

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #13

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

LUKE 9:51-10:42 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Following Jesus sounds inspiring until we realize where Jesus is going. Luke shows that Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem, the place of rejection, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. This means discipleship is not defined by convenience, comfort, or personal preference, but by kingdom-shaped commitment under the rule of Christ.

Jesus began this section by setting His face toward Jerusalem. When a Samaritan village rejected Him, James and John wanted fire from heaven, but Jesus rebuked them and moved on. Rejection was serious, but it should not derail the present mission of offering grace. Disciples must not answer rejection with retaliation, but continue the mission with the heart of Christ. (Luke 9:51-56)

Jesus then exposed the cost of following Him through three would-be disciples. One volunteered to follow anywhere, but Jesus warned that the Son of Man had nowhere to lay His head. Another was called but wanted first to bury his father. A third wanted to say farewell at home. Jesus showed that comfort, delay, and divided loyalty cannot govern the disciple's life. Christ and His kingdom must become the controlling priority. (Luke 9:57-62)

Jesus then sent the seventy-two into mission. They were to pray for laborers, go as lambs among wolves, depend on God, speak peace, heal the sick, and proclaim that the kingdom had come near. They returned with joy because demons submitted to them, but Jesus redirected their joy to their secure belonging to God. Mission must be carried with dependence, authority, and joy rooted in grace. (Luke 10:1-24)

Jesus also taught kingdom mercy through the Good Samaritan. The lawyer wanted to limit the meaning of neighbor, but Jesus called him to become a neighbor. The Samaritan showed costly compassion to the wounded man. Finally, Mary sat at Jesus' feet while Martha was distracted with much serving. Jesus affirmed that one thing was necessary: listening to His Word. Kingdom life practices mercy and prioritizes Christ's Word. (Luke 10:25-42)

The cost of following Jesus is a whole life reordered under the reign of the King. The purpose of this sermon is to assure believers that following Jesus requires kingdom-shaped commitment, so that we may continue His mission with grace, surrender, mercy, joy, and devotion to His Word. ✱

TILL NOW THE LORD HAS HELPED US

REV. LITO VILLORIA

There are moments when we need to pause and remember. Life can move quickly. Ministry can become busy. Responsibilities can multiply. Events can fill the calendar. Before we realize it, we may be moving from one activity to another without stopping to ask, "What has the LORD done among us?" and "How should we respond to His faithfulness?" This was the reminder the Lord impressed upon my heart in one of my recent devotions from 1 Samuel 7:12.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, 'Till now the LORD has helped us.'" - 1 Samuel 7:12

Samuel raised a stone after the LORD delivered Israel from the Philistines. That stone was called Ebenezer, which means "Stone of Help." It was not meant to honor the stone. It was meant to honor the LORD who helped His people. Israel had been afraid. But this time, their fear moved them to cry out to the LORD. They did not trust in the ark as a religious object. They did not depend on their own courage or strategy. They pleaded for the LORD's help, and the LORD answered.

So Samuel did not allow them to move forward without remembering. He wanted them to see that their deliverance came from God. Until that very moment, the LORD had helped them.

This is also a needed reminder for us as a church family.

When we look back, we can say the same thing: till now the LORD has helped us. He has sustained us in worship. He has provided for our needs. He has carried us through transitions. He has strengthened our ministries. He has opened doors for discipleship, service, fellowship, and mission. But remembering God's help should never lead us to passive gratitude. It should lead us to renewed dependence and active participation.

That is why the many opportunities before us are not merely activities on a church calendar. They are avenues for worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and mission. On June 12, we will host IDMC Manila 2026: Rekindling Your Spiritual Passion. This is an invitation for us, together with our Growth Groups, to allow the Lord to renew our hearts for what truly matters: loving God, loving people, and making multiplying disciples.

On May 30, our Agora Ministry will host the webinar "Emotions, Meanings and Connection: Thriving at Work and in Life." This is an opportunity to bring God's wisdom into the workplace and into the daily pressures of life.

Today is also the last day of registration for the Youth Crossroad Weekend. Let us pray that our youth will encounter Christ deeply and follow Him courageously. On June 6, our Table Tennis Club will hold an interchurch fellowship-tournament.

PARSON TO PERSON

This reminds us that even sports can become a place for friendship, encouragement, and Christ-centered community. On June 14, our Dance Ministry will hold auditions. This is an opportunity for those gifted in movement and expression to serve the Lord through worship.

We also have several important dates ahead: the Sports Clinic for kids on May 25-30, the Seasoned Citizens Anniversary and Seniors Crossroad Reunion on May 30, the Bloodletting Drive on May 31, and the NextGen Conference on July 18.

Each of these reminds us that God's help must be remembered, but God's work must also be continued. So let us not simply attend events. Let us participate with prayerful hearts. Let us register, invite, serve, volunteer, give, support, and encourage. Let us see every opportunity as a way to say, "Lord, You have helped us until now. Help us keep following You today."

Ebenezer is not only a look backward. It is also a call forward.

The LORD who helped us before is the same LORD who calls us to depend on Him today. Therefore, let us remember His mercy, remove anything that divides our hearts, and rely on His help as we continue serving Him together.

Till now the LORD has helped us. And by His grace, we will keep following Him. ✱

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