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GCF
SOUTH METRO
CHURCH

SERMON
OUTLINE

#REALTALK 8

PLANET IN PAIN: GOD’S CALL
FOR CREATION CARE

GENESIS 1:26-31 I REV. LITO VILLORIA

Genesis 1 presents God as the sovereign Creator who brings order, life, and fruitfulness into the world and repeatedly declares His work good. The account reaches its climax in verses 26-31, where God creates humanity in His image and entrusts the earth to human care under His authority and care.

Humanity, male and female, bears God’s image and likeness as creation’s crowning work. Every person therefore possesses unique God-given dignity, while humanity receives the responsibility to represent God within His world. Bearing His image means reflecting His character as we fulfill His purposes. The way we treat creation should display His wisdom, generosity, order, and care. Creation care also involves loving people, because environmental damage usually burdens poor and vulnerable

communities most severely. Faithful stewardship begins with remembering whose image we bear. (Genesis 1:26-27)

God’s blessing becomes a solemn commission: be fruitful, fill the earth, subdue it, and exercise faithful dominion over all creatures. These commands authorize humanity to develop creation and use its resources, but not to exploit them carelessly. Human dominion is delegated authority exercised beneath God’s ownership. We must govern creation consistently with the Creator’s character, cultivating its potential, protecting life, and enabling communities to flourish. Although sin distorts dominion into greed, waste, and destruction, God calls His image-bearers to faithful stewardship. (Genesis 1:28)

God graciously provides abundant plants and fruit as food for all human beings and animals.

The earth’s abundance is God’s provision in sustaining life. His gifts should be received gratefully and used responsibly, not wastefully. Verse 31 concludes with God seeing everything He made and declaring it “very good.” Creation possesses value because God creates, sustains, and delights in it. His image-bearers must never treat His world as worthless but instead receive its provision with gratitude and care for everything entrusted to them. (Genesis 1:29-31)

God owns the earth and entrusts its care to humanity. We do not worship creation—we care for creation because we worship the Creator. This sermon calls us to reflect God’s character, exercise stewardship, receive His gifts gratefully, and make choices that protect creation, serve o✱ neighbors, and honor Christ.

FOLLOWING JESUS: LOVE THAT
ADVANCES HIS MISSION

REV. LITO VILLORIA

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.”
– Philippians 1:9-10

Last Monday, the Lord reminded me through this passage that discerning love leads to excellent choices and a life ready for Christ’s return. Paul prayed for believers who had partnered with him in the gospel. He desired that their love would continue growing, guided by God’s truth and wisdom to recognize what mattered most.

This prayer helps us respond to our Missions Month theme, “Following Jesus: From Our Community to the Nations.” Love for Christ and people should shape how we use our time, abilities, relationships, and resources to help others know and follow Him.

Last Sunday, I shared how God is opening opportunities for us to strengthen churches, equip leaders, and serve alongside fellow believers beyond our congregation. These developments encourage us as we prepare for Vision 2037 and our calling to be a global disciplemaking and leadership center. Each opportunity carries a responsibility to pray, discern, and serve faithfully for His glory.

Our participation in God’s mission includes both the opportunities He opens beyond our congregation and the people we encounter every

day. This Missions Month, we have several practical ways to take part. Tara Kape! Faith in the Workplace: Conversations Over Coffee, happening later today at 1:00 PM at the CDC, invites us to consider how we can live out and share our faith at work. Through fellowship and meaningful conversations, we can encourage one another to see our workplaces as mission fields and follow Jesus faithfully in our daily responsibilities.

On October 13, our Medical Mission at Bilibid Minimum Security Camp will provide compassionate care for the group of pastors our ministry team meets weekly. Meanwhile, Together on His Mission: An Art-based Workshop, scheduled on October 10, 17, 24, and 31, invites us to explore our shared calling and cultivate a mindset and lifestyle shaped by God’s mission.

Every Sunday this month, the Missions Cafe at the lobby, led by our Growth Groups alongside invited missionary partners, offers pastries and beverages to raise funds for selected missionaries. The Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL) Art Exhibit and Sale also gives us an opportunity to support the livelihood of PDLs. When you purchase a PDL artwork, 90% of the proceeds go directly to the PDL artist, while 10% goes to the Bureau of Corrections.

Through these opportunities, we can express discerning love in practical ways. Let us ask, “Lord, whom have You placed within my

reach? How can I help this person know and follow Jesus?” May our participation deepen our concern for people and our commitment to His mission beyond this month.

Another opportunity is to invest in the young adults God has entrusted to us. I encourage our young adults to attend our YA Crossroad Weekend on October 31 to November 2 at Rizal Recreation Center, with the theme “Standing Faithful in a Swaying World,” anchored in Daniel 1:8. Make time to deepen your walk with Jesus and grow in conviction as you face the pressures and decisions of young adulthood.

The registration fee is ₱5,000. Rising fuel and venue costs have made retreats more expensive, while many young adults are beginning their careers with limited resources. Our NextGen Ministry is praying to raise ₱120,000 to help subsidize the participation of around 80 young adults, with assistance extended according to their needs.

We praise God for those who responded generously last Sunday, giving a total of ₱21,500 toward this need. Thank you for helping our young adults grow in Christ. If the Lord gives you a burden to help, you may contribute any amount at the NextGen Ministry table outside the auditorium.

Let us love wisely, give willingly, and help others follow Jesus, from our community to the nations, for His glory.✱

PARSON
TO PERSON

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