

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

AUGUST 23, 2026
BULLETIN ISSUE #34



SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #23

FOLLOWING THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

LUKE 19:45-48; 20:1-48 | REV. DON GUICO

In Luke 18:31-19:44, Jesus was revealed as the King who gave His life, sought the lost, entrusted responsibilities to servants, and offered peace. After entering Jerusalem, He exercised authority in the temple. Luke now records several confrontations that reveal how religious leaders resisted Him and how His followers must respond to His authority.

Jesus cleansed the temple and restored it as a place for God's Word. When the leaders questioned His authority, Jesus asked whether John's baptism came from heaven. Their refusal to answer exposed their unwillingness to recognize authority that came from God. (Luke 19:45-20:8)

Jesus portrayed Israel as God's vineyard and its leaders as tenants. After they repeatedly mistreated

the owner's servants, they rejected and killed his beloved son. God would judge the unfaithful tenants and establish His saving work upon Jesus, the rejected cornerstone. (Luke 20:9-19)

Leaders sent spies to trap Jesus with a dangerous question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus exposed their hypocrisy, affirmed the limited authority of earthly government, and commanded everyone to give God what belongs to Him: complete allegiance and obedience. (Luke 20:20-26)

The Sadducees tried to discredit the resurrection, but Jesus corrected their view of the coming age and affirmed that God would raise His people. Citing Psalm 110, He also revealed that the Messiah is both David's descendant and exalted Lord. (Luke 20:27-44)

Jesus warned His disciples against scribes who pursued recognition, exploited widows, and offered lengthy prayers to appear devout. Their spirituality concealed pride, greed, and injustice. Because spiritual influence brings greater accountability, Christ's followers must serve with humility, compassion, and integrity. (Luke 20:45-47)

Jesus possesses divine authority because He is God's beloved Son, exalted Lord, and chosen cornerstone. His authority extends over every person and every area of life. This sermon calls us to recognize Jesus, surrender ourselves to His rightful rule, and follow Him with wholehearted obedience as our King and Lord.✱

WORSHIPING GOD WITH WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION

REV. LITO VILLORIA

In my devotion last Wednesday, the Lord reminded me through 2 Samuel 24:24 of David's declaration: "I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." After David had sinned by depending upon the strength of his army rather than upon God, he was instructed to build an altar on Araunah's threshing floor. When Araunah offered the land, oxen, and wood without payment, David insisted on personally bearing the cost of his offering.

David understood that genuine worship acknowledges God's supreme worth. Worship cannot be reduced to what we do when it is convenient. It calls us to offer God our time, abilities, resources, priorities, and lives. We do not make sacrifices to earn forgiveness. Jesus Christ has already given Himself as the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for our sins. Because He gave Himself completely for us, we respond with grateful, wholehearted, and obedient worship.

This weekend, I am with the men of our church at our Men's Crossroad Weekend. As we hold our closing session this morning, please pray that the truths God has taught us will continue working deeply in every participant. Our theme, "Follow in Jesus' Steps," based on 1 Peter 2:21, reminds us that following Christ requires more than admiring His example. It means allowing His life to shape how

we respond, lead, serve, endure hardship, and treat others.

Pray that every man will return home with a deeper love for Christ and renewed commitment to walk faithfully at home, in the church, at work, and in the community. Pray that the commitments made this weekend will not remain emotional responses to a retreat but become lasting patterns of obedience. Following Jesus will sometimes require us to surrender comfort, pride, habits, preferences, and time, but He is worthy of wholehearted devotion.

Let me also briefly remind everyone about our 30th Anniversary T-Shirt Design Contest. We invite our artists, designers, young people, families, Growth Groups, and ministry teams to submit an original design reflecting God's faithfulness, our journey as a church, and our theme, "Built for His Glory." Entries must be submitted by September 6 at 11:59 PM. Please consult our official announcement for the complete mechanics. May those whom God has gifted creatively offer their abilities for His purposes and glory.

I also want to update our church family regarding our present direction for strengthening our prayer life. We recognize that the answer to our prayer gap is not necessarily to add another prayer meeting. We need a coherent churchwide strategy that intentionally forms disciples who

PARSON TO PERSON

pray biblically, consistently, and dependently.

During the remaining months of 2026, our Pastoral Staff will assess and align our existing expressions of prayer. These include personal and family prayer, Growth Group and ministry-team prayer, prayer during worship services, the Wednesday online devotion and prayer, Saturday leaders' prayer, monthly co-ministers' prayer, and special seasons of prayer. We will prayerfully examine what should be retained, strengthened, redesigned, integrated, or discontinued so that each expression contributes clearly to forming praying disciples. Our aim is to prepare for the implementation of a coherent churchwide prayer-formation strategy beginning in 2027 as part of our preparation for Vision 2037.

Yet we do not need to wait until 2027 to deepen our dependence upon God. Let us begin now. Set apart unhurried time to pray from God's Word. Pray with your family, Growth Group, and ministry team. Intercede for the lost, our leaders, our churches, our nation, and the nations. Before we plan and act, let us seek God together and acknowledge that apart from Christ we can do nothing.

May our prayers, service, creativity, and obedience never be offerings that cost us nothing. Because Christ gave Himself completely for us, may we gladly offer our whole lives to Him as we follow Jesus and build everything for His glory.✱

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