GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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GCF SOUTH METRO CHURCH

SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #27

THE INNOCENT KING WE MUST FOLLOW

LUKE 23:1-25 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

In Luke 22, Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples and then prayed on the Mount of Olives, submitting to the Father's will. After Judas betrayed Him, He was arrested, mocked, and beaten. At daybreak, the religious council questioned Him, and He affirmed His identity as the Christ and the Son of God.

The religious leaders charged Jesus with misleading the nation, forbidding payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king. These accusations were intended to persuade the Roman governor to act against Him. Pilate asked Jesus whether He was the King of the Jews. Jesus answered, "You have said so." He did not deny His kingship, but neither did He admit to the rebellion His accusers alleged. Pilate then announced that he found no guilt in Jesus. Upon learning that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, Pilate sent Him to Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee and Perea, who was also in Jerusalem. (Luke 23:1–7)

Herod questioned Him at length, but Jesus gave no answer. Herod and his soldiers then treated Jesus with contempt. They mocked Him by dressing Him in splendid clothing as though He were a king, then sent Him back to Pilate. These rulers became friends that day, although they had previously been enemies. Jesus was despised even though He was innocent. (Luke 23:8–12)

Pilate had found Jesus guilty of none of their charges. Nevertheless, Pilate proposed punishing Jesus before releasing Him. The gathered crowd rejected his proposal. They demanded that Jesus be taken away and Barabbas released. Barabbas had been imprisoned for insurrection and murder. Despite these declarations, the crowd continued demanding His crucifixion, and their voices prevailed. The guilty man was released, while the innocent King was condemned to die on the cross. (Luke 23:13–25)

The innocent King is the sinless Savior who bears our condemnation. The purpose of this sermon is to assure us that Jesus is the innocent Savior who bears our condemnation, so that we can trust Him as our Savior and acknowledge Him as our King. ❋

FOLLOWING JESUS: PRAYING AND PREPARING FOR HIS MISSION

REV. LITO VILLORIA

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." – Philippians 4:6

Last Wednesday, the Lord reminded me through this passage that prayer with thanksgiving expresses our dependence on God amid anxiety. Paul encouraged the Philippian believers to bring their specific needs before God while remembering His grace and faithful care. God's peace would guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus as they entrusted their concerns to Him.

This challenges us as a church to depend on God as we prepare for another year of ministry. Planning, choosing leaders, and providing for ministry require wisdom and responsible action. Through prayer, we acknowledge our dependence on God for the direction, people, and resources we need.

Our Pastoral Staff, together with the elders and deacons, are preparing our 2027 Annual Ministry Plans and Budget (AMPB). During Missions Month, our theme, "Following Jesus: From Our Community to the Nations," reminds us of the purpose behind this work. Every ministry plan and budget allocation should help us fulfill our calling to make disciples who follow Jesus, disciple others, and participate in the multiplication of disciples.

Four priorities guide our preparation for 2027:

1. Clarify and strengthen our disciplemaking and multiplication pathway: helping every member understand how to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and participate in spiritual multiplication.
2. Develop a churchwide culture of biblical prayer: equipping members to pray biblically, consistently, and dependently.
3. Equip members for missional discipleship in every sphere: including their families, workplaces, schools, and communities.
4. Strengthen next generation formation and leadership development: including a proposed NextGen Ministry Internship Program to mentor and equip younger leaders for ministry.

Please pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment as our leaders identify needs, establish goals, and steward the resources God entrusts to us. Ask the Lord to keep our plans centered on Christ and directed toward His mission.

The nomination period for our 2027 Board of Elders and Board of Deacons continues until October 25. Please prayerfully consider biblically qualified members and discuss prospective nominations with your Growth Group Mentor for affirmation and endorsement. Pray also for the Nomination Committee. Our Annual Business Meeting on December 6, after the second service, will include approval of the proposed AMPB and the election and affirmation of elders and deacons.

Investing in our young adults helps prepare people for God's mission. Today is the last day to register for the YA Crossroad Weekend, October 31 to November 2 at Rizal Recreation Center. Its theme, "Uncompromised: Standing Faithful in a Swaying World," anchored in Daniel 1:8, will encourage young adults to follow Jesus faithfully amid life's pressures and decisions.

The registration fee is ₱5,000. Young adults, please register today and tell the NextGen Ministry team what amount you can afford, so they can assess the assistance needed. If God places a burden on your heart to support our young adults, please consider giving whatever amount you can. You may register or give at the NextGen Ministry table outside the auditorium.

Our participation in God's mission also includes caring for people in need. Today, we celebrate the official launch of the GCF South Metro Ministries Foundation, Inc., officially incorporated with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 6, 2025. Through compassionate care and sustainable community programs, the Foundation seeks to help vulnerable individuals, families, and communities experience Christ's love, come to know Him, and grow as His disciples.

Please visit the Foundation's booth outside and pick up a brochure to learn more about its mission, vision, and programs. Pray for God's guidance and provision, and consider how you can participate in this ministry.

Let us bring these needs before God with thanksgiving, remembering His faithfulness as we pray, prepare, and participate in His mission. ❋

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