



**NEWSLETTER**  
**October 2, 2022**



## *God Told Me Who I Am in His Eyes*

I GREW UP in a religious environment and I studied in a Catholic school.

So, even when I was still a kid, when people asked me, “Who are you?” I had all the pious answers memorized.

“I’m a child of God,” I said.

My mind knew, but my heart didn’t.

How could I be a child of God if I fell into sin so many times? How could I be a child of God if I had no talents? My classmates were going to be doctors, lawyers, engineers... Me? I was going to be a loser. How could I be a child of God if I was molested by my cousin, bullied by my classmates, and ridiculed by my own teachers?

But God rescued me. *God told me who I am in His eyes.*

And that constant revelation of His personal love changed my life forever.

This is what we’ll wrestle with in our second installment of our series on *Exodus*.

Receive God’s personal revelation today!



Feast PICC, God bless you!  
I miss you. I *will* miss  
you today.

I am here in the Dubai airport —  
just arrived— flying to Milan, Italy,  
because we're going to have a Grand  
Feast there, where different Feasters  
from different countries will be  
gathered together. They'll worship the  
Lord, they'll listen  
to the Word, and it's going to be  
exciting. Pray for us. Pray for the  
anointing and blessing of God  
for the Grand Feast in Italy, Milan  
in just a few hours from now.

I also will be leading a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima and bring some pilgrims— I do this once a year. Finally, after, you know, two years of the Pandemic, we're able to do this. I'm able to raise money again for. The different mission ministries that we have. So, one day, I hope you come and join us in one of these pilgrimages.

But, anyway, I am praying for you. I know The Feast today will be an encounter with God where you will receive His Presence, His love, His wisdom, His inspiration, and His power in your life.

And we do honor Bro. Audee and Bro. Didoy — the way God has given them to us and what a blessing. And we know that God will use them today.

My dear friends, thank you again for being my family and I will see you, I will see you soon. God bless you. I love you. Pray for me. I will pray for you.

May your dreams come true,

**Bo Sanchez**



# LETTERS

## *Favorites*

DOES God play favorites?

Fr. Albert Garong asked the question during Mass at The Feast last Sunday, September 25, 2022.

Fr. Garong was discussing last Sunday's Gospel — about *The Rich Man and Lazarus*. The rich man enjoys a life of abundance but is not admitted to Heaven. Poor man Lazarus gets to enter Heaven. Does God favor the poor more than the rich? Read on, *page 4*.



Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, says God told him who he is in God's eyes. What? Does he mean he is God's favorite? Read his introduction of the Feast talk today, the second installment of our new series on *Exodus*, *page 1*.



During his Worship exhortation last Sunday, Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Audee Villaraza points out we are all actually God's favorites, thus encouraging those avored by God with blessings last week to applaud Him, *page 12*.



Bro. Didoy Lubaton also says God rescues His favorites from life's hardships during his discussion on Talk 1 of *Exodus*, *page 13*.

Bro. Mike Viñas, leader of our Light of Jesus Feast Worship Ministry, and Bro. Bene Sanchez, say God favours them and their team as they successfully mounted the *Feast Worship Night*. Check out our *Special Report* on the concert, *page 30*.



Glory,

**Randy  
Borromeo**  
Media Ministry  
Executive Director





***FLASHBACK!***  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

## Holy Mass



**FR. ALBERT GARONG**  
on the Gospel: Luke 16:19-31  
*The Rich Man and Lazarus*



**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

First of all, we'd like to honor a certain group of people because, in the Church, this Sunday is dedicated to our seafarers, migrant workers-- or maybe you're a seafarer yourself, you belong to that group. Remember that we honor you, we celebrate you, and we pray for you today.

Question: Does God play favorites? There are those who feel they are God's favorite and there are those who don't.

In particular, I want to ask: Do you think the Lord loves the poor more than the rich? Yes, or no? Uy, controversial. Bawal bang maging mayaman? -- Is being rich prohibited?

## Does God Have Favorites?

In the Gospels, palagi nilang pinagdidinanan, ni Jesus, kung gaano niya kamahal yung mga mahihirap. Tapos palagi niyang pinapagalitan yung mga may kaya. In the Gospel, Jesus emphasizes He loves the poor. And then, He reprimands the rich.

And in our Gospel today, some people would understand God is sending the poor to Heaven while sending the rich to Hell. Is that what the Gospel is saying?

So, the first thing I want to help you understand today is why Jesus spoke highly of the poor.

One reason is this: Tandaan natin na iba yung panahon ni Jesus Christ-- Let's remember that the time of Jesus Christ is different from our time today.

Because at that time, people had a very distorted understanding of God and His blessings. For them, if you are rich, if you are successful, if you are popular-- you know *successful* by the world's terms-- then you must be favored by God.

Sasabihin ng mga tao, "Ah, mayaman sila, pabor sa kanila ang Diyos." -- People would say, Ah, they are rich-- God must favor them."

And then at the opposite, if you are poor, if you are childless or barren, if you are sick -- like with leprosy-- you are cursed by God. If you are suffering, it means God is punishing you.

Do we still believe that today? Of course not.



### Reading I: Amos 6:1A, 4-7

*Thus says the LORD the God of hosts:*

*1A Woe to the complacent in Zion!*

*4 Lying upon beds of ivory, stretched comfortably on their couches, they eat lambs taken from the flock, and calves from the stall!<sup>5</sup> Improvising the music of the harp, like David, they devise their own accompaniment.*

*6 They drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the best oils; yet they are not made ill by the collapse of Joseph!<sup>7</sup> Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.*

## God Loves Us Equally

Can you imagine saying, “Let’s go to the poor. Let’s have an outreach ministry for them.”

Tapos sasabihin ni Father,  
“Huwag na. Kaya sila mahihirap  
kasi pinaparusahan sila ni Lord. --  
Then Father would say, “No more. They are poor because God is punishing them.”

That is so opposite to how God truly thinks and works. We don’t think like that anymore because

Jesus Christ made sure to speak against *that* every time He could.

That’s why our Gospel is filled with moments where Jesus emphasizes God’s love for the poor, just to balance (the status of the rich with the status of the poor) and say, “Look, God loves you equally.”

Your status in life, what you are going through-- how much is in your bank account, how healthy you are-- these have no bearing as to how much God loves you. That is not an indicator of God’s love-- because God loves us all equally. I hope that’s clear.

Number two, perhaps we ask now: “So, bakit po maraming mahihirap? Bakit maraming nagugutom? Bakit maraming nagdurusa? -- So, how come there are so many indigents, so many going hungry, so many suffering? If God loves them so much, why are they enduring so much pain?”

Our Gospel today also answers those questions so beautifully. Remember what Abraham said to the rich man?

He said to him, “My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime and Lazarus received what was bad.”

The rich man received what was good and he kept it to himself. That is why there are Lazaruses who don’t receive what is good in this life. In a word, *Greed*.

Every blessing that we have, every blessing that is given to us by God is never meant for one person. All the blessings that we receive are always meant to be reinvested in the people around us. Do you agree?

If you receive blessings automatically, it makes you stewards, and caretakers-- because once you are blessed, you are given a responsibility to make sure that the people around you also experience God’s blessings.





## Blessings Are Meant To Be Shared

Look at how Lazarus was described: He was at the gate of the rich man's house. Lazarus could watch the rich man eat and be merry. Ganun sila ka-close-- That's how close they were.

And yet the rich man didn't bother to help Lazarus.

He knew Lazarus because he could call Lazarus by name.

He said, "Send Lazarus for me."

So, the rich man could not deny that they were well acquainted with each other.

The rich man could not say, "Hindi ko naman alam, kung alam ko lang I would have done something." -- I did not know Lazarus. Had I known him, I would have done something for him."

No. The rich man knew perfectly well that people around him were suffering. But still, he focused on himself, his pleasures.

Always remember: our blessings are always meant to be given away, to be given back in God's glory and for the people around us.

And now, one last thing that we want to note about the rich man: Why would he not help Lazarus? Was he a wicked person?

Masama ba siya?-- Was he bad? Isa ba siyang kontabida gaya nung mga nakikita natin sa telenovela na masama lang talaga sila, maitim ang budhi.-- Was he like the antagonists in the television novels-- who are naturally evil? May mga ganon bang tao talaga?-- Are there really people like that?

But we know that the rich man was not wicked-- because he showed love for his brothers. When he found out that he was condemned (to be in Hell), he manifested compassion and selflessness-- for his family.

He said, "If I cannot be saved, please save my family."

He's not evil. The problem is his love is limited-- dun lang sa mga taong nasa paligid niya, sa mga taong mahalaga sa kanya, may connection sa kanya, may pakinabang sa kanya-- only to those around him, those he valued, those he had connections with, those from whom he could get some favours.

He showed compassion to his family-- but to his neighbor who was right there at his gate suffering, he showed no compassion.

It's important to know this because it's easy to condemn the rich man. It's easy to make him the "other" person.

We think, "Masamang tao kasi yun. Hindi ako ganun.--He is bad. I'm not like that."

## Warning: We Cannot Love Perfectly

But all of us, as loving as we are, may kakulangan pa rin yung ating kakayahang magmahal. -- We still can't love enough. Sino ba dito yung wagas na wagas yung pag-ibig, yung pagmamahal?-- Who among us here who can love perfectly, who can look at a stranger and say, "I love you" -- as much as you can say "I love you" to your parents or to your child?

One way or another, we're still growing our capacity to love. So, as much as the rich man is being condemned, it is also a warning to us: Lahat tayo nagkukulang sa sting pagmamahal. --All of us cannot love perfectly.

And what was the obstacle for the rich man to love? Comfort.

When we think of our spiritual challenges, we think of doubt, anger, hate, envy, and greed. But you know what, especially in this day and age, one of our biggest enemies is comfort. Masyado tayong addicted sa comfort, sa pleasure. -- We are addicted to comfort and pleasure.

Mawalan lang tayo ng cellphone ng ilang minutes, aligaga na tayo. -- Just misplacing our mobile phone for a few minutes, we're already going crazy. Wala lang tayong ma-scroll, ma-like, hindi na tayo mapakali-- When we cannot scroll, receive a *like* online, we can no longer keep still.

We can lie down for five hours watching Netflix and feel no guilt about that. We can go out, enjoy ourselves, and have buffets-- we have no problem with that because it's okay to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

But it's never okay to be so addicted to comfort, that you can no longer care for the people around you.

## Reading II: Timothy 6:11-16

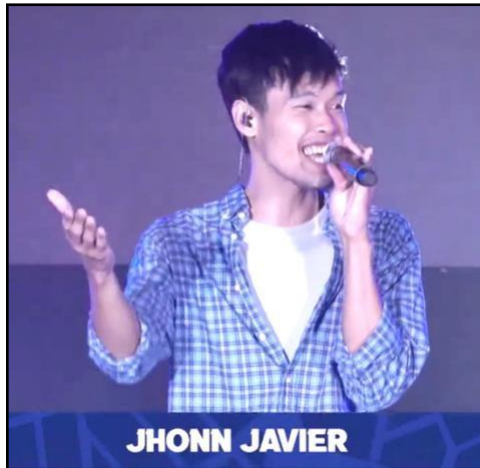
*<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.<sup>12</sup> Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses.<sup>13</sup> I charge you before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession,<sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ <sup>15</sup> that the blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*





## Worship!

### EXHORTATION



**JHONN JAVIER:** Come on, let's stand and worship our God because He deserves our praise! We praise the Lord for His goodness. Hallelujah!

Can you ask the person beside you: What is it that you're thankful for? Your job, your family, your friends, your visions? Amen.

We're thankful to God for those blessings. If there is One we are really thankful for, He is Jesus. God has given us His only Son so that we may live. And that is amazing grace!

So, let's sing today—about His amazing grace, His unfailing love.





The King of glory



I lift my eyes



Jesus I sing for  
all that You've done for me



Forever You are Lord



You laid down Your life  
That I would be set free



You won't let me down



**AUDEE VILLARAZA:** Praise You, Jesus!  
You know one thing that the enemy will do in your life is try to make you miserable, bitter, and angry because the enemy knows that he cannot stop God from being good.

So, you know what he'll do? He'll stop you from being grateful. He'll stop you from saying thank You to Jesus.

And so I want to fill this place with praise with gratitude. Can you just clap your hands for 10 seconds? Every second of God blessing you this week. Come on! Clap those hands and thank Jesus for the ways that He blessed you. For the ways that He healed you. The ways that He protected you.

Somebody, give a shout to Jesus!



# Talk



TALK 1  
**GOD IS  
COMMITTED  
TO YOUR  
FLOURISHING.**



**DIDOY LUBATON:** I want to start with a story.

December 19, 2013, I kneeled— on one knee— in Sonia’s Garden, on a Friday night, under a beautiful, beautiful colorful trellis. And I popped the question to my girlfriend and I asked her, “Would you be my wife?”

She said, “Yes.”

And that was the most wonderful feeling for me.

I stood up, hug-hug with friends, celebrate, and celebrate.

But I could not sleep that night. Because I was like, “I’m getting married. Where will I get the money for the wedding expenses?”

Who experienced this: the news just arrived to you and you’re like, “I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Who’s trying to find some funds for whatever they need, for some particular project? How many don’t know what to do with their family or personal relationships? How many are having a hard time with business, workplace?

Our one big message today is: *God is committed to your flourishing.*

Is your life hard today? One psychological study surveyed hundreds of persons and they checked the persons’ mental, well-being status— divided into two categories: 1. Flourishing; 2. Languishing.



# GOD DESIRES HUMAN FLOURISHING.

I'm so surprised that only 20% of the respondents answered that they were flourishing. And I was like, where are the 80%? Are they languishing? In the middle? I don't know.

I believe we are not supposed to be languishing. God did not create us all so that He could see us all suffer. He is not that kind of God. He wants us to be flourishing.

Gusto ba ni Lord na maging mahirap ako? — Does God want me to be poor? I don't think so.

Last month, we finished our talk series on *Genesis*. It was such a mind-blowing experience. Changed my life.

And one of the main points there, at the start of the Bible, first book of the Bible, God created a good world for us humans to experience good things— blessings to share and bless the world and the rest of creation. Here, we knew and have seen over and over again that God really desires human flourishing. He *not* only desires it. Here's what I'm going to preach today: He's committed that it will happen to your life. He doesn't just desire you to live an abundant, rich life. He's committed to making it happen *with* you— not to force you— but *with* you. And I want you to embrace that truth— that God is committed to your flourishing. God *is*. How about you?

**GOD IS  
COMMITTED  
TO YOUR  
FLOURISHING.**

We welcome you to our new series on *Exodus*, the second book of the Bible. And the series is titled *Special Delivery: God Will Rescue You*.

God has a special delivery for all of us. And that delivery is *us*. We're being delivered from pain, from worry, from psychological deficit, from... you name it. Because we are not supposed to be languishing. We are in the progress and process of flourishing.



## Exodus is not a standalone story.

*Exodus* is not just a standalone story. We're not going to forget about *Genesis* and then move to the next book and see what happens. No. It's all interconnected. *Exodus* continues after *Genesis*.

In the last part of *Genesis*, it mentions Jacob and his sons. And how does *Exodus* begin? The names of Jacob's sons are there.

So, let's read together:

By doing this, the author of *Exodus* is telling us that, hey, the *Genesis* story is not the ending. It is going to continue and continue, and continue.

The core message of *Genesis* continues in *Exodus*.

You have to remember also that sometimes, it's good to get some fun facts from the Bible. The first five books of the Bible are called the *Pentateuch*—the four books after *Genesis* are *Exodus*, *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, and *Deuteronomy*.

They all begin with the same word. Not in the English translation of the Bible—remember that this was translated from the Hebrew Bible, from the Hebrew text. And all four books start with the Hebrew word *ve*—and in English, *ve* means *and*.

So, the books are interconnected—hyperlinked.

### Exodus 1:1-5 NLT

“These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. <sup>5</sup> In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.”

“ve” = “and”



So, we'll go through this 10-week series on *Exodus*— it's a long story, but it's a beautiful story.

What I'm going to do today with you is I'm just going to just unpack *Exodus*, just open it. In the next ten weeks, I want you to start reading the *Exodus* story — on your own. Because you read the Bible not just during The Feast. We try to read the Bible even in our daily life. You know, we meditate on the Word, day and night.

I'm going to give you five lessons immediately from the first chapter of *Exodus*.

So, if you're suffering right now, it's not God's idea. You're in a process. God may be teaching you something. Humbling moments make us learn humility.

So, from Exodus 1: 6-7 (*below*). I want you to see that. In the Bible stories, the characters died. But the descendants continued to multiply and fill the land.

This reminds us of Genesis 1:

### **Exodus 1:6-7 NLT**

**"In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. <sup>7</sup> But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land."**

### **Genesis 1:28 NLT**

**Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it."**

So, in the opening verses of *Exodus*, God's desire to bless His people was so very clear. It is a different book, but it is not a different story. It's all coming together.





Again, it's not God's idea for humans to suffer. If you're suffering, God is not laughing. He is not happy that you are in your dead-end job. He is not happy that your savings account is negative. He is not happy that you have a lot of bills to pay. He is not happy that you have debts, for years now, and you want to pay them. He is not happy that you are disconnected from your kids., and you don't know what to do... If you are the kid, He is not happy that you are having a hard time figuring out, "How can I parent my parent?" – the situation right now in society...

Come on, calamities happen. We are sometimes stuck in horrific messes. And if you look at the story of the human suffering—war, genocide, pandemic -- still happening right? All of these are obstacles to our human flourishing. One by one, many times, these are caused by evil and greedy humans. These are not caused by God. God is not happy when we are suffering. God *is* committed to our flourishing. It's actually only by the grace of God that we have survived all of these terrible happenings.

And if you are still alive, you have survived so far. You've gone through many obstacles: Kasal na kayo-- You're already wed. Nabitawan mo na yung negative person sa buhay mo.-- You've freed yourself from the negative person in your life. Nakapag-tithe ka pa din, kahit tight --You've been able to tithe even if your budget is tight. Nandito ka pa rin-- You're still here. You could have been just sleeping throughout the day. You are still trying and overcoming difficulties day by day.

God is committed to you. So, does God really care about us? Yes, He does.

In the *Exodus* story which we are going to study in the next 10 weeks, you're going to see that yes, God is so committed to turn something really bad into something really, really good. And that is our daily, daily life.



Message No. 2: *Problems are a part of life.*

When we say God is committed to your flourishing, we're also saying that God doesn't in one snap, you become a millionaire. No.

What is he going to give you? He's going to give you ideas, opportunities, people, connections. And that, with the Lord, through our efforts, the millions will come. Probably you're in that process. Probably not yet. But it is in God's plan for you to flourish.

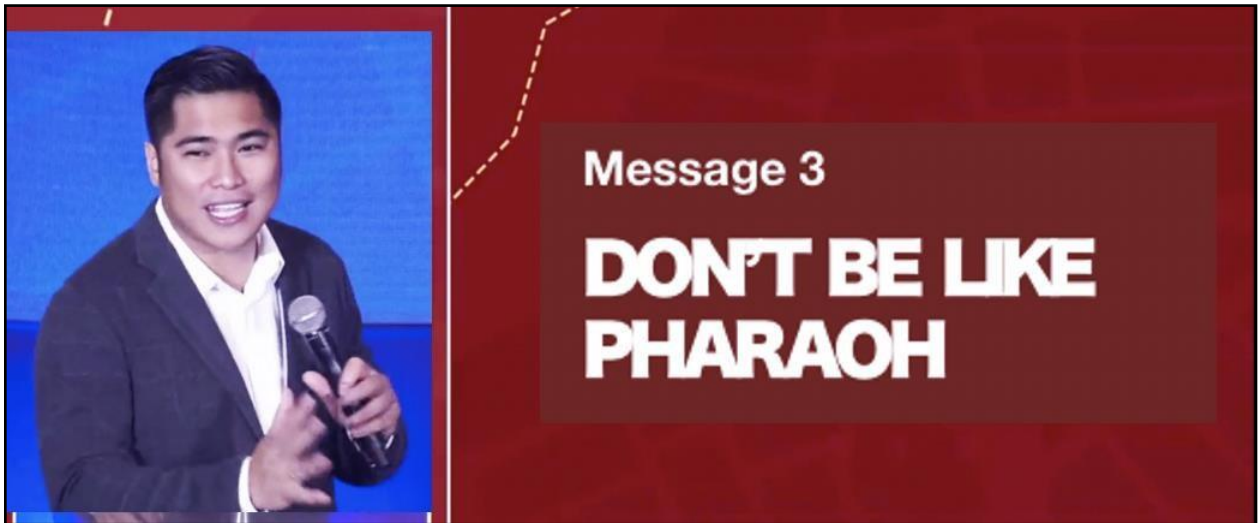
And God doesn't say you will never have wars anymore. Is there anybody here who can claim there will be no pandemics happening again? There will be no life-threatening illnesses that will come to your family.

That's not what we're preaching here. What we're preaching is despite the calamities, despite the terrible incidents happening to all of us-- that most of the time we cause ourselves-- despite all of those, the sovereignty of God says you are meant to flourish. You are meant to live an abundant life.

I want you to hear that. Here is the truth: We need problems to flourish. That is God's blessing for you: the problem right in front of you. The problem in parking makes us patient. The problem with the queues, the lines. Come on, we're family here. We're going to face it day by day, week by week. What are you going to do? Are you going to complain?

Or are you going to say, "Lord, thank You for teaching me patience today."

We need problems to flourish. Problems are actually turning into our good. God allows problems so that we could learn how to overcome them. And the good news is God will not give you problems beyond your capacity to bear them. So, if you have big problems, you have a big responsibility. God believes you so much that you can overcome. God believes you so much that your potential is so unlimited. You are limited only according to what you see and what you believe in yourself.



In the whole *Exodus* story, you will see a lot of problems. The Israelites face pharaohs. They faced the sea and they could not escape. So many problems happening to them. It seemed like the Israelites were doing well – blessings and fruitfulness—and then just as God promised them, through Abraham: You will be multiplying, you will have descendants as many as the stars, you will live blissful, beautiful, fruitful life.

But the blessing was seen as a curse, not by the Israelites but...Where they are? They were in Egypt and there was a ruler there, a Pharaoh. Sometimes, the blessings of other people can be seen as a curse by another person.

So, we go to Message No. 3: *Don't be like Pharaoh.*

This person, this unnamed Pharaoh, did not know anything about Joseph and his family. He did not know that it was Joseph's wisdom that saved Egypt, his country, his kingdom, from a terrible crisis before.

What happened? The blessing to someone else can be a threat to an insecure person.

So, let's read the Word, Exodus 1:8:

#### Exodus 1:8-10 NLT

"Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, 'Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are.

#### Exodus 1:8-10 NLT

<sup>10</sup> We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country."



Another version of the Bible, the New International Version (NIV), uses a better word. Pharaoh says: *Come, we must deal **shrewdly** with them...*

Does the word **shrewdly** ring a bell?

It was preached a few weeks ago.

**shrewd = serpent in Genesis 3**

It was the same Hebrew word used to describe the crafty serpent in Genesis 3—the one who fooled Adam and Eve.

You know, Pharaoh doesn't trust God's purposes for His people. So, instead of seeing the Israelites multiplying as a blessing-- a workforce that could enrich the nation—he oppresses them into forced labor. He maltreats the blessing.

And did you notice? In *Exodus*, Pharaoh isn't even given a specific name. It doesn't matter. And now, I want you to think about it: The Pharaoh is the archetype of a leader who steps on other humans to protect his own insecurities.

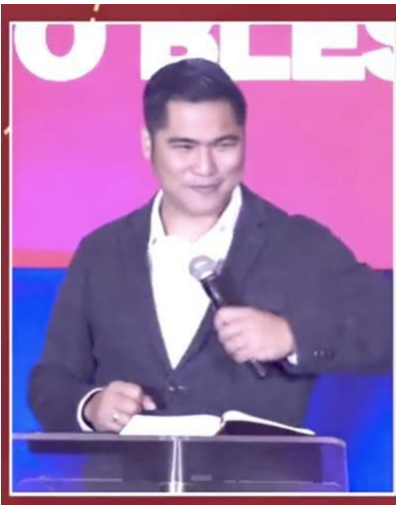
You and I, my friend, sometimes, we're pharaohs in our homes, in our workplaces, in our businesses, in our little communities, in our light groups—from leaders, to politicians, to managers, to supervisors, to teachers, to fathers, to mothers. We sometimes fall into this trap.

Are you a leader, my friend? Are you a person in authority?

This *Exodus* story is asking you: Don't be like a pharaoh. We are our own worst pharaohs. Yeah? Can anybody agree with me that sometimes, we're like a Pharaoh—that we need to change?

We enslave ourselves. We put down ourselves. We do not believe in ourselves. We kill our fruitfulness. We make bad decisions because of bad feelings, blaming bad situations, or external forces. Sometimes, we are our worst pharaohs. But here's the good news: **SPECIAL DELIVERY: God will rescue you.**





## Message 4

# IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR TRIALS, GOD WILL FIND A WAY TO BLESS YOU THERE

Message 4: *In the middle of your trials, God will find a way to bless you there.*

So, let's continue with Exodus 1:11:

### Exodus 1:11 NLT

**"So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king."**

For the sake of his nation's security and to quell his paranoia, Pharaoh decides to oppress the people of Israel. He got himself fighting against God. Israelites are the blessed people of God. But Pharaoh – because he sees the Israelites as a threat...

Guys, sometimes, everything seems like a threat to us. And even if the blessing is coming in, we think that's a threat. That's why we're cursing the blessing. And God is rescuing us from that perspective.

The Israelites are fruitful in filling the Earth. But instead of co-ruling with God, his creation, they are being ruled by Pharaoh. So, what does God do?

That is the story that is amazing. In the midst of the hardship that they're going through, God continues to bless His people. Let me say that again:

In the midst of the hardships of the Israelites, of the blessed people of God—of yours and mine—God still continues to bless His people. Let me read Exodus 1:12:

### Exodus 1:12 NLT

**"But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became."**



## Exodus speaks directly to our doubts.

Come on, give me some more problems, Lord. Because I am your son, I am your daughter. We are your chosen nation. The more that we are oppressed, the more that we are obsessed with the blessings that are coming in.

We're not afraid of the breaking because, in the breaking, we will find our blessings. We will find that our blessings are there, for us, to become our *breakthroughs*. God is an expert in this. Even in the worst situations, God turns what is meant for evil into good. Just like in the *Genesis* story.

You may be in a harsh situation right now. You may be in depressed languishing, hurting situation right now. But *trust* that even in the midst of the upheavals, in the midst of everything, God is right there blessing you.

We know this so well: that when we focus only on our problems, when we focus on ourselves, we doubt ourselves. We doubt Who created us.

Because when we are looking at ourselves, we'll ask: Natutulog ba ang Diyos?—Is God sleeping? Is God really capable? Am I really set for greatness? Am I going to get myself out of this debt? Is my child going to forgive me? Is my relationship with my spouse still going to be okay?

We doubt ourselves. Doubt is our problem. We'll end up not taking God seriously. Because we're looking just at ourselves.

And this *Exodus* story, again, speaks directly to our doubts. Because it's not, you know—Just be good, and then we go to Heaven. No, no, no. This *Exodus* story is about real suffering—happening to the people in a broken world. With cruel tyrants like Pharaoh. And you'll see that God will do something about it.

The question is: Are you cooperating with what God is doing about it? Right, friend, God knows what you're going through. God knows the way to your breakthrough. And even if you do not see Him, even if you do not feel Him, even if you do not recognize Him, it doesn't matter to Him.

Here's the good point: He is still blessing you.

Man, what a great God we serve!



## Message 5

# WHETHER YOU'RE GOOD OR BAD, GOD WANTS TO RESCUE YOU.

Aminin. Admit it. I'm the first one who'll raise a hand. I have sins. How many sinners are in this place? We are not in a Feast of perfect people. This is actually a hospital for broken people—in the recovery process.

Welcome home. If you're in doubt, welcome home. If you are recovering from any addiction, from any sin, if you're a bad person, welcome home. This is your place.

What I want to drive the talk further into:

When some think of God, their image of God is this: that God is a stern old person—nakaabang, papaluin ko kung magkamali ka—watching, ready to spank you when you make a mistake.

We imagine that God is frowning and He is so obsessed that we should obey Him. No, no, no. That's not the God we serve.

This may be a shock for some of us. But in *Exodus*, God is not just convincing the Israelites to make better moral choices—to be good boys, to be good girls. So that if life sucks now, when they die, at least they will receive their heavenly reward.

That is sometimes our thinking. But in *Exodus*, we are really going to see further that God is committed to delivering people from their physical suffering.

From your personal suffering.

And here's the clincher: Check the sequence of events as we discuss *Exodus* further.



I want to give an insight, right here, right now: The rescue of the Israelites from Egypt came *before* the Ten Commandments.

There were no Ten Commandments then. The Ten Commandments happened only when they were already in the wilderness, with Moses, complaining to God. But you know, the miracle of that Special Delivery happened even before the Commandments were written down.

You know what that means for you and me? You are welcome home. You don't have to be perfect. You can try and strive to be.

God's rescue plan was to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. And it wasn't offered only to those who obeyed His commands. It was a call to simply trust God.

And if God calls you, "Yes, Lord!"


In the *Exodus* story which we are going to unpack in the coming weeks, God's call is symbolized by the lamb's blood put on the doorframe of each of the Israelite's houses, so that when the angel of the Lord passes by, that household will be saved.

If you're having questions in your mind, come next few weeks, you will understand what I am talking about.

As long as there was the blood of the lamb painted on their door, they will be saved-- whether you're an Israelite or an Egyptian. Whether you are a good person or a bad person. Whether you have been faithful or not in paying your taxes. Whether you're a good spouse or a bad one. Whether your moral transformation can wait—and it's in the process.

But God's plan, the special plan, the Special Delivery for you is: "Come, my child, I will rescue you. I *am* rescuing you.





**Exodus 1:13-14 NLT**

**“So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. <sup>14</sup> They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.”**

I want you to get ready for next week’s talk. The Egyptians responded to God’s goodness very badly. They became so much more evil to the Israelites—as we read in Exodus 1:13 (*above*).

And the evil did not stop there. It went on. Later, we will hear that Pharaoh enacts a decree that every Hebrew boy must die. He is cutting off the family line of Abraham forever. He is so insecure, so afraid, so fearful that he will lose his kingdom because of the prosperity of the Israelites.

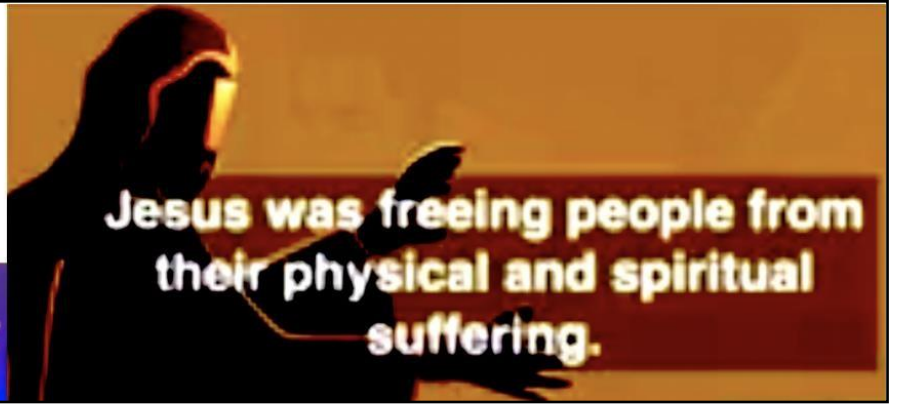
What we want to watch for is how did God respond to this evil. Watch. Because God has a rescue plan. That’s what we will find out in the next nine weeks. As we unpack the entire series, we will see how God shows up at the doorstep of Pharaoh, through the guy named Moses.

In conclusion, Jesus really rescues you. Jesus is rescuing you, friends. Again, I sense that this room is full of people—even you who are watching online--who are going through tough times. It’s so easy to buy into this lie, and think that God doesn’t care about you. God.

Sometimes, you don’t think you’re going to get out of debt. Like, “I’m you’re counting the months, whoo, it’s already October, I’m still below budget.”

Again, God doesn’t want you to be miserable. He doesn’t want you trapped in your addictions. He doesn’t want you to live a life of poverty.

Today, my dear friend, I pray that your heart receives this message: God is committed to you. God is committed to your flourishing. That is the one thing that you want to remember today. God wants you to experience the abundance of the Eden vision.



I want you to look up to God. His commitment to us is great. He stepped into history to rescue us. He did it in Exodus. He did especially too through Jesus.

Suddenly, we will see what Jesus was doing when he was here. It makes so much sense.



Jesus healed a woman bleeding for 12 years, that no doctor could cure.



Jesus delivered the man who was tormented by demons, who was hurting himself and others—even cutting himself with stones.

Jesus also made a disabled man in Bethesda walk again—someone who had been paralyzed for 38 long years.

That's the kind of God that we serve. Jesus was freeing people from their physical and spiritual suffering—for how can we separate the physical from the spiritual?

You are one person. You are one whole beautiful being.





And on the Cross, Jesus confronted the worst of our failures—our past, our present, our future. He came face-to-face with evil. He won by dying.

This is part of His rescue plan—for you and for me. He became the King—the true King of Heaven and Earth. Not in our human terms—but in the most unexpected way: by putting His complete trust in God. He believed that love is more powerful than the grave itself.

It's a signal for all new creations—for all of us. God's commitment to your flourishing cannot be defeated by anyone, not even death. Never doubt again. Start believing.

Friend, are you suffering physically? Are you suffering spiritually? Are you *languishing*—a deeper word--? Do you need God's rescue?

Today, look to Jesus. He asks you to trust Him and follow Him. And then you'll see—eventually. Go, be rescued by Jesus.

**GOD'S COMMITMENT  
TO YOUR FLOURISHING  
CANNOT BE DEFEATED  
BY ANYONE,  
NOT EVEN DEATH.**



My friend, very simple: I started this talk saying that I knelt-- on one knee. Mayi and I are eight years married now. And I'm sure there are people here who are 16, 24, 48 years married.

Remember my doubt—Am I going to be able to provide for my wife? Well, we're still married. She hasn't left me. Ha-ha.

At hindi pera-pera lang. – And it's not just about money. In the last eight years, we went through a lot of suffering. I feel like crying when I try to look back. God gives and takes away. But blessed be His name.

Mahirap kumita ng pera. It's hard to earn money. Minsan lang 'yan. It's just *temporary*. Gagaan din 'yan. It's going to be easier in the long run.

Didoy and Mayi, holding hands, get married, and living a good life. And then three years after, Hailey came. We have a beautiful daughter. And then two years after, Hosea came. Imagine, the Israelites were multiplying—I'm just connecting this to my own life.

But I am not kidding. I was asking, “Lord, kaya ko ba ito? Can I bear this?”

Friends, I'm one with you. I'm just like you. We all have our worries. We all have our baggage.

Last week, I was able to talk to a lola--grandma. And the lola was thinking about the apo—grandchild.

And I was like, “Huh, darating din ako dun.”-- I'm going to get to that point I'll be thinking of my grandchildren.

You know, we are at that stage where – Hailey is 5 years old, Hosea, 3. We are going to our 40s. My children are starting school—face-to-face, hybrid (a mix of face-to-face and online meetings). Nakakaloka--Mindboggling. Pandemic, war between Ukraine and Russia, prices of commodities skyrocketing—everyone is annoyed, irritated. Even in the Feast..

Christmas is coming, you still have no Papa (boyfriend). Still have no money. It's really like that.



Whether we're good, whether we're bad, whether you're doing good, whether you're in a bad situation, whether you're suffering—because of your own personal decision... Or whether you're suffering because of things beyond your control... whoever is in government, wherever we are doing our Feast. These don't matter. God doesn't look at those (setbacks).

He looks at you and me, and He says, "My child, I have a Special Delivery. Come, I'm going to deliver you from evil. I'm going to deliver you, and carry you, and provide for you, and make sure that no harm will overcome you. I also am giving you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions. I'm giving you authority, go ahead! I came to your life so that you may have life in its fullness, My child."

Today, receive the blessing. Ask God:

*"Lord, I believe you're committed to my flourishing. So, turn my mourning into dancing, please, Lord. Turn my languishing into flourishing. I don't want to be here, anymore. Turn me from being bitter to becoming better. I'm hurting with the oppression. But I believe that the greater the oppression, the greater the opposition, the greater the victory. And the victory is already Yours, Lord. And so, Lord, I'm going to come into this prayer because I need You in my life. I cannot do it on my own.*

Go ahead and make that prayer today...

And God says, "I will bless you. I am committed to your flourishing. Believe it. Receive it. Embrace it. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



## SPECIAL REPORT



### **FEAST WORSHIP NIGHT!**

#### ***To God Who Never Changes***

By **CYBILL P. BAYTO**

NO matter how many worship songs are sung, how various the voices and praises, how many generations come and go, and will come—still, we worship the same God who never changes.

That was the essence of the *Feast Worship Night* held at the PETA Theatre in Quezon City on September 24, 2022.

Feast Worship is a Catholic worship movement of the Light of Jesus Family, leading the Worship session at The Feast, LOJ's weekly faith gathering, mainly at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) by the Manila Bay Area and echoed in various Feasts worldwide.

The Feast Worship's vision is to see generation after generation, people encountering more of God's goodness, sharing more of God's grace, and declaring more of God's glory.

The Blessed Sacrament—our Lord Jesus Christ, our God ever Present amid His people's praises, takes center stage at the *Feast Worship Night*.



## OPENING PRAYER

The Worship Concert, of course, begins with prayer, with prayer leader Aio Barcelona extolling the goodness of our Father: ...You have never left us, you have never forsaken us. You've always been here at our side.

But tonight, Father, just allow us to deliberately come into Your Presence. Allow us to ask again for more of your love, more of your mercy again, more of your healing again...

Lord, we know that you are here, tonight. Amen.



## THANKSGIVING



Light of Jesus FamilyFeast Worship leader Mike Vinas, also Builder of Feast Bellevue, leads our Thanksgiving, reminding us:

In the presence of God, I want you to recall the blessings of the past. I want you to see the blessings in the present—all those blessings around you right now in your life. And I want you to simply appreciate them with deep gratitude to the Lord. And as you do that, notice how hope and joy will rise in your heart, will rise in your life and in this place tonight with an expectation of the beautiful future that God has for each and every one of us.

I don't know about you. Maybe you're in complaint of in comparison, yes perhaps that's why it's hard to be thankful but let's get pass that. Let's pray for that tonight and let's just be grateful...

Who among you came tonight with your best? Came waiting for God?

Psalm 95:1-3 says, *"Come let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song, for the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods."*

So let's just take a moment, let's take a moment to be grateful. You can do it your own way...

## EXHORTATIONS



Fr. Albert Garong, one of our regular Feast Bay Area Holy Mass presiders, expressed gratitude for being part of the *Feast Worship Night* for the first time: “Who’s pumped up right now? This is intense, guys. It’s my first *Feast Worship Night*. My goodness. Wow!... I’m just super thankful to be with you, guys. To be with everyone here, to be worshiping in person, finally, after so long a time.

Fr. Garong shares classic worship songs which became a big part of his faith journey.

His parents joined Couples for Christ when he was 8 years old. And he was 9 when he was exposed to the Charismatic movement. So, he learned Charismatic songs. And he says that when he entered the seminary, he introduced the songs to his co-seminarians.

He shares glimpses of his life in the seminary and exhorts us about the Presence of God in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in the Holy Eucharist:

When I was teenager, I was in Youth for Christ. At the age of 17, I entered the seminary so my Charismatic involvement was cut.—although it became dear to my heart...

But then, in the seminary, I also discovered my love for liturgical music, our songs in church—*Lamb of God, Kordero ng Diyos*— and I fell in love with all of them.

...The most important treasure that I found in the seminary was something that we did every day. We would have one hour of adoration...When the Blessed Sacrament was exposed on a monstrance, on an altar table, and we were simply there for an hour in silence, just having our own heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord. There are songs in between activities but it’s mostly silent adoration...

Tonight, we are worshiping and thanking the Lord and praising Him and adoring him as much as we can. We feel Him in our heart. We feel Him in our neighbor. We feel Him in each other. But then God chooses to be more Present than that. And yes, through the Blessed Sacrament...

Let’s put it this way, a while ago, someone told me, “Father, ang tagal natin itong hinintay. Ang tagal natin itong inasam. — We’d waited for this for a long time. We desired for it for a long time.”

But when we think about it, hindi naman Siya nawala di ba? God did not vanish, right?



## EVEN WHEN HOPE IS GONE...

Sometimes, these words are just hollow and what's real are the tears you're trying to hide and you don't want to show anyone. And you know, even if things are sort of getting back together, it's not like how it used to be, either.

Some of you who serve at The Feast know what I'm talking about. It's not the same! The people we used to serve with are not there anymore. The place that used to be packed from the front to the back is full of empty seats. Maybe we're getting by in terms of our work— but man, the gas prices. It's like it's almost as if every day we're running dry...

If that's you... Awesome! Because God is close to the brokenhearted. Did you know that the book of *Psalms*, it's the prayer book of the Judeo-Christian faith? And more than one-third of the entire book are *lament* psalms. Only less than one-fourth are *praise* psalms. The majority of the book of psalms is lament.

Is it possible that God is okay if you're coming before Him with doubt? Is it possible that God is okay with you coming before Him *not* okay? Is it possible that God actually desires *that* so that He can show you that He is here and that He is Present?"



We're going to join you, we're going to sing with you, and we're going to sing for you when these words are hard for you to sing. That's the beauty of Community —that all our voices are joined together and we're going to come before God in intercession, in humility, and in prayer—in trust that God is here, that God is Present and will be making Himself known.

Even in the doubt, we can sing. In this Community, let's sing with one another, let's sing for one another.

Let's sing because this is the truth: that God is here and He is listening to every single person who is wanting to just gaze towards Him. He's a God who knows us, who knows what we need even before we ask Him.

That's why we can come before Him in confidence... and sing:

*Even now when my hope is gone  
Even now when there seems no way  
Lord, I know You can do all things  
You can roll the stone away  
Raise me even on the fourth day...*



## OFFERING

Mike Viñas leads the offering exhortation:

It's amazing how God's been using right these songs to bless, impact, and change lives.

Naalala ko yung sinabi ng servant servant sa Feast last year. — I remember what one Feast servant told me last year. Her family suffered from COVID— her parents were in critical condition. One night, she had to take her father to the hospital. In the car, to keep calm and to pray at that crucial moment, she showed him a video of The Feast (during Worship).

She told him: “Daddy, o, tingnan mo tumutugtog ako dito..— Look, I'm playing (an instrument).

And the song was *Jesus You Are for Me* — with the touching lyrics: *One day I'll see the promise that you have for me.*

Right away, they latched on to those lyrics— as their prayer, as their song of hope in that dark, difficult moment of life.

Sadly, her dad passed on. But in the midst of that pain, in the midst of that confusion, still, she declared in faith: *“One day I'll see the promise God has for me... Jesus, you will not forsake me. Jesus, I know you are for me.”*

That's just one of many stories, of many testimonials of what God is doing through these songs. You all get to be part of all that God is doing through these songs.

Truth be told, one reason we mount *Feast Worship Night* is to be able to raise funds— to be able to record our songs, produce and eventually release an album. So, if you are here, you get to be part of all of that. So, thank you very much. Applaud yourselves.

But we admit, we still need your help to be able to cover the production costs. It's no joke to make an album. To release one album costs close to half a million pesos.

May I ask you: Would you be willing to partner with us to produce, to fund our next album?

. We will be releasing an album with 11 brand-new songs. We are so excited as a team to share these new songs with you, with all of our Feasts

And eventually, we pray that these songs, by God's grace, will again be released and find their way to the heart of people— for God to be able to touch, change, and transform them.

—*Photos by Mark Bolongan  
And Jay Carlo Olaguer*



**FAMILY**

## **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.

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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.



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