



NEWSLETTER
September 25, 2022

Is Your Life Tough?

IS your work exhausting? Does it feel like you're stuck in the same situation no matter how hard you try to change it for the better? Have you ever asked the question: "Gusto ba ni Lord na maging mahirap na lang ako?-- Does God want me to be just in this dire situation?"

Last month, we finished our mind-blowing series on *Genesis*. One of the main points of the first book of the Bible is that God created a good world for humans to experience blessing and to share that blessing with the rest of creation.

We learned that *God desires human flourishing*.

He not only desires it; He's committed to make it happen.

Welcome to our exciting series on *Exodus*, titled, *SPECIAL DELIVERY: God Will Rescue You*. For 10 weeks, we'll go through this amazing, misunderstood, and under-appreciated Book. Your life will never be the same after we go through *Exodus*.

Have a transformational Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez





LETTERS

Rrring, Rrring!

THAT must be your phone ringing. That's what we hear in *The Feast Family* as we process this issue for Sunday, September 25, 2022.

One ring comes from Fr. Mark Demanuele, priest presider in The Feast last Sunday, September 18, 2021, as he tackles the Gospel on *The Parable of the Shrewd Manager*. Being shrewd is not bad-- but that is not the message of the Gospel, Fr. Mark says. The message is Jesus calling—Rrringing-- for what? Answer starts on *page 3*.



Another ring is about the call for an *Exodus*—where to? You'll know if you don't miss today's Feast talk as introduced by our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, *page 1*.

A third ring is from Feast Bay Area Preacher Bro. Audee Villaraza, about a call to make miracles happen, ringing in our *Flashback* section, *pages 13-28*.



Fourth is a ring from Bro. John Paul Obinia, raring to tell you how he metamorphosed from street child to company supervisor, in our *Mercy Ministries* series on He Cares Mission, *page 29*.

Rrring, Rrring! Is that your phone ringing?

Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director



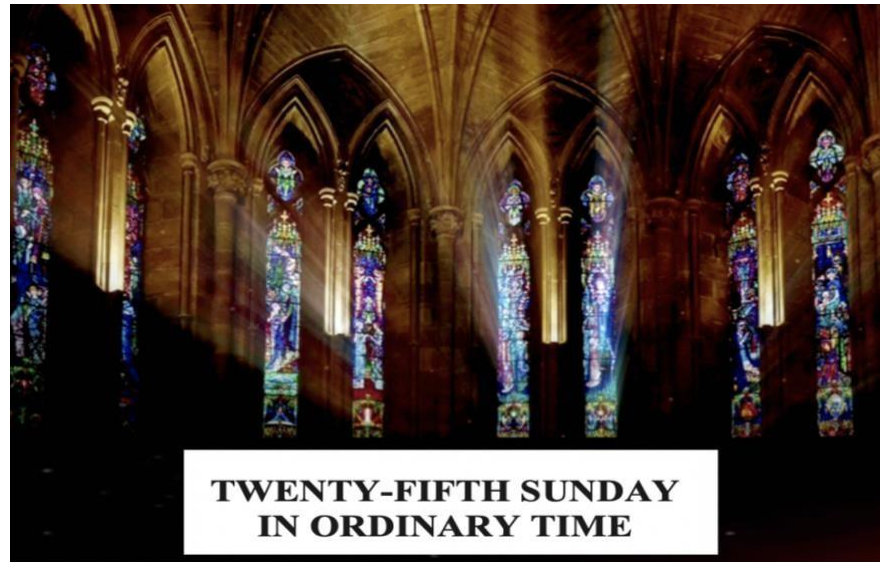


FLASHBACK!
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Holy Mass



FR. MARK DEMANUELE
on the Gospel: Luke 16:1-13
The Parable of the Shrewd Manager



Edited Excerpts...

I HAVE to be honest with you. When I have this kind of Gospel, I try to see how I can avoid the subject.

I usually go to the last part of the Gospel-- which is very easy to understand, when you say what is obvious: You cannot be a servant of two masters. It's not very difficult to understand that.

But what I will be doing is I will be avoiding the Parable which is very important for us. Let's be honest, we don't like a parable like this-- even if we speak about *The Parable of the Dishonest Manager*.

In the Gospel, the dishonest manager doesn't make sense. And it's true. It's frustratingly mystifying—this Parable-- because it is frustrating. But it is also a mystery-- how beautiful this Parable is for us.

The Meaning of the Parable

Sometimes, I say, maybe they forgot to write two important lines in the Parable, or maybe they just didn't add those lines—I don't know. But isn't it very difficult to understand Jesus saying-- and he is also emphasizing-- how dishonest the manager was-- how he was being dishonored?

Let's go into the Parable-- because it makes a lot of sense.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks (tells His disciples) about this steward (the manager) saying that he is a shrewd servant. I went to the dictionary to look up the word *shrewd*-- to make sure, the word *shrewd* means either *wise*, either *smart*, or also *intelligent and full of wisdom*.

So, being shrewd is not something wrong.

Now, the shrewdness of this person is not the aim of this Gospel and I'll tell you why. When we speak about a smart person, he can, unfortunately, hack a bank or he can fill my mobile phone with scam messages. True? He can use his mind to do those things.

You know, terrorists are very smart people-- so, they can use their shrewdness to do those things.

So, the act of being shrewd is not the aim of this Gospel. The aim is very clear: Jesus is telling you to be smart, yes, be wise, be shrewd—in the search for the Kingdom of God.

And He makes it very clear at the end when He says we are very shrewd when we come for material things and we use our mind, our intelligence, to make sure that our bank accounts can be fuller.

But (He adds) what about our “eternal” bank accounts? Are we being smart and taking care of that bank account?

And that's the meaning behind this Parable: Jesus is telling you-- and me-- to make sure that you use your wisdom, that you are making all the necessary things to be able to continue to search for the Kingdom of God.

And He says to us --for our spiritual life-- that He already gave us so many talents for us to use, and he's telling us to make sure to use these talents.



The Manager Uses His Mind

Now, let's go a bit deeper into this. Why do you think that the master wanted to get rid of this steward--or manager-- whatever you want to call him?

Probably, as we heard in the Gospel, the master was seeing that, unfortunately, the manager was: either being selfish; maybe he was stealing; maybe he was bored and lifeless-- or he was making this property of this master to take life.

It sometimes happens-- when you have a manager who's been there for a long time, and he becomes so boring, and he doesn't know any new lively ways or interesting ways how he can manage the place.

So, the master calls the manager, and asks him: "What's happening with you?"

Probably, he (the manager) knew that his master was a smart master. That's because of the fact that when he came to check himself, the manager realized how vulnerable he is-- that the master is waking up the servants physically to do other work.

Then, the manager used his mind-- he made sure he can find another way (to survive) in case the master sends him away.

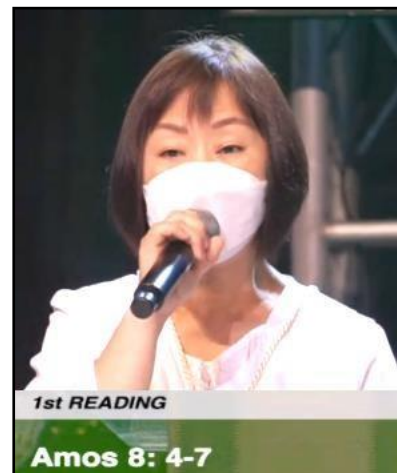
So, the manager was being challenged by the master to make sure to use properly his intelligence, his wisdom, and talents-- because they were there but he was not using them. He became boring, he became dishonest, and he became also, unfortunately for so many times, lifeless-- no creativity at all.

Reading I: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!

⁵ "When will the new moon be over," you ask, "that we may sell our grain and the sabbath, that we may display the wheat? We will diminish the ephah add to the shekel and fix our scales for cheating!

⁶ We will buy the lowly for silver and the poor for a pair of sandals; even the refuse of the wheat we will sell!" ⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!



The Challenge of the Parable

Now, what does this mean for me and for you?

Here, it's crucial. The Parable is challenging me, the parable is challenging each one of us as followers of the Master-- because we too are managers. Oops! Me, manager? Me, steward? Of what?

Each one of us-- a disciple of the Lord-- is also given a responsibility in the Kingdom of God. We are not here to just sit down and relax. We are here to make sure that the Kingdom of God is being felt in this world.

The Church is telling us, "You are called to be God's stewards."

Pope Francis told us, "You are responsible for the world. You are responsible for everything that's happening."

You might say, "But I'm not in the United Nations or the WHO (World Health Organization), or so many other big and huge organizations."

But you are responsible for your little part. Each one of us was given a role to play ... You are supposed to be doing a piece of work. Your stewardship (for example), may be being a mother, responsible for your family, to raise your children as the children of the Kingdom. That is a responsibility. That is stewardship.

Reading II: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Beloved:^[SEP] *First of all, I ask those supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone,*
² for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life^[SEP]*in all devotion and dignity.*
³ This is good and pleasing to God our savior,
⁴ who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and men the man Christ Jesus,
⁶ who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time.

⁷ For this I was appointed preacher and apostle – I am speaking the truth, I am not lying -, teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument.



Our Calling

This is what we are called for: we are called to be the Kingdom of love, justice, and peace in the world around us. So, guys listen, God is calling you today to do this.

And He also gives us talents because we think, “Oh, maybe I’m not adequate to do these things.”

No. Each one of us was given the talent to do what He called us to do.

What talent?



First, you and I are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Second, you know the truths of faith. You are baptized in faith and were given the catechism to learn what Jesus is asking you to do.

You’re coming here at The Feast regularly and listening to the truth. These are very important things that the Lord is giving us-- the sources to do what we must do.





Take Responsibility for the Kingdom

And the last point, this steward found his life in a precarious way: "What am I going to do? Now, what is happening around me?"

When he found himself in that situation, he turned immediately to his resources-- especially his intelligence.

We are also in a precarious situation today. May I ask you a favor? Look at the back. Empty seats, empty seats, empty seats. It is our responsibility to continue building the Kingdom of God.

After the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic-- or we are just getting near the end of the Pandemic, we hope-- people are afraid

to get back. People are afraid to take responsibility for the Kingdom of God. We are the stewards to call them back.

Yes, the Church is in a precarious way.

I just had a retreat with a group of priests and we gave them the statistics: that in 20 years, the percentage of people going to church regularly every Sunday, went down, from 64% to 34%-- (only) 3 out of 10 will be going to church, when in fact, the Philippines is a very Catholic country.

This is true. So many were baptized but so many shrewd people, steward people, who are not taking responsibility for the Kingdom.

So, today, this Gospel is there to challenge you and me-- for us to work for the Kingdom of God. To make the Kingdom present, to continue to empower others, to encourage others, to welcome them back into our Kingdom.

We were once-- and now-- called to do this. Jesus is asking you: Use your shrewdness. Be wise. Be creative. And start doing your work so that the Kingdom of Heaven will have a beautiful, beautiful Kingdom on Earth.

And so, when it is our turn to be in Heaven to give our accounts, we would be very happy to go with the good accounts in our hands. Amen.



Worship!

EXHORTATION

RYAN NABUS: Good morning, Feast!

In a few minutes, we're going to be singing a song and these are based on a very popular verse in the Bible. I know you know this and you can say it with me. It's from Psalm 118, and it says, "*This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.*"

We are all familiar with that verse. Most of us here know the exact words of that verse—*this is the day that the Lord has made.*

Yes, we know what the verse means. Yes, our Lord Jesus saved us. He loves us, and He's giving us a fresh, new start every day. But you know, the funny thing is, when we go to the next line—*we will rejoice and be glad...* suddenly we realize we don't know how to-- rejoice and be glad. Or sometimes, we want to, and we know how to, but we're afraid, *minsang nahihiya tayo at tinatago natin. Tama ba?*-- Sometimes, we are shy and hide what we feel, right?

...You know, here at The Feast, we're so blessed because we don't say "*this is the happiest place on Earth*" for nothing. This is the happiest place on Earth because God is here and we can worship Him all we want.

So, if you came here and you're happy, if you're feeling blessed, grateful -- even if we have problems, even if we're going through something dire right now-- I want you to just worship the Lord. Amen?

He has given us this day, a fresh, new gift. So, let's all celebrate and worship Him today!





This is the day the Lord has made
I will rejoice and be glad in it



Hallelujah
You have done great things



O Jesus our Savior
Your name lifted high



Give thanks to the Lord
His love endures forever



Give praise to the Lord
Beside Him there's no other



I live to sing of my Savior's love



Come let us worship our King



I live to tell
What the Lord has done



Give praise to the Lord
Beside Him there's no other





DIDOY LUBATON: If God has done great things for your life, come and give Him a big shout of praise, Everybody!

Let's come into prayer. I want you to think right now how God has done great things for you today, the last week, in the past. Let's start our preaching by being grateful for His greatness. And if we really try it, if we really look into it, if we really move from expectation to appreciation, you're going to be in awe. Because you'll see glory

to glory— from hurting to healing, from negativity to positivity, from death to life, from burden to breakthrough. That *is* the God whom we serve. He is the God to whom we sing our songs... If you really know what the song is for, what the words are about, and you have experienced it yourself, you'll say, "I'm going to sing, I'm going to jump, I'm going to give my all in all because this is my chance to honor my God!"



Talk



AUDEE VILLARAZA: Good Morning, Everyone.

Our Talk for today is titled *A Basketful of Blessings*.

We are actually down to our last talk.

This is our mini-series called *Thrive*. The message for today, I want you to preach this to somebody beside you, say:

“Friend, Make Miracles Happen.”



What Are Miracles?

What are miracles, by the way?

If you're going to take the intellectual definition of what a miracle is, this is the scientific expert definition of a miracle:

A miracle is something that is so unbelievable, it's so improbable that it cannot be comprehended by our human understanding.

Oftentimes, we attribute it to a Supreme Being, a Higher Being. That's what a miracle is-- if you look at it from the intellectual perspective.

But do you want a simpler definition of what a miracle is? Do you want the simplified version?

How many here are from UP—graduates of the University of the Philippines? Would you agree with me if I say that a miracle is the UP Maroons winning the UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines) championship last time? Yeah? They had not done that in the last 36 years. So, that's a miracle.

It's also a miracle that our dear, dear friend, Dr. Ryan Capitulo, the builder of Feast SM Manila, was able to abstain from eating rice for 6 months and thereby losing 65 pounds along the way. That's a miracle, right?

Miracles are all around us. Where do miracles come from, by the way? If there's anything that we've learned all throughout the Gospel of Matthew—that we studied for over two years—it's a fact that the specialty of Jesus, it's making miracles.

The source of every miracle in the world is Jesus. When we read the Bible, we see how Jesus did so many miracles. He performed miracles left and right.

Remember that time when Jesus healed that paralytic man who was lying on a mat? Jesus just said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven... Get up and walk." And the man picked up his mat. That was a miracle.

Another miracle was when Jesus healed the daughter of the synagogue leader by the name of Jairus. Jairus approached Jesus to ask Him to heal his daughter. And although the daughter was so sick that by the time that Jesus came to her, she was already dead, Jesus still healed her and raised her from the dead. That was a miracle.

Remember the time when Jesus healed the centurion's servant? The centurion came to Jesus and told Him, "Just by your word, my servant will be healed."

Although Jesus was not even present in the servant's area, the servant got healed. That was a miracle.





2 Common Points the Miracles Tell Us

Two common points that we see in those miracle stories that I just told you:

No. 1, plain and simple: Jesus is the Miracle Worker. Every miracle, every good thing that has happened, that was a miracle that came from Jesus up above.

No. 2: In those miracle stories that I just mentioned, Jesus gave a miracle-- but He used somebody else to make the miracle happen.

Think about it: In the first miracle— if the friend of the paralytic man did not create a hole on the roof to lay him down, the miracle would not have happened. If Jairus did not meet up with Jesus on behalf of his daughter to ask for her

healing, the miracle would not have happened. If the centurion did not have that kind of faith, the miracle would have not happened. What am I trying to say?

God is so eager to give you a miracle. He is so eager and excited to give you a miracle. But oftentimes, God will use somebody else to make that miracle to happen...

And I don't know about you, but I see that miracles happen here at The Feast.

God uses His Church to create miracles. Look around you. We don't even have to look so far. Think about this:

Our very own leader and founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez himself, he's a walking miracle. Bro. Bo was addicted to pornography. At a young age, he was molested. He shares this with everybody: That because he was molested, he became an approval addict. But what God did to him-- God turned his life around. Bro. Bo is one of the most humble, generous, and loving persons you'll ever meet. He's a walking miracle.

The person who preached to you last Sunday, Bro. Philip 'Lep' Sumera – he preached a wonderful message, didn't he? What did he say? He said *God wants to renew you.*

You know, once upon a time, Lep was a black sheep. But what God did to him, turned his life around. God turned Lep from being a *black sheep* into a *good shepherd*. Imagine that. All by the grace of God.





God Turned My Life Around

And you know, whenever I look at myself in the mirror, I know that I'm a walking miracle as well. Because I never graduated from college. Some of you know this. And this is not an encouragement to the students to follow my same journey – we all have different journeys.

I never graduated from college because I had two back-subjects—that I did not like.

The first subject was ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps). You know why I didn't like ROTC? Nothing against it. But it was because my school was relatively small, we did not have the system to do ROTC in our campus. So, what they did was they held our ROTC in a different school— in UP. UP took ROTC seriously. They required every cadet to be in the UP Sunken Garden on a Sunday morning at 6:00 a.m.

So, guess what? I needed to wake up at 5:00 a.m. for ROTC. I never did. I would play tennis with my brother every morning on Sunday. So, I never graduated because of ROTC.

The other subject that I could not pass because I didn't like it so much—you'd be surprised by this: it is Theology, Religion. I grew up in a religious household but I was never religious when I was growing up. And so, I never liked the subject.

But you know how God turned my life around: For the last 12 years, I have been doing the two things that I hated the most. I would wake up on a Sunday morning – at 5:30 in the morning. To do what? To talk about God's Love.

God is amazing.

So... just because you think you're not qualified for something, it doesn't mean that you're completely disqualified-- because God is the One who qualifies you.

I am completely unqualified to preach here every Sunday. I never passed Theology. But God's love is amazing.

God does miracles. And we've seen miracles here at The Feast.

How many times have you seen families, relationships, that had been broken, and separation happened? But then, through The Feast, the members came together and God healed their broken relationship.

How many times have you seen people who were sick-- with broken body and broken spirit-- restored through The Feast—because of the grace of God.

How many times have you seen penitents—people who walked away from Jesus-- came back and now have life with Him again?



Miracles: The Feast at Light of Jesus Year 42

Two reasons I believe we experience miracles here at The Feast:

First—I already mentioned it: Because Jesus is here. When the grace of God comes into our life, there's healing. There's mercy. There's love.

Second—and I believe this to be true: You know, one of the greatest miracles that we have here at The Feast is the fact that we have grown so much. Look around you. This is not normal: having *church* in PICC.

I grew up in a very small parish in Taytay, Rizal, and now, being here in this big, big venue, I am like, "This is not normal."

For the first-timers, this is not normal--what God is doing here in our Community.

By the way, did you know that we're celebrating our 42nd anniversary as a faith community this month? Can we give a clap offering to the Lord for that?

I want you to tell your neighbor right now, "You're part of this Family."

You're part of the story of this Community. Wow, 42 amazing years. I'm 44 years old. Can you believe that? Bro. Bo was already preaching while I was just two years old. And yet he doesn't look like he's over 40 years old.

Now, that is a miracle.

A total of 42 amazing years. Now, why have we grown that big? Because of God's grace. We now have The Feast International. We're all over the world.

The second reason we've grown is the group of givers. Without the resources of people, we would not have grown this big.

Let me tell you this: God's grace is free—has no cost.

But guess what? This venue-- we have to pay to be here. The food supplies for our servants, they are not free. The sound system that you enjoy whenever we worship the Lord, it's not free. The aircon here, it's not free. I wish these were free, then we'd say we have a miracle.

Thank God for Our Givers

You know the miracle that's happening right now? Because we have good suppliers, we're actually feeding the families of the people serving us. So, that's a miracle going around.

By the way, is our supplier, Vince, here? I want to recognize this person. It's his birthday. Vince, raise your hand. Vince has been with us pre-Pandemic. And all throughout the Pandemic, Vince supported us. He made it in such a way that we never struggled with paying our suppliers because we have good people supplying us our needs. So, we're blessed.

I thank God for every person God uses to give to the Ministry—people who don't give out of surplus, but out of sacrifice. There are people here, I'm telling you, people I know who own businesses, people who are bosses—they are struggling and yet they continue to give.

Why? Because God deserves their giving. Because they believe that God is good. And they love God. And so, they believe that God is the source of their blessing to begin with.

And I want you to know this, my friends: Some of you might be asking, "Bro. Audee, saan ba napupunta yung ating mga tithes, the love offerings we give? Where do our tithes go?"

Even before I became a Feast builder, we were already giving to our Mercy Ministries. But you know what? I prayed about it:

"Lord, how can we give more to those Ministries which are not supported by the other Communities and other Feasts?"

I kept on praying. And God would send us people, institutions, organizations-- to support these Ministries.



Focusing on the Unloved

One Ministry sent our way is the Prison Ministry, now being led by Bro. Jon Escoto, the district builder of Feast Laguna.

You know what Bro. Jon does there is not easy. Going to different prisons, talking to people behind bars—it's not easy. Bro. Jon shared with me about the situation of (the persons deprived of liberty) -- which convicted me to help them.

Bro. Jon shared-- and you will be shocked by this-- that the budget for food for each person is P13.00 per meal. He was told that what they usually eat is rice with soup. They'd be lucky if there's even just a bone in the soup.

I mean, P13 is spare change that we leave lying around the house. That's their meal for the day.

So, when I heard that, I told Bro. Jon, "Bro, tulong kami.— We'll help."

You know, the Ministry is not actually giving budget for food. Because we found out that when it was Pandemic time, you know what they struggled with? They didn't have toiletries. They would rely only on their family members and their friends who visit them to bring the toiletries —soap, shampoo, tissue paper. So, in the video (shown during the talk) you see that we're giving toiletries.



With the little help that we give them, I told Bro. Jon, "We pledge to give."

We've already been giving to our Mercy Ministries. We've pledged all of our tithes to be distributed to the Ministries. But we are making an extra pledge to help the Prison Ministry in a special way-- because we want to help these people who feel so unloved. And maybe, we hope, by the grace of God, they will feel there is a God

who loves them so much – and it's because of your giving that that happens.



Malachi 3:10 NLT

¹⁰ Bring all the **tithes** into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Why We Tithe

It's important that you know where the hard-earned money you give goes. It goes to a good charity, to a good cause.

But why do we tithe? Why do we give to God's Kingdom?

Did you know that whenever you put something in the envelope and dropped that envelope into the Love Offering basket, that is very Biblical? Where does it come from? It comes from the book of *Malachi*, in Malachi 3:10 (*above*).



The Lord is daring somebody here. I dare you to trust God. Put something in the Love Offering basket and then see how God will bless you.

Tithe. If you're new to Church language, you're probably new to that word. What is that word *Tithe*?

Tithe is an Anglo-Saxon word that means *iota*. It means *a tenth*.

That's why we say that the recommendation about what to give

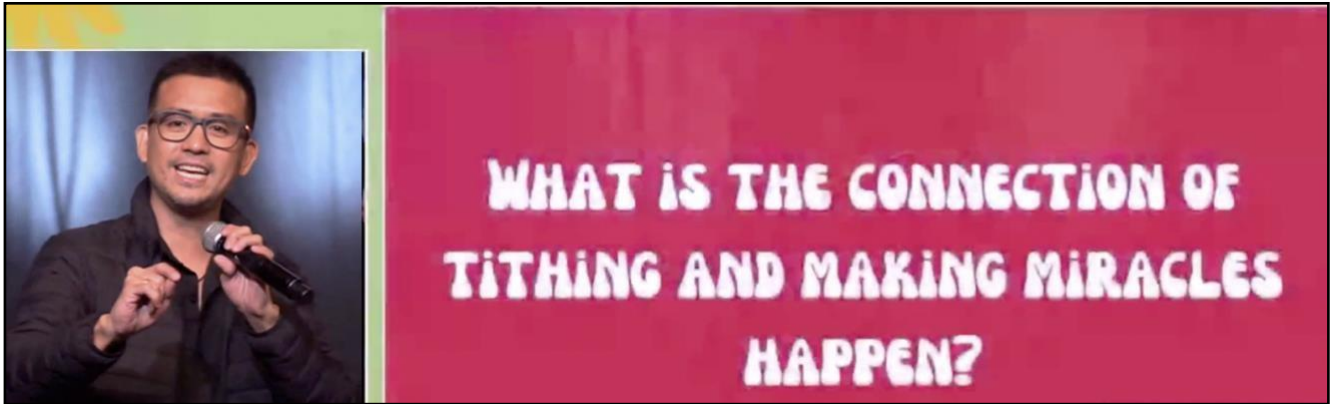
to the Lord is that you give 10% of the fruits of your labor, your first income—to the Lord. That's very Biblical. It's in the book of *Malachi*.

The Tagalog word for *tithe* is *ikapu*. No wonder, when you drop an offering into the basket, it seems, you say, "Inay ko po!"

Giving seems to hurt. You can hardly let go (of your money). It's hard to give to the Lord.

But we need to tithe. Why? Because it's really for the Lord's Kingdom. It's really how we *love* the Lord.

So, I want to thank you for tithing. I want to thank you for giving



But what is the connection between tithing and making miracles happen?
Let's go and consult St. John--John 6: 1-13:

John 6: 1-13 NLT

¹After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ²A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.

I wonder: People followed Jesus just because He healed the sick. I wonder if you're following Jesus just because of the things you can get from Him—and not because you *want* Him.

Think about that for a moment: Are you following Jesus just because He can give you a miracle? Or are you following Him because you want Him in your life?

And then it says in Verse 3:

Then Jesus climbed the hill, and sat down with His disciples around Him. It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration and then Jesus saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for Him. And then turning to Philip, one of the disciples, he asked:

John 6: 5-6 NLT

*⁵ "Where can **we** buy bread to feed all these people?"
⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.*

Jesus was testing Philip for He already knew what He was going to do.

This is actually very funny. Jesus, the Word that became flesh, was asking a question the answer to which He already knew.

The Miracle Told More Than Once

Then Philip replied:

John 6: 1-13 NLT

⁷ Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"

⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up.

⁹ "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"



Then Jesus said in Verse 10:

John 6: 1-13 NLT

¹⁰ "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.

John 6: 1-13 NLT

¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Let me preach this:
It's a famous story—the multiplication of the loaves and the feeding of the five thousand.

But did you know this: That there are only *two* miracle stories in the entire New Testament—that you can find in all four Gospels? First miracle story is the Resurrection of Jesus. You find that in all four Gospels.

Second miracle story is this one-- the multiplication of the bread.

What is this trying to tell us? It's telling us that the miracle was so important that it needed to be told more than once and by more than one person.

Matthew, and Mark, and John, and Luke needed to inform some people about it.

Now, *what* is the miracle there?

The miracle there is very simple: That Jesus was able to stretch five loaves and two fish to feed more than 5,000 mouths. To stretch food.

How many of you have that gift? To stretch things in your life?

You want to have the gift to stretch your patience to your loved ones? Yeah?

You want to have that gift to be able to stretch your time to the people around you?

You want to have that gift to stretch your salary?

How many of you want to stretch the meals in your home? You will never ever have to cook for your family because you have unlimited stuff-- unli rice, unli dish. I have a friend who has unli appetite.:)



Why Did This Miracle Happen?

Two reasons:

1. Because Jesus got involved

Jesus is our Miracle Maker. Whenever Jesus gets involved, miracle happens.

When was the last time that you involved Jesus in your life? Do you involve Him every day, or just whenever you have problems?

Whenever you need something, you inform Jesus: "Lord, there's this bill that needs to be paid." "Lord, there's this sickness that needs to be healed."

Why don't you try this instead: Instead of just informing God about your problems, why don't you involve God in your problems?

I used to say this and I know it sounds so good: I always say, at the end of the day, when you've given it your best, when you've done it your way, then it's time to do it God's way. It sounds nice, right?

But actually, it's not right. Because before you can even get to the end of the day, at the start of the day, you need to already involve Jesus in what you're going to do.

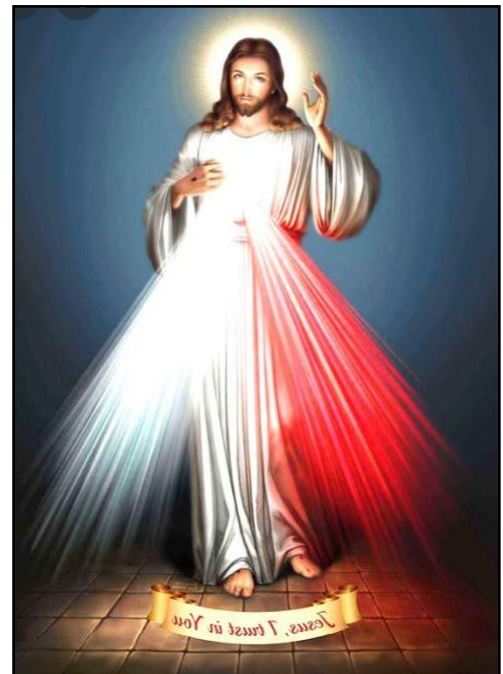
Lep kind of preached about this last Sunday when he said, when you work, you work as if you're working for the Lord.

Like, you're working in God's Garden.

So, every morning, here's what you do the moment you wake up: I want you to say, "Lord, let's do this."

Imagine when you say that in the morning. You're already declaring that "Lord, I'm going to bring you to my meeting. Lord, I'm going to bring you to my project. Lord, I'm going to bring you to my date. Lord, let's do this. I'm doing this with you."

And I'm telling you, when you involve Jesus, that's when miracles happen in your life.





Sue Bentley www.freebibleimages.org

The Wedding at Cana

You want to know why the first miracle of Jesus was at a wedding in Cana? Remember that miracle? He turned water into wine. Some people ask why did Jesus pick that wedding? Was it a special event? Were they special people?

You know, when you go to the Holy Land, you will realize that Cana, where that miracle happened, is such an obscure place. It's so obscure that there was nothing going on in that place. You know, no celebrities there, no famous people there. But why did Jesus choose to perform His very first miracle during that wedding in Cana?

Some of you might say because Mama Mary told Him. Because they were in trouble-- and we all know that, you know, when you listen to your mom, miracles happen. May I get an Amen from all the moms?

Yes, that might be true-- the miracle happened because Jesus listened to Mama Mary.

But actually, I've got another theory-- and it's a simplified theory: The reason Jesus chose that place and that event to do His first miracle was that *He was invited*. If He was not invited, how could He have done the miracle?

Jesus was invited.

What if you invite Jesus in your life? And witness what miracles He would do in your life? It's just a simple invitation:

"Lord, let's do this. Every day, Lord, let's do this."

SECOND

The miracle-receiver got their miracles because someone else made it happen.

Here's the second reason that miracle will happen in your life:

Every miracle in your life will happen if others get involved. What did Jesus say? Jesus asked Philip:

John 6: 5-6 NLT

⁵ "Where can **we** buy bread to feed all these people?"

⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.



You know, Jesus doesn't need the disciples to do the miracle, right? He doesn't need Philip, Peter, to do all these miracles. But what does He do?

He says, "Where can **we** buy bread?"

What is Jesus doing here? Jesus is involving the disciples. To paraphrase that, Jesus is saying, "You and I are in this together. I'm the Miracle Maker but you can take part in the miracle."

And if there's something that I believe that we need to learn today, this is it. Because right now, we live in a divided world. There's more of **me** than **we**.

I mean, just look around you—in social media there are so many people fighting with each other. There's no real *unity*. We say *unity* but the truth is we're envious whenever we see that our friend is experiencing more abundance than we do. We get jealous when our single friend eventually has a partner, has a fiancé, and we're left behind.

We feel like there should be unity but it's hard to have unity.

But what Jesus is trying to tell us is that when we come together, miracles happen. Miracles happen and the truth is, my friends, God doesn't need you and me. That's the harsh reality.

Jesus Wants Us To Be Involved

Jesus doesn't need you and me to perform a miracle.

But what is He doing? He is involving us.

Because He wants you to be involved.

To be a little kinder. To be a little more compassionate. To be a little more understanding. To do small acts. And maybe, just maybe, with that small act that you do when you offer it in the Name of Jesus, He will turn that *little* into a *lot*. Because I believe this: that there's no such thing as a simple act. There's no act that is too simple. No generosity that is too little for God to not be able to turn into a miracle.

Let Jesus turn your small efforts into a great, great impact for people.



Mother Teresa said this: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

God can use you to bless others to make a miracle happen in the life of other people.

I want to read to you again that part where Jesus asks Philip where they can buy bread to feed all these people.

And then Philip replies to Jesus this way:

John 6: 1-13 NLT

⁷ Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"

⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up.

⁹ "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

Not enough. I wonder how many of you feel like that, sometimes. Like, you feel you don't have enough. Kulang ang pang-matrikula. Kulang ang pang-date. Kulang ang pang-invest. Kulang ang pang-vacation.

From Bite to Buffet

How many of you feel there's really lack in your life: "Kulang na naman ako ngayon. Short pa lang ako."

You have those moments parang walang-wala ka na -- you have nothing at all anymore?

That's why it's important to involve Jesus. Yung walang, walang, walang ka na pero may dumarating. Hindi man sobra, pero sapat. -- So that when you already have nothing at all, when you involve Jesus in your situation, provisions arrive-- not really too much, but enough.

Just in case you feel like you're one of those who say, "This message is for me, Bro Audee. I really feel I don't have enough budget for my needs..."

I want to encourage you with how this story ends...

You know what happens after everybody had gotten their fill?

John 6: 1-13 NLT

¹⁰ "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.

The verse says, "... and they all ate as much as they wanted."

They started out with nothing. Then, 5 loaves, 2 fish, 1 bite-- just one bite per person. But it's not even one bite. It's just a nibble. They went from having one *bite* to experiencing a *buffet*.

This is Jesus, my friends. He's a Miracle Maker and the message of the Gospel today is not that you will never go hungry again. The message is not that you will never get depressed again. Or that you will never get lonely again. Or that you will

John 6: 1-13 NLT

¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

never get discouraged again. Or that you will never find yourself in a bad place again. Or that you will never have a need again.

The message of the Gospel today is loud and clear: That even if you lack something, there is a Living Bread. There is enough of Jesus for everybody here.





Beautiful Promise

The beautiful promise, my friend, is that when you leave, may sobra pa-- there are still leftovers. That when you give your life to Jesus, you don't leave empty-handed.

You leave with a basketful of blessings.

Pumasok ka dito kanina, kulang--You came in here with not enough. I'm claiming, I'm declaring, that when you leave this place, you're going to leave with lot more.

You're going to go out to the world full of love, full of hope-- that you're going to give to people who need them the most. Are you ready for your basket of blessings today?

In the Presence of Jesus, just open your hands to receive those blessings. You've seen miracles in your life. Some of you, you've experienced the miracle maybe too long ago. But I believe that today, you will experience another miracle. Today is the day the Living Bread will come into your life and He will fill that hunger and that thirst-- that nobody else can.

We are in the Presence of the Wonder Worker right now. Let me pray for you:

Father in Heaven, every person here lifting hands is a person who needs you. Whatever miracle You have in store for them, Father, I want you to surprise them. I want you to make sure that no person leaves this place unchanged -- that they will really believe in faith that you are our Miracle Maker. You are enough and when You are in our life, even though we don't have enough, we have everything that we will ever need.

So, come Jesus. Come, come into our life. Come into our heart and bless us from the inside out. We declare Your goodness over our life, oh God, and that You will make miracles happen today.

In Jesus's Name we pray. Everybody, shout Amen.

Let's worship the Lord, Everybody. Worship the Lord. He is in your midst.



MERCY MINISTRIES

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for
and assurance about what we do not see.*

– Hebrews 11:1

HE CARES MISSION, PART 7

From Street Child to Company Supervisor



JOHN PAUL OBINIA told *The Feast Family* that he came from a broken family. His grandmother, Lola Elena Calanoga, a massage therapist, and his mother Nelia, a barangay staff, struggled to support the family.



Here they are today happily making the Victory and thumbs up signs, from left:

John Paul, sister Donia Paula Obinia, mother Nelia, sister Clarissa, Mark Joshua, King Nelson, and nephew Jann Paulo.

At an early age, John Paul already learned how to earn money on his own. He ventured to be a *mangangalakal*-- collecting junk—so he could have money for the needs of his family.

He continued to be a junk collector from elementary up to high school. He went to Project 6 Elementary School, Ernesto Rondon High School.

Learning That God Cares

In 2005, John Paul, then only 10 years old, learned about the He Cares Mission-- and that God really cares for him.

He happened to be with other kids collecting junk at Barangay Project 6 in Quezon City. Some volunteers from He Cares approached them and invited them to a feeding program for street children. There, they met He Cares founder, Bro. Joe Dean Sola, and other kids.

In 2008, He Cares granted John Paul a scholarship. Thus, he was able to go to college—at the Quezon City University-- earning a Bachelor of Science degree, major in Industrial Engineering.

He Cares also supported John Paul's sister Clarissa. She studied the same course as John Paul did, and she is now in her fourth year at Quezon City University. *Here is Bro. Joe Dean with successful He Cares Mission beneficiaries, clockwise, from left: Ronald Alcaraz, Joe Melyn Balino, Verginia, Jemalyn, Vangeline, Verlyn, Bro. Joe .Dean, Pauline, and John Paul.*



Paying It Forward

In 2014, grateful for the He Cares blessing, John Paul paid it forward by volunteering as a youth leader.

“I started enjoying the weekly He Cares Mission program and eventually, I became one of the volunteers,” John Paul shares.

John Paul liked the most helping build the He Cares foundation, fellowship with his co-volunteers, sisters, brothers, and the kids they are serving.

“I am happy helping preparing the food for the kids,” John Paul muses.

He points out the best lessons he learned in He Cares: “Always trust in the Lord and have faith in Him. Think positively no matter what challenges you have to face in life.”

Today, John Paul is a full time employee as a Project-in-Charge at RFDG Construction and Development Corporation.

From street child to company supervisor. Yes, indeed, God cares—for John Paul, for all His people.

--With reporting by Cybill P. Bayto



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

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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.

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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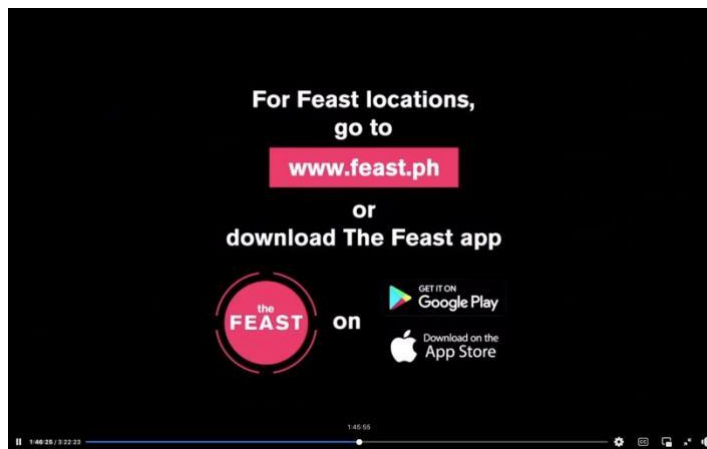
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19