

FOLLOWING JESUS #21

PERSISTENT FAITH AND RADICAL SURRENDER

LUKE 18:1-30 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Jesus told of a vulnerable widow who repeatedly appealed to an unrighteous judge for justice. The judge eventually responded because she persisted. Jesus contrasted him with our righteous God, who loves His people, hears their cries, and will vindicate them. God's apparent delay does not mean He is indifferent. The pressing question is whether His people will continue trusting Him until the Son of Man returns. Disciples must continue praying without losing heart because God remains faithful and will fulfill His promises. (Luke 18:1-8)

Jesus declared that the tax collector went home justified. He reinforced this truth by welcoming little children, who possessed no status or accomplishments upon which to base a claim. God's kingdom must be received with humility and complete dependence because His grace cannot be earned. (Luke 18:9-17)

Finally, a rich ruler asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. Although confident in his morality, he could not release the wealth that had become his controlling security. Jesus exposed his divided allegiance and the impossibility

Taken together, these accounts show that faithful dependence upon God is expressed through persistent faith and radical surrender. This sermon will challenge us to abandon confidence in ourselves, depend upon God without losing heart, receive His kingdom with humility, and surrender every competing allegiance to follow Jesus fully. ✱

BUILT FOR HIS GLORY, LITTLE BY LITTLE

REV. LITO VILLORIA

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Several weeks ago, I told our church family that I would continue sharing how we can prepare together for Vision 2037. Since then, we have reflected on preparing the next generation, recognized the doors God is opening beyond our congregation, and celebrated ministries through which He is forming disciples and leaders. Today, I want to share another important part of that preparation: our 30th Anniversary in January 2027.

This is a timely reminder for us. Vision 2037 is the long-term direction the Lord has been placing before GCF South Metro Church and GCFSM Christian School. We desire to become a greater blessing to our community, throughout the Philippines, and across other nations by becoming a global discipling and leadership center. This vision will not be fulfilled through a single program, project, or event. God will prepare us and lead us forward little by little.

Our 30th Anniversary in January 2027 will be an important part of this journey. Throughout the anniversary month, we will celebrate God's faithfulness during the past thirty years. We will thank Him for the people who prayed, served, gave, sacrificed, and obeyed so that GCF South Metro could become the church we are today.

Our theme, "Built for His Glory," based on 1 Chronicles 28:20-21, reminds us that this church belongs to God. He has built us, sustained us, and entrusted this ministry to us. Whatever He calls us to pursue must never be for our reputation, comfort, or achievement. Everything must be built for His glory and used for His purposes.

Our anniversary month will serve as a bridge toward Vision 2037—a season for remembering God’s faithfulness, renewing our commitment to follow Jesus, strengthening our discipling mission, and preparing for what He will entrust to us in the coming years.

One meaningful way our church family can participate is through our 30th Anniversary T-Shirt Design Contest. We are inviting those with artistic gifts and creative ideas to develop

PARSON TO PERSON

The design may be created digitally or drawn by hand and scanned. Each entry must include designs for both the front and back of the shirt, together with a short explanation of the concept. Entries must be submitted by September 6, 2026, at 11:59 PM. Please consult our official announcement materials for the complete mechanics and submission instructions.

Submitted designs will be showcased on social media for public voting from September 10 to 13. Representatives from our Pastoral Staff, Board of Deacons, and Board of Elders will also evaluate them. The winning entry will be announced on September 16, and pre-orders for the official anniversary shirt will open on September 27.

The anniversary shirt will be more than a souvenir. It will express our unity as one church family, our gratitude for thirty years of God's faithfulness, and our commitment to participate in what He is preparing for GCF South Metro.

I encourage our artists, designers, young people, families, Growth Groups, and ministry teams to participate. Others can support the contest by encouraging our creative members, voting for the designs, and praying for our anniversary preparations.

Vision 2037 may still appear far away, but God is already preparing us little by little. As we approach our 30th Anniversary, may He find us grateful for the past, faithful in the present, and ready for the future—all for His glory.✱

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