want glory without suffering, power without dependence, greatness without humility, and ministry without correction. But Luke 9:28-50 shows that following Jesus requires clearer vision. The glorious Son walks the path of suffering, and His disciples must listen to Him.

Jesus took Peter, John, and James up the mountain to pray. While He was praying, His appearance changed, and His clothes became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and spoke with Him about His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. The Father declared, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" Jesus was revealed as the glorious Son, and His coming suffering was shown to be part of God's saving plan. The

crown revealed Christ's glory before the cross. (Luke 9:28-36)

When Jesus came down from the mountain, a desperate father begged Him to help his tormented only son. The disciples could not cast out the spirit, but Jesus rebuked the demon, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. The crowd was amazed at the majesty of God. The crown displayed Christ's power over evil, showing that His glory is not distant from human suffering. (Luke 9:37-43a)

While the crowd marveled at His works, Jesus told His disciples that the Son of Man would be delivered into the hands of men. Public amazement did not define His mission. The cross did. Yet the disciples did not understand and were afraid to ask Him about it. The cross defined Christ's path to glory. (Luke 9:43b-45)

Then Jesus corrected the disciples' argument about greatness and their attempt to stop another worker. By placing a child beside Him, Jesus showed that greatness is not found in rank, visibility, or control. By correcting John, He showed that ministry in His name must not become territorial. The cross forms Christ's followers in humility, humble reception, and faithful cooperation. (Luke 9:46-50)

Jesus is the glorious Son whose crown comes through the cross. His glory reveals His identity, His suffering fulfills God's plan, His power meets human brokenness, and His teaching reshapes discipleship. The purpose of this sermon is to assure believers that the glorious Christ can be trusted and followed with humble dependence. ✨

THE PRESENCE THAT TRANSFORMS US

REV. LITO VILLORIA

Today is my birthday, and I want to begin by giving thanks to the Lord. As I mark another year of life, I am reminded again that the Christian life is not sustained by strength, position, opportunity, or achievement. It is sustained by the presence of God and the Word of God.

This truth was impressed upon my heart again in one of my recent devotions from Psalm 27:13-14 where David wrote, "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!"¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

David wrote as one who knew both danger and confidence, both distress and hope. He did not deny his struggles. He did not pretend that waiting was easy. But he anchored his heart in the goodness of the Lord. He expected God's goodness not only in eternity, but also in the present journey of life.

This is why daily communion with God matters. We need the Lord's presence and His Word every day. We need His truth to correct us, comfort us, strengthen us, and reshape us. Without God's presence, we become restless. Without God's Word, we become unclear. Without daily surrender, we can easily drift from the path of following Jesus.

This is also the heart behind Transformed by His Presence, the daily devotional reflections

I have been writing and sharing. These devotions help me process God's Word, examine my heart, and respond to the Lord in faith and obedience. They are written out of my own walk with God, with the prayer that others may also encounter Him daily through His Word.

I invite you to check them out and make them part of your own spiritual rhythm. They are available online through the Transformed by His Presence website. My prayer is that these devotions will help us slow down, listen to God, walk with Him daily, and be continually transformed by His presence.

As I look back on my own journey, I can testify that God has been transforming me through His presence and His Word. He has used joys and burdens, blessings and trials, encouragements and corrections. He has taught me that the crown and the cross cannot be separated.

This is deeply personal to me today. On my birthday, I do not simply celebrate another year of life. I celebrate God's grace in shaping me, His patience in correcting me, His mercy in sustaining me, and His goodness in allowing me to serve beyond what I deserve.

The Lord has opened doors of responsibility beyond GCF South Metro. Through the National Disciplemaking Campaign, IDMC, and our partnership with leaders in Asia, I am being reminded that every

opportunity to serve must remain rooted in humility before Christ. The calling is not to promote ourselves. The calling is to point people to Jesus.

That is why I want to invite our church family to pray and participate in **IDMC Manila 2026: Rekindling What Truly Matters** on **June 12, 2026**, here at **GCF South Metro Church**.

In the midst of busyness, ministry demands, and daily pressures, it is easy for our spiritual passion to slowly fade. But God never intended our walk with Him to grow cold. He calls us to remain fervent, focused, and faithful. IDMC Manila 2026 is more than a conference. It is a reset for the heart, a sharpening of vision, and a call back to what matters most: loving God, loving people, and making multiplying disciples.

We also have the privilege of hosting the **Asia Conference on Church and Mission 2026: Disciple or Die 3.0**, in partnership with the **Asia Evangelical Alliance** and **PCEC**, from **June 9-11**. Leaders from across Asia will gather to seek the Lord, strengthen disciplemaking churches, and pray for God to revive His work in this generation. This is not merely an event. It is an opportunity for GCF South Metro to serve the wider body of Christ.

So as I thank God for another year of life, I also ask you to pray with me—for renewed hearts, rekindled passion, stronger disciplemaking churches, and a deeper experience of God's transforming presence among us. May we all be transformed by His presence. ✨

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.

BDO
BRANCH: MADISON

Current Acct. No:
00650-802-2882

SECURITY BANK
BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

CHINABANK
BRANCH: AYALA ALABANG

BPI
BRANCH: ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Current Acct. No:
0000-0063-65400

Current Acct. No:
128-195-0910

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