



NEWSLETTER
July 10, 2022

Tears Can Change You

IN 2007, I met my financial mentor, Edward Lee.

He's a very successful business owner and one of the most successful stock market investors in the country. He changed my financial life.

But surprisingly, he taught me a crucial lesson on parenting.

He told me, "Bo, I failed in school all my life. People called me dumb. And I never finished college..."

"It must have been very difficult for your parents," I said.

"I gave them hell. I caused them so much heartache."

I asked, "Did you get scolded a lot?"

"They never scolded me. They never shouted at me. My parents just cried in front of me. Over and over."

"And they said, 'Edward, you're not dumb. You can do it.'"

"Not once did they say, 'You're stupid,' or 'You're hopeless.'"

"All I saw were their tears and their belief in me. Looking back, I believe that the most important ingredient for my success was the unconditional love of my parents."

Today, as we look at the story of Noah, we'll see this powerful truth.

Have a life-changing Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez





LETTERS

‘Happiness Is a Choice’

THAT’S a popular quote from Aeschylus, ancient Greek playwright, known as the Father of Tragedy. The complete quote is “Happiness is a choice that requires effort at times.” Yes, this dramatist known for tragic, sad plays told us amid life’s difficulties, we can choose to be happy, make an effort to be joyful.



Fr. Ryan Barrios said in his homily in last Sunday’s Feast Mass that he complained over the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic--but he realized he is a missionary and missionaries are always on a mission and thus can choose to be happy as they minister to the people God called them to serve, *page 3*.



Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, said even Jesus wept over the way people sin and destroy themselves.

But, he pointed out, tears can lead to happiness.

That’s the key message of today’s Feast, *page 1*.

Last Sunday Feast, Bro. Bo and Bro. Audie Villaraza continued our series, *Blessing and Curse*. And pointed out we can choose to be happy with our blessings, *pages 11-30*.

Speaking of blessings, staff serving in our Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Ministry deal with trials of people who

come to them outpouring their burdens. That’s sad. But our pastoral carers have chosen to be happy they are able to lead the people they take care of toward, yes, happiness. Since this Ministry deals with sensitive sharings, we use pseudonyms, and no photos, except for illustrative images, *pages 31-35*.

Although this issue may be dealing with messages that will make you cry, we have a balm for all of us: A separate fun *Birthday Special* for Bro. Bo who celebrates his 56th birthday on July 11.

Happy, Happy Birthday, Bro Bo!

Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

JULY 3, 2022

Holy Mass



FR. RYAN BARRIOS

On the Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

Excerpts...

IT is said that one thing we are good at is complaining—including me. Especially at the start of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, I was really complaining-- because things became more difficult.

I'm working with the school in our Archdiocese-- six Parochial schools--and on the first academic year last 2020, almost 40% of our students left us and the financial stability of the school was being threatened. That's why I was complaining already.

To the point that somehow, I wanted to suggest to my superior, "Let's close the school already."

Disciples Are Always On a Mission

Upon reflection, I realized that the school is not a business for us. We established the school for the mission of Christ. In a most difficult situation, the more that we are needed to be there, because when you're in a mission, when your life is too comfortable, you're not in a mission anymore.

Missionary works are needed in the most difficult and challenging situations.

That's why I said, "The more that we are needed, the more that we try to survive this Pandemic because people need us. People need us to form the children despite the limitations that we are encountering in Education.

And I think a lot of us are fond also of complaining. But we forget that we are on a mission-- because every time that we are asked, "Do you believe in Christ?"

We loudly say, "Yes, we believe in Christ."

And when we are believers of Christ, we are disciples of Christ, and the disciple of Christ is always on a mission.

That's why when we stop thinking and believing that we are disciples of Christ, when we distance ourselves from Christ, we start complaining. We start complaining about challenges, difficulties of life.

That's why, my dear brothers and sisters, today, the Lord is reminding us what we should put in our mind: that we are in mission.

Christ sent His disciples pair by pair-- not alone-- because Christ is reminding us that to do His mission, we should be a witness of one another. Because when there is a witness in the mission that we are doing, we remain humble, and there will be somebody who will remind us to stay on ground.

Reading I: Isaiah 66:10-14c

...¹² For thus says the LORD: Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent. As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, and fondled in her lap;¹³ as a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem, you shall find your comfort.^{14C} When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the LORD's power shall be known to his servants.





We Are Witnesses of One Another

When we do our mission, we do it not to compete with or outdo one another. Spreading the Gospel of Christ is not a competition with fellow believers of Christ. We should complement, we should help. We should share our talents, our resources, so that we can reach more people and bring them closer to Christ.

Sometimes, that is the problem for us, in the community, even in parishes. We tend to compete—who will sit near the priest, who will be the first one to approach Bro. Bo Sanchez. That's why when we have a picture with the priest or Bro. Bo, it's like every day you'll post it on your My Day. It's like you'll be good because of that picture.

Being a disciple of Christ is not that way. We become witnesses of one another. We become brothers and sisters of also those working in the harvest that the Lord is inviting us to be His laborers.

The Lord is also reminding us what makes us secure as disciples of Christ. During this Pandemic, this is our main concern—security. “Wala na akong pera, paano ang trabaho ko, paano ang negosyo.—I don't have money anymore. What will happen to my business?”

But the reason the Lord is reminding His disciples, “Don't bring anything except my Word,” is the Word of Christ tells us that He Himself is enough.

When we are doing the mission of Christ, Christ Himself is enough. Christ will provide our needs. Kasi hindi ka pababayaang ng Diyos kapag alam niyang gumagawa ka ng mga bagay para sa Kanya.—God will not abandon you if He knows what you're doing is for Him. He will sustain you.

This was one of my main concerns during the beginning of the Pandemic. I was worried for my personal needs. At the start of the Pandemic, I had sleepless nights already.

But there were some instances that the Lord would remind me, “Why are you worried?”

Suddenly, He would provide during the most unexpected time.

Reading II: Galatians 6:14-18

Brothers and sisters:¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.¹⁵...

¹⁶ Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God.¹⁷ From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.





Real Happiness

True enough, during the Pandemic, surprisingly, there have been a lot of incidents, when grace and blessings come to us. Unexpectedly, in times that we are really in need, *mayroong dumadating na tulong*—Help arrives. Especially when we become more prayerful, more deep in our faith.

My dear brothers and sisters, when we do the mission of Christ, nothing should worry us. He will provide our needs because we're doing the works of Christ.

And lastly, in the Gospel we heard, the disciples were sent by pairs and they came back rejoicing because they saw that God was really with them during their mission.

My dear brothers and sisters, the source of joy and happiness is Christ. And we can recognize that when we also recognize that we are missionaries of Christ, disciples of Christ.

Somebody asked me, “Father, are you happy with your assignment—especially during this Pandemic, with so many problems?”

I said, “Lalo nga ako ngayong lumaki. The more I grew big. Because I was testing if I had the COVID symptoms, like losing your sense of taste. So, kain ako ng kain – I ate and ate-- to see if I still had sense of taste.”

That question about if I was happy, I said, “When I was a young and newly ordained priest, I tended to plan my future as a priest. But when I was assigned in a school, I realized that my personal happiness is secondary because I'll be truly happy if I make Christ happy. And I think as we live as missionaries of Christ, believers of Christ, doing the missions of Christ— real happiness will be achieved when we make Christ, God, happy.

Sometimes we question why everything is already with us-- we have achieved so many things-- but we are not yet happy. Maybe God is not happy. Maybe our life is not really in accordance with the will of God.

My dear brothers and sisters, as we continue this celebration, let us seek God's grace as we continue to remind our self that we live our life here on Earth as His disciples doing His mission, spreading His Gospel. That's why we continue to be witnesses of Christ, brothers and sisters, fellow believers in Christ, who complement in the Gospel of Christ.

Let the Lord secure us and assure us—let's rely on God for our security because at the end of the day, that is what we should seek for and by seeking that, that's how we achieve real happiness. Amen.



Worship!

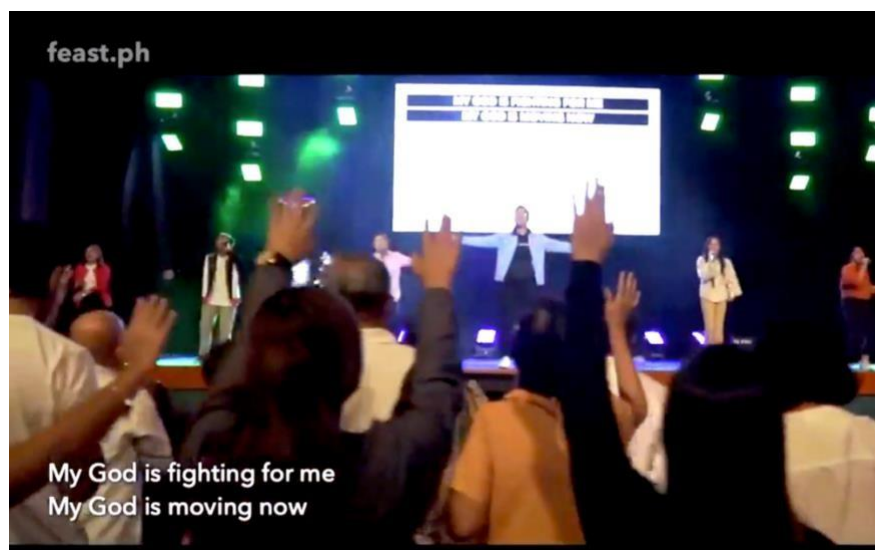
EXHORTATION

AUDEE VILLARAZA: We are at half time of the year. We are in July. July is also the time when some of us are struggling. We started out in the year with high hopes and good plans, good dreams. But some of those we don't actually see.

And it's usually in half-time when we're tired. I want to speak about that for a few moments. I call that the middle place. The middle place is not really an easy place. Because it's a place you don't know what happens next, and you're struggling, you're waiting for something. And it's not yet happening. That's the middle place. Some of you might be in the middle place right now—I don't know-- between healing and sickness, or in between jobs, or in between relationships, or in between a hard place and a good place-- and you don't know how to operate. But let me encourage you right now.

The middle place may be a hard place. But the middle place is also a place of grace. Because Jesus stood in the middle. He stood between a place where He was human and He was God. He stood between good people and bad people. He stood between two thieves—a good man and not a good man.

And I'm telling you, Your help might not come from the person beside you. But that's okay. We look up because that's because that's where our help comes from. From Jesus up above-- and Jesus is the Lord of all. He is King over everything and whatever you are going through, I want you to celebrate today as though you've already won. Let's sing that:



EXHORTATION

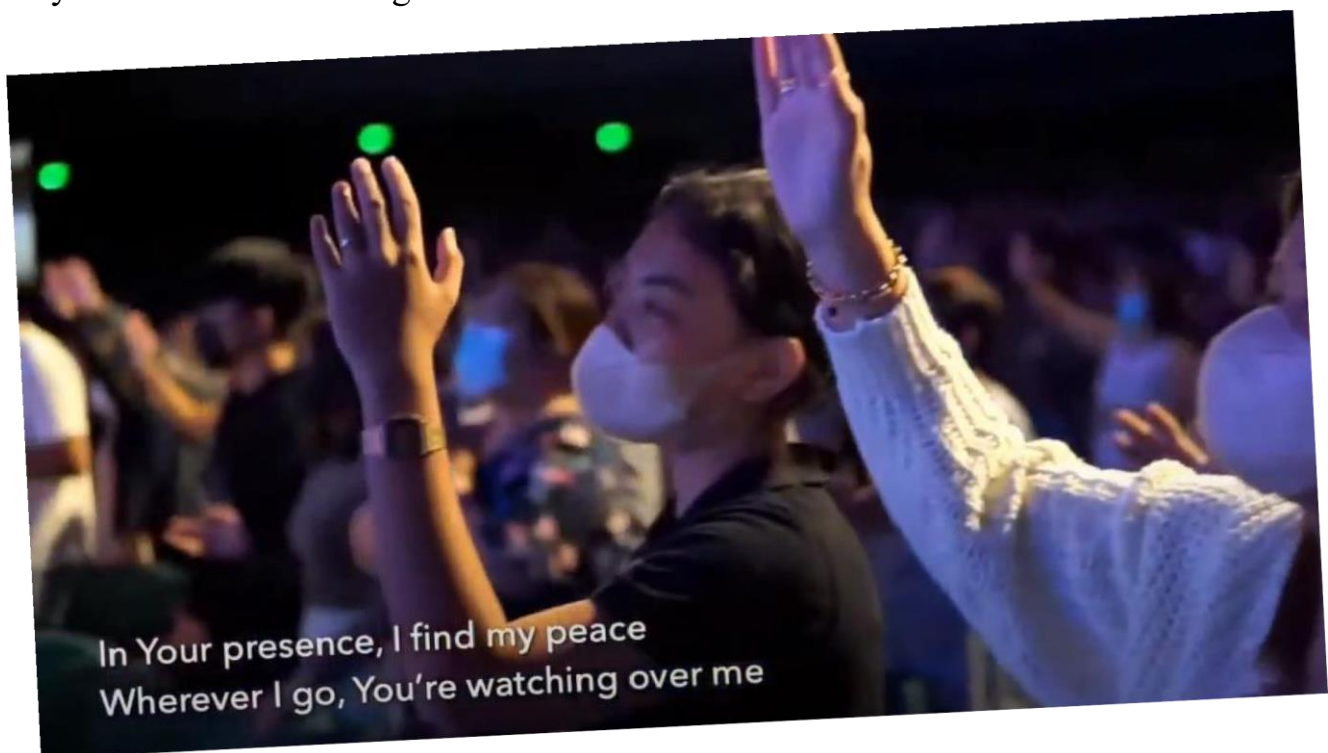
ZACH PE: Brothers and sisters, I may not know why you're here or what brought you here, but God knows.

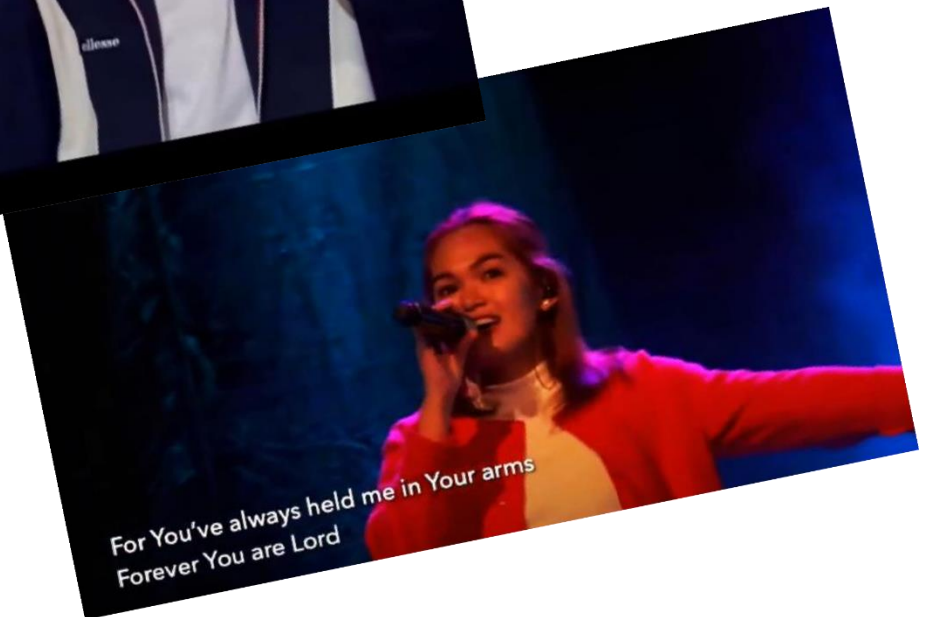
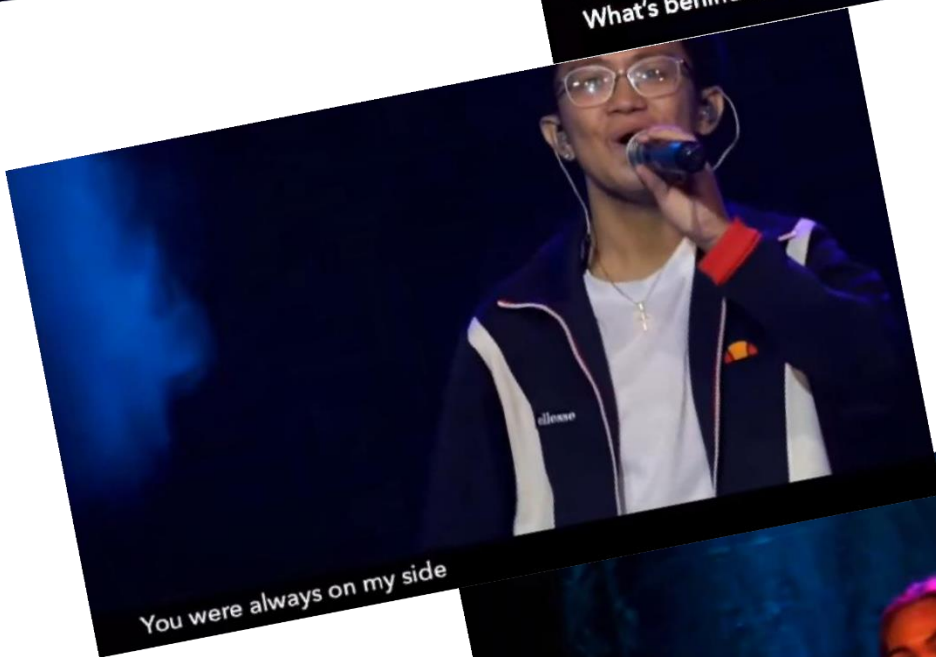
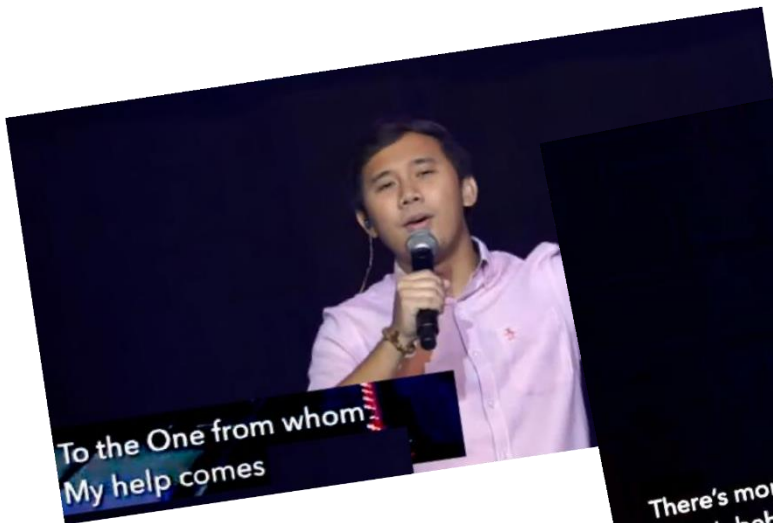
So, I invite you to lift your hands to God as we continue to worship Him.

Almighty Father, we come to You today, we surrender to You. You know our challenges. You know our struggles. You know our fears. You know our baggage.

Lord God, as we sing to You today, as we worship You today, we'll lift our eyes, our heart to You. We'll lift this song as we lift together our struggles, all of our fears to You.

Brothers and sisters, worship God like never before, like it's Your first time. It's just between you and Him as we sing...





Welcome!

Welcome, Everyone! We're going to learn a beautiful message from Scripture. We're studying the book of *Genesis* and we prepared a fantastic, incredible message.

I want to see some important people. We are starting this month with a bang. So, I want to acknowledge all those who are celebrating their birthday. Our founder of our Community is celebrating his birthday this month, so you are blessed that you are sharing your birthday with none other than Bro. Bo Sanchez!

We want to pray for all our birthday celebrators:

Father in Heaven, we join our hearts to declare abundance over the life of these persons and we truly believe Lord that their names are already written in Heaven. Their names are already mentioned in rooms that their feet have not yet entered in and you've got a blessing already with their name on it. They just need to walk into that blessing. We declare provision, we declare healing, we declare direction, we declare Your love abounding in their life. Set them free and set in motion the plan that you have prepared in their life. Bless them so much, oh God, pour out Your Heaven over their life that they will have no other option but to share those blessings to everyone around them.

All of this we pray, in the most holy Name of Jesus, Amen.

Happy Birthday to you all!



Talk



Talk 1



BO SANCHEZ: Today I want to preach on the message *Step On the Serpent*.

I have a story I'd like to share with you from the Jurassic era of my life.

When I was in Grade 6, I had a classmate—his name was Ariel. And you see, for some reason, there were only 4 guys in our class of 40. So, Ariel and I became friends. But immediately, I knew that he had lots of stuff that I didn't have.

The first one – the most obvious one—was that he was very, very intelligent. His grades were like rocketships. They danced up to the stars. Mine were submarines. They dove to the depths of the murky waters and darkness.

Second, he was a star athlete. I mean—basketball, football, baseball—ang galing-galing niya.—he was very good. Me... never mind.

You know, there was one time, I was playing Jackstone.

So, imagine: I am sitting on the floor, and of course, I am losing. And then Ariel comes, sits down-- oh my gosh, star player in Jackstone! Do you remember the exhibition part? You're supposed to have three loops—this guy has eight! Olympic-level Jackstone exhibition.

Unfair!

Oh, by the way, of course, guapo— handsome. I mean Ariel was *guapo*. Remember, 36 girls, 4 guys – so, he had a fans club of girls following him. I mean, at that time, I did not know what that meant-- *at that time*.

Anyway, I kind comforted myself. You know, this guy may be brainy, this guy may be athletic...But I had one skill-- and I was proud of it. I knew how to draw. Like, Science notebook, Math notebook-- whatever notebook I had, half of them were filled with drawings. I loved drawing and I knew I was a good illustrator.

Now, there was this one day, our Homeroom teacher, she had an activity for us. She wrote each of our names on pieces of paper, gathered the pieces, put them in a box. We were supposed to pick one-- and then, on the spot, create a greeting card for that person.

And I said, “Hah, yes, my territory. I’m good here.”

So, I drew my greeting card for my classmate, and I remember, it was Superman.

Then it was time to give our greeting cards to each other. And lo, and behold, you know who picked my name? Ariel!

Of course. He comes to me, gives to me his card, and my jaw dropped. The card looked like Hallmark. I mean, he drew this luxury ship – with the etching and shadows, and the color combination, and then calligraphy – professional-level calligraphy. You know what he wrote? This:

*I like red ships, I like blue ships,
but most of all, I like friendship.*

—Ariel.

You know, after that, I went to God and said, “Lord, naman, o. Why are You so unfair? You gave him so many talents, you did not give me one. Well, I have a little—drawing-- but look, he is ten times better than me. Lord, why?”



Two Phases of Envy

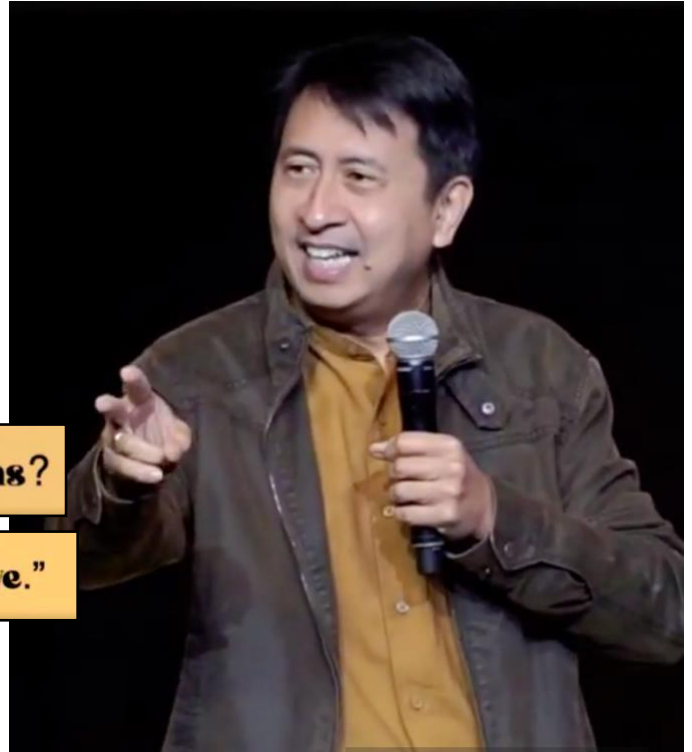
I want you to know that I was envious of Ariel. But thanks be to God that it did not go into malevolence, intense hatred. I mean, I did not wish him evil, or bad stuff, because as I grew up, I realized that envy has two phases.

1ST PHASE

‘Why don’t I have what he has?’

2ND PHASE

“He shouldn’t have what I don’t have.”



And that’s when you start pulling him down. That’s when you judge. That’s when you criticize. That’s when you wish him ill.

We’re going to read the story of someone who experienced that. And I have learned in life *now*, the ways to combat the evil of envy :

No. 1:

CELEBRATE THEIR ABUNDANCE.

No. 2:

TRUST IN GOD.

Trust in God that I too will discover the abundance in my life.

To be able to trust in God—that is very important.

My experience, looking back, I really believe that Ariel challenged me—challenged me to discover my own gifts. They’re there – I didn’t just see them, but they’re there. So, all my academic life—I want you to know, be honest with you—that my grades remained submarines. But I discovered that my communication gifts were like rocketships. I discovered that later in my life.

That’s my challenge to you.

This is not part of the talk but I just want to encourage you: If you’ve not yet discovered your rocketship, you will.

Sin Has Its Consequences



Last week, we were reading about God creating this good world, and then He creates human beings, and then He says, “I want you to partner with Me and to rule this world.”

We, human beings, decided to partner with the Serpent. That’s what happened...

So, we pick up from there.

Sin has its consequences. Sin creates problems. That’s what happens. Sin brings death. When the human beings partnered with the Serpent, God had to do something. And this is the first thing that He did:

Genesis 3:15 NLT

“And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

GOD PROMISES THAT A CHAMPION WILL STEP ON THE SERPENT.

This is a promise: that a Victor will come, and this Victor will crush the head of the Serpent. And this Victor will come from human offspring. Who will this Victor be? This is Genesis 3, spoken to the Serpent. Could it be the children of Adam and Eve? Could it be their eldest, their firstborn? What’s his name? Spoiler alert: No, he was not: Let’s read:

Genesis 4: 1-5 NLT

Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the Lord’s help, I have produced a man!”² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

Genesis 4: 1-5 NLT

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord.

Genesis 4: 1-5 NLT

⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift,⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

The Lord accepts one gift. He did not accept the other.

The Focus: Cain's Reaction

The Lord accepted Abel and his gift. But he did not accept Cain and his gift. Why? We can only guess. We're not sure of this but this might be the reason that Abel gave the best from his flock but there was no mention of Cain giving his best.

So, maybe... we're not sure, and the author does not make it clear. Why? Because that's not his focus. The focus is not on the reason for the rejection but on the response of Cain for the rejection.



THE AUTHOR WASN'T TOO FOCUSED ON THE REASON FOR CAIN'S REJECTION BUT CAIN'S RESPONSE TO THE REJECTION.

How did Cain respond to this rejection? It says here:

Genesis 4: 5 NLT This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

Could there have been a better reaction? You see someone blessed—Abel's offering was accepted. God blessed Abel. I look at that, my offering was not blessed. Is there a better reaction than "Unfair!" Rage and sadness.

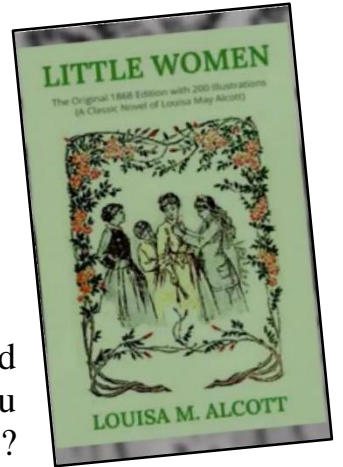
How about this reaction: "Abel, ang galling mo naman.-- You're so good. I'm so happy for you. God accepted you. Turuan mo naman ako—Teach me how you did it."

Would that be a better reaction? Yes. But did Cain respond in that way? No. But the key is this: When you see someone blessed, what you want to do is celebrate his abundance. That's what you want to do. And then you trust in God that your abundance is coming. Amen.



Familiar Story

But the story is so familiar. Does this story remind you of Thor and Loki? Marvel fans.



Or-- if you're like me, with two boys, growing up, we watched thousands of Disney movies—Does this remind you of Scar and Mufasa?

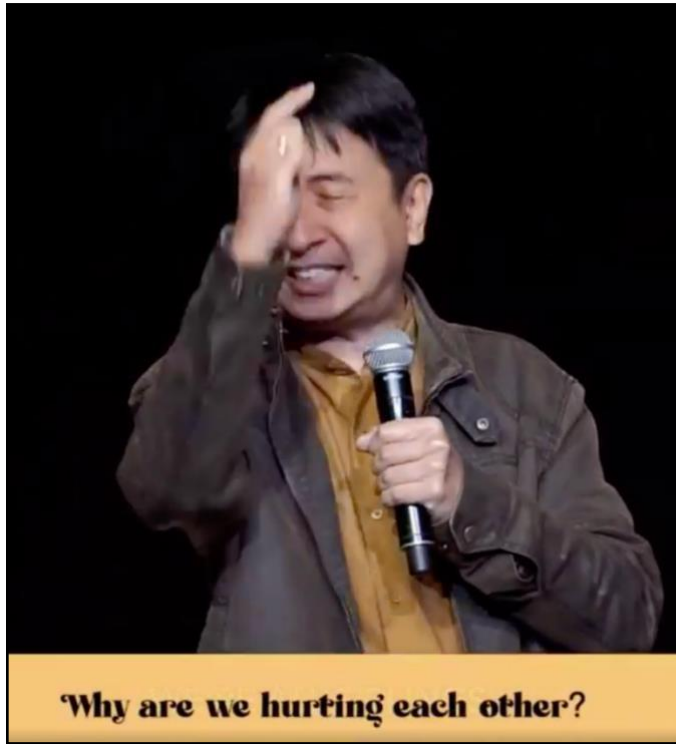
Or-- some of you, you read lots of books— Do you remember *Little Women*?

The point is this: In the Bible, sibling rivalry is so real. And why? Because that's our reality. The story of Cain and Abel was just the beginning. You've got so many other rivalries between brothers. From Isaac, to Ishmael, and from Esau vs. Jacob, and then Joseph vs. his bothers, and then David vs. his brothers—on and on.

And it doesn't even have to be blood brothers. Think about our media or literature, our novels, and movies. Go back to superheroes: Professor X vs. Magnito; Spiderman vs. his best friend Harry; or Captain America vs. Bucky.



Here: Do you know that DC says Clark Kent and Lex Luther were childhood friends?



Our Reality

Why would even fiction talk about those rivalries? Because that's who we are. That's our reality. That we've got best friends, we've got close friends ... Why do we keep on hurting each other? You know, when you really think about it,

WE'RE ALL SIBLINGS.

We're all one big family.
And yet why do we keep
on hurting each other?

It's this:

ENVY

We envy our sibling. We envy our neighbor. We envy our officemate. We envy our classmate. We envy the person, the stranger who sits in front of the bus, right there in front of us—if he looks taller, if he's better dressed, if he's more guapo, if he's happier—we envy him.

Beneath envy is really emptiness. And you know the funny thing about that – yes, insecurity and all of that. The crazy thing is this: we don't want to admit we're envious. Actually, when we're envious, we clothe our envy with anger.

**BENEATH ENVY
IS EMPTINESS.**

ENVY COMES CLOTHED WITH ANGER.

The reason is if you're going to acknowledge that you're envious, you're acknowledging that you're being petty. And so, we clothe it with anger, and it comes out as annoyance. It comes out as, “Ang yabang-yabang niya. –He is very, very boastful.”

And so today, we're going to keep on reading. Audee is going to read a story and you are going to see how God will respond to Cain.

Sin Grows Roots

AUDEE VILLARAZA: Talking about the sin of envy. I want to talk to you about this topic of sin for the next few moments.

Sin... probably I don't even need to preach this. Because you know that sin is dangerous. Sin is bad. But you know one thing about sin is that you leave it in your life long enough for it to grow roots. It will steal, kill, and destroy everything that you hold dear. I mean, it's going to kill your relationships. It's going to destroy your good habits. It's going to steal your resources.

That's what sin does. Because ultimately, what sin wants to do is to consume your soul. It wants to destroy your soul. Something so powerful that God said to Cain:



Genesis 4:6-7 NLT

"Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out!"

Genesis 4:6-7 NLT

Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

God says if you refuse to do what is right, guess what: You have the power to choose not to do what's right. You've got the option to do what's not right. Why? Because of free will. But free will comes with certain responsibilities.

Bro. Bo talking about Marvel movies: In the film *Spiderman*, what did Uncle Ben tell Peter Parker? "With great power comes great responsibility."

I said that one time and then somebody told me, "With great power comes a high electricity bill."



Warning

With great power comes great responsibility. That's why there is a warning. If you refuse to do what is right, then watch out. God says a warning: Sin is *crouching at the door*-- waiting to pounce on you like a predator to its prey.

You want to know what creature likes to crouch? Likes to crawl? Like to slither? The Serpent.

The author of *Genesis* is actually pointing us all the way back to the story of man—to the Fall of man, to the story of Creation, to the first time Adam and Eve sinned. So, there's this hyperlink happening here. The author is pointing us to the time when original sin was committed.

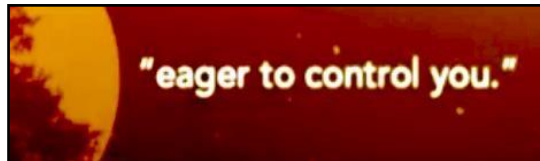
You know, I was thinking just a while ago at the backstage, if Adam and Eve's sin is called original sin, what do we call our sin? Is it fake sin? Pirated sin? Phony sin? I don't know. I'm just sharing with you my raw thoughts, okay?



**How do you know
if sin is controlling you?**

When Sin Becomes Normal

God says this: Sin, it's crouching at the door, it's



It wants to dominate you—to rule over your life. It wants to pin you down into submission.

Question: How do you know when sin has already dominated you? When sin is already in control of your life?

Very simple answer—this is not my personal opinion: sin is already in control of your life when it has become normal. It's become, you know, second nature to you. You don't worry about it anymore. You do the simple act and then you take a good rest. You do the simple deed and then you go watch a movie, you go on a date.

That's when you know that sin has penetrated in your life. When lying has become normal. When stealing has become normal. When cheating has become normal. When corruption has become normal. That's when you know that sin has grown in your life. You're not even bothered by it anymore.

You know what? This is a dangerous place to be in. This is a very deadly place to be in. I believe this: Once sin takes root in your life—you know what, the Devil doesn't have to do anything after that. Because all he needs to do is watch you grow that sin, grow more roots.

That's why I believe this: That corrupt people, they don't need enemies anymore. Why? Because their greatest enemies are themselves.

Corrupt people will end up destroying themselves.

That's why we got to talk about sin. Because it's damaging our families. It's damaging our relationships.

Battle with Sin

Make no mistake: Adam and Eve, they fought with sin. You know what that tells me? We are forever destined to fight with sin. We're destined to battle with sin. But the battle against sin is not the way we look at it.

Some of us, whenever we look at battles – we look at a battle as a one-time event. Whenever a battle is done, the war is done. Yeah, we're victorious. We praise God.

But I want you to know this: that God looks at victory in a different way. He looks at the definition of victory in a very different way. Let me explain this through an example.

How many of you recently celebrated the win of the Golden State Warriors in the National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals? I love the Golden State Warriors. Since 2015, I've followed them. I have one rule in my home, one simple rule: every time there's an NBA Finals, nobody is allowed to talk to me for two hours.

And so, recently, the Warriors won. They are the 2022-2023 NBA champions! And we all celebrated!

But it wasn't always like that. Early on, they lost to the Toronto Raptors. And then, they lost one of their star players, Kevin Durant, to the Brooklyn Nets. And then they also lost Klay Thompson, one of their key players, to injury.

Then 2020, they also lost. So, their bashers were saying, "We're never gonna see the Warriors in an NBA Finals. The dynasty is dead."

So, imagine the victory of this team!



What You Become

Sometimes, you realize the truth that with winners, there will always be haters. That's what the Golden State Warriors experienced. So, when they won, it was such a sweet victory.

But then a few days later, I was reading in social media, some of the guys—and I'm not talking about random guys, I'm talking about the lead, key players—they started talking back at the people who talked against them. They were trash-talking people, in spite of their win. And-- this is just my personal opinion—you can disagree with me, I can handle that, that's fine. But I truly believe this: They won the championship. But at some point, I felt like, they also lost. Why? Because of their attitude.

Because the victory that God wants for us is not just an external victory. It's an internal victory. God wants to win *within*.

One other example.

I watched this movie, a few months ago, titled *American Underdog*. This is a true-to-life story about a guy named Kurt Warner.

All his life Kurt wanted to play in the NFL – the National Football League. He wanted to go pro. And ever since he was young, he had the skills, he was big, he was strong, he was fast, he had the talent to do it. But for some reason he just could not catch a break.

He had a good life, by the way—good relationship, he was loved by his wife, he had a good livelihood. But every time he would look at the mirror, he saw himself as a failure. Because he wasn't at the NFL. That was his dream. Until there was this beautiful conversation between him and his coach played by Dennis Quaid.

The coach said, “Kurt, all your life you've been trying to measure your success based on your achievements—on what you did right, your dream. And just because you're not in the NFL, you feel like you've failed in life.”

And then he said these words that I will never forget. He said:

***“Life is not about what you achieve. It's about what you become.
Life is a journey. Not an event.”
– American Underdog –***



Transformation

Life is a journey. It's not an event. And I hope I can speak this to somebody here today to know the truth that the victory that God wants you to have is not a one-time event. But it's a process. If you win the victory, but you remain vengeful, and sinful, and bitter, guess what: you really did not win anything. If you passed the test, but you cheated your way to that test, guess what: you didn't really win anything, did you? If you get the girl, or you get the guy, but you lied your way to that relationship, you didn't really win anything. If you got the promotion but you bribed your way up on the corporate ladder, and you stepped over a dozen people, you didn't win anything.



Because the victory that God wants you to win in your life is not just a one-time event. Praise God, for the victory He wins for us.

The victory—and this is the way God will handle sin—is called transformation. It's a life-long process where God is changing you and changing me, and changing him, and changing her to become more and more like Jesus.

So, imagine: If there's this personal transformation happening in all of us. We're conquering sin deep within because God wants to win within. That's how God will win the victory against sin: If He wins in you.

But you know. sadly, in the story that we're studying about Cain and Abel, Cain did not win the victory—that is, not within. He won the external victory over his brother. He was envious but he won. But deep within, he lost. Cain lost this battle.

Let's read in Genesis 4:

Genesis 4:8 NLT

One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

Quick lesson: Sin will not always be packaged in a scary way. The enemy is very clever and cunning. You know how he will package sin? It's something very attractive. It's not scary like, you know, horror movies. No.

Moving Forward

Sin will come in your life in the form of, sometimes, a brother. Friendly brother. But that brother has evil intentions. It will come, sometimes, in the form of a sister with a seemingly friendly invitation.

So, what can we learn from here?

First, how do we respond to things like that? You have to acknowledge the truth that hey, we live in a broken world-- the people around you are broken. Each of us have been hurt in one way or another.

So, we acknowledge the truth that hey, we have been hurt.

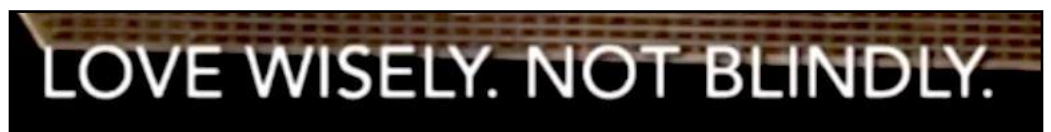
And we know the wisdom: Hurt people hurt people. So, if you have been on the receiving side of hurt, I want you to think about this...

If you've been hurt, first thing, I want you to discern: "In my hurt, am I also hurting others?"

You might be in the receiving side of hurt, but you might also be on the giving side of hurt. But if you feel like-- in a genuine way-- that you did not do anything to earn that hurt, what you do is just surrender that hurt to the Lord. Let God heal you. You receive His mercy. And then you ask God to teach you how to forgive. Because my friends, forgiveness is the only way you can move forward.

So, here's my advice: Love people. Yes. Love people. But love them wisely, noy blindly, okay?

You love wisely. Entertain people in your life. But don't just give your heart to the next person that you see. This is advice for all the single people.





Generational Sin

What happens next in the story: After Cain killed Abel, God punished Cain, as we read in Verses 11-12 (*below*).

What was happening here? Cain actually condemned his future. But not only that. Cain actually cursed the next generation.

And in life that happens. We call this generational sin. We pass the sin from one generation to the next generation, to the next generation... That's why there are families that are so dysfunctional because it's like:

“Lolo cheated on Lola, and now Daddy cheated on Mom. And now I'm destined to cheat against my wife.”

Genesis 4:11-12 NLT

“No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

Genesis 4:11-12 NLT

“Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood.”

But hey, it's not a destiny. It's choice. It's a decision that you make. I want you to challenge yourself, starting today, that as you might have received a curse or something from your past, from your family-- that you had been taught over the years-- I want you to be the kind of Christ Follower that over that timeline, you will be the first person to say:

*“It ends with me. The sin stops with me.
I'm not going to pass it to my children.
I'm not going to pass it to my sibling.
I'm not even going pass it to my friends.*

Because the sin stops with me.”



Two Choices

That's right. Because you've got a choice. Two choices actually: 1. Either you step on the Serpent-- you kill the sin completely; 2. Or you live long enough to actually become the Serpent. Either you step on the sin, on the Serpent, or eventually, if you don't, you become that Serpent.

We've learned about two of the children of Adam and Eve. By the way, Adam and Eve did the sin. So, sin followed the children.

But the author is actually giving us a surprise. Because this doesn't end with Cain and Abel. There's actually a third child.

The number 3 is very significant in the Bible. We preached about this when we studied the book of *Jonah*—how the number 3 signifies New Life. The Third Day is a symbol of New Life.

Abraham walked on the mountain—to Mt. Moriah. Because God told him to sacrifice there his one and only son, Isaac. And imagine, if you're a parent, sacrificing your only son, your only child. But then at the foot of Mt. Moriah, an angel stopped Abraham—just before he could do the deed. When was that? Three days later. Abraham experienced New Life.

Noah also experienced New Life. He and his family were the only survivors from this Great Flood. But then because they were in the midst of a water world, Noah had to search for dry land. He sent a bird to look for a dry land. Few days later, the bird came back. No dry land. After a few days—seven days—Noah sent another bird and again, that bird came back. But the third time, he sent that bird out, the bird never came back. So, Noah experienced New Life.

But if there is a person whom we look to the most, who symbolizes the Number 3, He has to be Jesus Himself. Jesus was buried dead in a tomb—back then, people were mourning. Jesus awoke from His death. He was raised to life. When? Three days later. New Life.

And I'm praying that God would breathe New Life in that old breath of yours. He would replace your old dreams with God's dreams.

The Third Child



In the story, we hear about two children—Cain and Abel. Adam and Eve already failed. Can you imagine your kid killing his brother?

Thank God—that He is not finished yet. Because there was a third child. The third child named Seth. In the Hebrew language, the word *seth* means *anointed* or *placed*—not by accident, but by Divine Appointment.

In Genesis 5:3, the author says Seth was so much like his dad Adam.

Genesis 5:3 NLT

When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son who was just like him – in his very image. He named him Seth.

So, you see, down the timeline, if you can imagine this: You got Cain, you got Abel, you got Seth. And you failed with the first two. You failed miserably. But then there is a third child. What is the message in all of this? You might be buried in some sin, and some struggle, and in some difficulties, and some challenges in your life. And God knows you are trying... You try to get rid of that pornography or substance addiction. You're trying to get rid of that infidelity. But you keep on failing, you keep on backsliding.

But here's the message of hope: that in this kind of life – of Cain and Abel, of failure after failure, after failure-- something significant happens.

Because in the Bible, in the book of *Genesis*, nothing much is mentioned about Seth. You don't hear a lot about Seth. But Seth plays a very vital role.

Remember the time when God promised a Champion to the world?

God said "I will send you a Champion who will crush the head of the Serpent. That Champion was not Cain. It was not Abel. It was not even Seth.

Who was that champion? Jesus!

Question: Where did Jesus come from? Jesus was not a descendant of Abel. Abel didn't even have kids. He died. He wasn't a descendant of Cain.

Jesus was a descendant of Seth.

The Lord's Message

The message of the Lord for all of us today is that you can have failure, after failure, after failure-- but if you choose not to give up, eventually God can turn your biggest setback into the greatest comeback ever.

Never give up. Because you don't know that down in your timeline, there might be a sin, and a sin, and a sin—but eventually there will be victory. Because God sees victory in a different way. It's not a one-time event. You could fail in this event. You could fail in this event. But the victory is in the process. It's where God is changing you.

So, ask yourself this question: In the work that you do, whatever work that is-- in the family he's planted you into, in the place where God will call you to migrate to, in the mission that He calls you to do—the question is: It's not about what you're *doing*. It's about who you are *becoming*.

Are you becoming more like Jesus? Or you're becoming somebody else? Are you becoming more loving like Jesus? Because the winning is not in the doing. The winning is in the becoming.

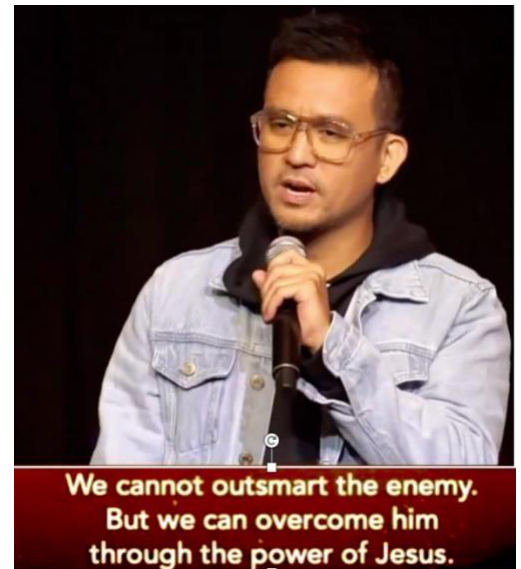
I can end the message here but I want to convict still some of you here today. Because I know the kind of sin that we go through – it's not easy. You get to a point in your life where you've recovered from some addictions, you've recovered from lying, you've recovered from cheating, you've recovered from gambling, or gossiping. But all it takes, sometimes, is just one pull, one nudge, one tap on the shoulder-- and then you're back into that same sin. It's hard, it's hard.

But the promise that I received this week is that Yes, it's hard, but we don't have to do it alone. The Devil is so clever and cunning that he can easily outsmart you. You can't defeat the Devil on your own.

But here's the message: You cannot outsmart him, but you can certainly overcome him. How? Through the power of Jesus at work in your life. It's by the power and the grace of the Lord our God, Jesus Christ Himself who can overcome temptation, who can overcome sin, that will enable you to overcome the same sins in your life. But you have to make that decision:

Will you allow Jesus to be your God?

Choose: Will you follow Cain, or will you follow Christ? Will you follow the one who took the life of his brother? Or, will you follow the One who gave His life to His brothers and to his sisters? Will you follow the one who was so envious? Or will you follow the One who was so secure in His Father's love? There's no comparison for Jesus because He knew He was perfectly loved.



There Is Power in Jesus' Name!

Will you follow Cain or will you follow Christ?

The choice is yours. You make the choice today based on the posture of your heart.

This will be your prayer. Make it your own in the Presence of the Lord.

God almighty, we thank You for the strength that we know You can give us. We are imperfect. We are frail. We are fragile. We are limited—in the sense that we have fallen from grace.

We battle with sin. But we thank You that we don't have to do this alone. We thank You that the Holy Spirit is working in us to fight with us and to fight for us. And so, in Your Presence, right now, we surrender all our sins – the sin of envy, the sin of pride, every sin that we have accumulated, that have been planted in the garden of our life.

Father, we ask You to help us get rid of all these sins. We surrender them to You at the foot of the Cross, knowing and believing that You can handle them all. We thank You for we are not alone. Thank You for the promise of victory in our life, Lord. We may not see it right now, but we certainly believe in the promise of tomorrow. Down our timeline, there is a promise that one day, we will attain the victory. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You for the power of Your Name. There is power in Your Name, Jesus, and we declare this today: that there is healing in Your Name. There is strength in Your Name. There is Love in Your Name, There is mercy in Your Name. And so, we walk in this faith, in this victory of Jesus.

Let's worship the Lord, Everybody.





BO SANCHEZ: Life is a choice. It's a choice that you and I have to make – whether we love or whether we hate. A choice that we have to make whether we are for Cain or for Christ. Are we going to follow the Serpent, and be a partner of the Serpent, or are we going to partner with Jesus?

It's a choice that we make every moment of our life. But today, I want you to renew your commitment, your choice for Jesus. And for some of you, it might just even the first time you're doing this choice. I want to congratulate you.

May I lead you into that prayer right now?

Christ or Cain? We choose Christ. Would it be the sin and the Serpent? Or will it be Jesus? Let's choose now. If you can lift your hands to the Lord as a symbol of openness, everybody, say:

I choose Jesus. I follow Jesus my whole life and I offer to Jesus my heart. Come in, Jesus, be Lord. Be our Savior. Transform me. Change me. To become like You for the rest of my life. I am yours. I am yours. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

*Look to the Lord and his strength.
Seek his face always.*

--1 Chronicles 16:11



LIGHT OF JESUS PASTORAL CARE PART 2

I Can -- Because God Can

By SHARIE

ABNORMAL. I regarded myself that way. That's because I preferred a woman rather than a man for my partner.

So, I considered myself a sinner. I had this kind of thinking that sinners don't have room in God's Kingdom. I'd carved in my mind that God would not accept and love a sinner like me. I believed that I didn't have the right to be close to God and serve Him. So, I didn't make an effort to do so.

Instead, I turned to people, trying in vain for them to like me and accept me.

Lost and Found

I was a lost soul. But God found me.

Way back in 2014, a friend introduced me to The Feast— the one being held in Bellevue Hotel in Muntinlupa City, in the National Capital Region (NCR).

At The Feast, I realized the true meaning of God's love.

I learned that God is a loving Father, that He never abandons His children— even a sinner like me.

It was me and the labels created by society— which I believed— that took me away from Him.



Heroes Winning Battles

From The Feast, I learned about the Light of Jesus Family which has accepted everyone as children of God. It's in LOJ where I heard that sinners though we are, God uses our wounds to heal others.

Indeed, the struggle is real but with the love of God, we will win battles with Him.



Here, The Feast invites everyone to *Heroes*, a thanksgiving live concert giving tribute to Feast frontliners winning battles for the Lord.

Pastoral Care

It was also at The Feast that I learned about the Light of Jesus Pastoral Care.

In January 2019, I saw this poster inviting Feasters to attend a retreat dubbed *Journey to Personal Growth*. January is my birthday month, so I felt like this retreat would be the best gift I could give myself.

During the retreat, I learned about the LOJ Pastoral Care-- that yes, it cares for the emotionally and spiritually wounded.

“God uses our wounds to heal others...” With those words reverberating in my mind, I decided to serve in this Mercy Ministry. I started as an on-the-job trainee in 2019 and officially joined the LOJ Pastoral Care Center in July 2021.

NEED TO TALK?

WE LISTEN



**LIGHT OF JESUS
PASTORAL CARE CENTER**

**MONDAY to FRIDAY Mobile Numbers:
+63 923 132 3071 | +63 915 776 5326**

**SATURDAY Mobile Numbers:
+63 951 107 6323 | +63 995 711 2537**



**lojpastoralcare@gmail.com or
prayers.lojpastoralcare@gmail.com**



**live chat - <https://lojpcc.com> or
FB / IG - @lojpastoralcare**

**We are open 8am to 5pm (UTC+8)
(Except Sunday, Holidays and 3rd Saturday of the month)**

Yes, I now serve the wounded. But doing so has also healed my own wounds.

Today, I have the LOJ Family to walk with me through my spiritual journey as well -- as I get to know more about God and make Him the center of my life.

Before, I would have said this was impossible for me to do. But in LOJ, I also learned this Bible verse, Philippians 4:13, that says, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

That’s my inspiration now toward a life as a daughter of God—
my new normal.



I Will Not Fear for My God Is Here

By ELLEN

I CAN well say those words as the title of this sharing because yes, God has erased my fears and anxieties.

I've had my share of life's trials.

First, the most recent was my family and I suffered the Coronavirus Disease, the shadow of death looming in our home.

Second, my daughter suffered from a deep depression we had to have her confined in a hospital.

Third, my brother died at the same time my daughter was admitted to the hospital.

Fourth, still as a consequence of the COVID Pandemic, we struggled through the Internet haywire just when we so needed to get connected with the services that should have eased our burdens.

Admittedly, these blows just about drained me -- physically, emotionally, and mentally.

But although I gasped for breath as COVID attacked my lungs and immobilized me, even amid my daughter's suffering, and the devastation over my brother's passing, somehow, I felt brave, even at peace.

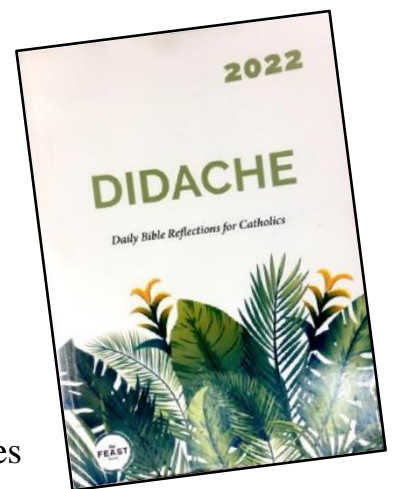
Where is this strength coming from?

Abiding Faith

By God's grace, early on, I received the grace of abiding faith.

I stayed in the United States for some time and while I was there, a friend in the Philippines, Vicky, regularly sent me messages from *Didache*, the daily Bible reflections for Catholics, published by the Shepherd's Voice Publications (SVP). *At right* is the latest issue.

SVP is a media arm of the Light of Jesus Family, so I learned about Bro. Bo Sanchez, the founder of LOJ, and its weekly faith gathering, The Feast.





I was excited to attend The Feast to meet Bro. Bo. And this happened in 2012. Back in Manila, I attended The Feast being held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). The fervent Feast Mass, the lively, intense Worship, the practical, life-changing talks—they all changed me into a new person, surrendering, giving my life to Jesus. I then served in The Feast Intercessory Ministry from the year 2012 to 2014.



From 2014 up to the present, I still serve in the Intercessory Ministry but this time at Feast Ortigas.

Then, in 2016, a friend, Darl, introduced me to the Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center.



Source of Strength

My ministry, the LOJ Pastoral Care, and The Feast are where I've been able to overcome my fears, worries, and anxieties! They have been my source of strength, supporting me in all areas where I need them most.



First, they are with me in my spiritual journey.

In my prayer, I've heard God speaking to me, telling me that He will not leave nor forsake me. He assures me of His Presence through the brothers and sisters who uplift me with their prayers during my darkest moments.

Second, their comforting, encouraging words so strengthen me that I've come to realize the purpose of God's plan of bringing me to this faith community—to equip me so I may know how to fight my battles.

Yes, I say that now, I fear not. For I have these blessings in The Feast and the LOJ Pastoral Care. Here, I see God and I feel His ever loving, protective embrace.

Praise and Thank You, Lord!



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the **Feast Mercy Ministries**, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez, earlier named as Kerygma Family, a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Family. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/ Fax 725-1230

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



Grace To Be Born is a halfway home for pregnant women in crisis.



He Cares Mission provides shelter for street children.

Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation gives scholarships to poor students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.



The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center ministers to those who are emotionally and spiritually wounded.

H.A.I.L. MARY is acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, adopting the Blessed Mother as the patroness of its mission to eradicate leprosy in Abra within 8–10 years.



The Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry provides evacuation assistance, relief goods, financial aid, and other needs of calamity victims.

The Light of Jesus Prison Ministry brings Jesus to the Correctional Institution for Women to give them hope for a new life of dignity.



Anawim Lay Missions Foundation provides a home for poor elderly who have been abandoned by their family and have nowhere else to go.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.

2. Pick Up from Your House or Office

(Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherds Voice Radio and Television Foundation and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.

3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office

For US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family, 848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107

For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation and mail (registered mail) to Shepherds Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherds Voice Account in any branch of these banks:

Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation

BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch

Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 3970019804 General Araneta, Cubao Branch

Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 160506123 SM Cubao Branch

PNB - Current Account no. 371157500015 SSS branch

Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch

Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch

Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

Note: Text, Fax or email to us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us. Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230.



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

***The Feast Family* online newsmagazine is produced by the Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation, which is also our partner beneficiary, with editorial services by the Light of Jesus Family Library Ministry.**

Founder: Bo Sanchez

Mercy Ministries Chairman
Hermie Morelos

Editor-in-Chief
Cynthia U. Santiago

Chief Photographer
Edmundo L. Santiago

**Feast International
Region Head**
Vic Español

Reporter-Writer
Cybill P. Bayto

Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo

Contributors
The Feast Builders

Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant
Chelle Crisanto

Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura



For comments, article contributions, write or call us:

Email Address: lojlibrary2819@gmail.com

Landline phone numbers: 8725-9999, Fax 725-1230

Mobile phone: 0998-953-0657

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19