GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 1, 2026
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GCF SOUTH METRO CHURCH

SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #29

THE RISEN LORD WHO LEADS US

LUKE 24:1-12 | REV. MIKE DUCO

Luke 24 opens with women returning to Jesus' tomb after observing His burial and resting on the Sabbath. They came prepared to care for His body, but their discovery challenged their expectations. Through the empty tomb and the angelic announcement, Luke directs attention to the fulfillment of Jesus' words.

At early dawn on the first day of the week, the women brought the spices they had prepared. Their actions expressed devotion, but their preparations showed that they expected Jesus to remain dead. They found the stone rolled away, entered the tomb, and did not find His body. The empty tomb left them perplexed and in need of explanation. (Luke 24:1–3)

Two men in dazzling clothing appeared, and the frightened women bowed their faces to the ground. The angels asked why they sought the living among the dead and announced that Jesus had risen. They directed the women to remember His teaching in Galilee: the Son of Man must be delivered into sinful hands, be crucified, and rise on the third day. His resurrection fulfilled His words and God's saving purpose. (Luke 24:4–7)

The women remembered Jesus' words and returned to report everything to the Eleven and the others. Luke identified Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women as those who brought the report. Those who came expecting to care for Jesus' body now carried the announcement that He was alive. Remembering His teaching gave meaning to what they discovered and heard. (Luke 24:8–10)

The apostles regarded the report as nonsense and did not believe the women. Peter nevertheless ran to the tomb, looked inside, and saw the linen cloths by themselves. He departed marveling at what had happened. Luke records his amazement without explicitly declaring settled resurrection faith, preparing for the further revelation that follows. (Luke 24:11–12)

The risen Lord leads His people through His trustworthy Word, grounding their faith in God's fulfilled saving purpose. This sermon assures believers that Jesus has risen just as He promised and calls us to trust Him, remember His Word, proclaim His resurrection, and bring our doubts honestly to Him.❋

PARSON TO PERSON

REMEMBERING HIS FAITHFULNESS, RESPONDING IN FAITH

REV. LITO VILLORIA

"In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah." – Psalm 81:7

Last Wednesday, the Lord reminded me through this passage to trust Him in distress and remain faithful through testing. God recalled how He had answered Israel's cries and delivered them from Egypt. Yet at Meribah, when they faced a shortage of water, they questioned His presence among them. Remembering His deliverance should have encouraged them to trust and obey Him in their present difficulty.

We also need this reminder. We can gratefully recall God's answers to prayer and still become anxious when another challenge arises. His past faithfulness gives us reason to bring our present needs before Him and follow His Word, even when we cannot yet see how He will provide.

As we approach our church's 30th anniversary in January 2027, we have much to remember with thanksgiving. God has sustained GCF South Metro and entrusted us with opportunities to make disciples, strengthen families, develop leaders, and serve communities. Remembering His grace should deepen our dependence upon Him as we prepare for the responsibilities ahead.

Our special anniversary service and formal **Vision 2037 launch will be on January 24, 2027.** During that service, we will receive our initial offering as the seed fund for the building project. I encourage each household to begin praying about how to participate and setting aside an amount as the Lord enables.

If you have not yet secured a copy of our second Vision 2037 booklet, **Built for His Glory,** please get one after the service. In that booklet, I explained that we do not expect our congregation to shoulder the entire project cost. We trust God to provide through His people, partners, and the doors He opens, while each of us prayerfully considers what we can give beyond our regular giving. Our giving expresses our shared commitment to prepare a facility that will serve disciplemaking, leadership development, education, and mission for generations to come. Each household's circumstances differ, but everyone can seek the Lord's guidance and participate willingly, with gratitude, faith, and a desire to honor Him through faithful personal stewardship.

This weekend, I am with our young adults at their ongoing **YA Crossroad Weekend at Rizal Recreation Center.** Thank you to everyone who prayed, gave, and helped make it possible for them to attend. Your support is an investment in their growth as disciples of Jesus. Please continue praying that they will receive God's Word with conviction and follow Him faithfully in their daily choices.

Our preparation also includes nurturing the marriages and families God has entrusted to our care. Husbands and wives need opportunities to pause, listen to one another, and seek the Lord together amid their daily responsibilities.

With this in mind, I invite our couples to attend **Couples Crossroad Weekend on November 13–15, 2026,** themed **"Pursuing Renewal,"** anchored in **1 Peter 5:10.** This passage directs our hope to the God of all grace, who restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes His people.

The weekend will provide time to understand the experiences and patterns we bring into marriage, consider our identity in Christ, and prayerfully address areas that need renewal. Through biblical teaching, personal reflection, honest conversations, and prayer, couples will be encouraged to take responsibility for their responses and develop practices that strengthen their relationship beyond the weekend.

Whether you are newly married or have shared many years together, I encourage you to make time for this investment in your marriage. Come with a willingness to listen, receive God's Word, and respond to His renewing work.

May remembering God's faithfulness strengthen our trust in Him. As we prepare for the coming year and nurture our families, may we obey His Word faithfully and depend upon His grace for every step ahead.❋

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