



NEWSLETTER
October 23, 2022

Spiritual Amnesia

ARE you worried about your future?

Are you worried about your children
and their future?

And because of your fears, you feel stuck?
You feel immobilized?

Many times, this is our problem: We suffer
from short-term amnesia.

God has blessed us so many times, rescuing
us, being with us through our hard times.
And He keeps blessing us every day.

But what do we do? Very quickly, we forget
about it.

And we stop being grateful. And usually,
when gratitude stops, grumbling starts.

Welcome back to our Feast Talk series on the book of *Exodus*,
titled *SPECIAL DELIVERY: God Will Rescue*. Today, be blessed
by our Talk 5: *Revisit What God Has Done*.

May today's message wake us up from our grumbling and shift us to the habit
of remembering what God has done for us.

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez





LETTERS

Let Us Pray...from the Heart

THIS issue of *The Feast Family* reminds us to pray. But do we need to be reminded to pray? Isn't praying already a habit, already deep in the heart of every Feaster?



Our Feast Mass priest presider last Sunday, Fr. Mark Demanuele, points out that last Sunday's Readings may be summed up in two words: *Keep Praying*. And he says: "I know what you're saying...Yes, praying is quite easy...Unfortunately, not." Find out why, *page 3*.

Bro. Bo Sanchez, in his introduction to Talk 5 of our series on the book of *Exodus*, says we need to keep communication with God open because we tend to suffer *Spiritual Amnesia*, *page 1*.



What Feasters may already have deep in the heart is our favorite prayer in The Feast, our *Prayer of Abundance*. Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Didoy Lubaton led our prayer last Sunday, *page 11*.

Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Audee Villaraza warns that we might be praying to and worshipping the wrong god. Check out *Flashback page 16*.

But whether we pray or not, God continues to bless us— with what we should have. For Rochelle Delmonte, it's priceless joy as she serves as a caregiver for *Grace To Be Born*, *pages 33-35*.

Yes, God listens to our prayers— prayers He hears from our heart.



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK! **OCTOBER 16, 2022**

Holy Mass



FR. MARK DEMANUELE

on the Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Edited Excerpts...

For the lesson of today's Readings, two words: *Keep Praying*.

Even if you need the help of someone else-- as the First Reading said Moses needed the help of somebody to hold his hands-- but still keep praying.

Even if you have to persevere, and keep going, and keep insisting— keep praying.

The Readings said so clearly to us that we are called to continually keep in touch with the Lord-- because prayer for you and for me is communication, a connection with our God.

Why? Why do we have to keep praying? Why should we pray without getting weary? Because our God is a loving Father who cares for His children-- who loves you and me personally, who knows what is best for you-- that what you need is important for you-- and what you should have and shouldn't have sometimes because He loves you.

Is Praying Easy?

And because God loves us, my response to His love is to love Him back, to keep this communication, this intimate relationship with God always. So, keep praying, keep your communication with Him open.

One time, somebody told me, “God doesn’t have a day off.”

Not even one hour or one minute off. Because He loves to listen to you, He loves to hear from you because He created us for Him, and we are one with Him.

And even if I disconnect from the Lord, He still keeps fighting for me.

So, the Lord today is inviting us: “Keep praying.”

I know what you’re saying... Yes, praying is quite easy—you have your prayer, you pray hard, you have a bit of faith, and then He will bring you healing. Then, He will give you reconciliation. Then, He will give you victory over sin...

Hmm, is it that easy? Unfortunately, not.



Reading I: Exodus 17:8-13

⁸ In those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel. ⁹ Moses, therefore, said to Joshua, “Pick out certain men, and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.”

¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses told him: he engaged Amalek in battle after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. ¹¹ As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight. ¹² Moses’ hands, however, grew tired; so they put a rock in place for him to sit on. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady till sunset. ¹³ And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.



Is God Listening to Us?

There are times when we feel, “God is not listening to us.”

Now, when you have this issue in your life: “Is God listening to me? I’ve been praying and nothing is happening...” guys, first of all, remember the last sentence of the Gospel of today: “Will he find faith on Earth?”

Now, what does that mean? What is this faith that the Lord is asking about?

A faith that you trust the Lord-- even though you don’t see results. A faith that means you have confidence in God-- even if you think He is not listening. A faith that helps you to overcome your doubts that God is with you.

Yes, my dear sisters and brothers, sometimes-- or many times-- we find it difficult in our prayer to connect with the Lord because we feel like it’s one-way only. No, it’s not.

Now, listen to this: There are times when I give up: “The Lord is not listening.”

But what's important: “Do I trust God that even if He says no, I still believe in Him?”

Do you remember Jesus in (His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane) before His passion? What happened?

He said, “Lord, please take away this challenge. Take away this cup.”

Did God take away the cup? No.

Jesus prayed for us to be one united in the Church. Are we one united Church? No, not yet.

Reading II: Timothy 3:14-4:2

Beloved:

¹⁴ Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work. ¹ I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: ² proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.



Prayer Does Not Change God

So, God is not listening to us. God is not listening even to His only Son. That's what we think.

But God sends His angels as a result of Jesus' appeal to Him.

What does that mean? It means that God said "No" to His Son-- because Jesus needed it; it was a necessity that His Son suffers for us even though it was a tough moment for His Son -- but still, even He told Jesus "No," God the Father sent His angels to His Son to console Him.

And God did the same to us. Maybe we will just see the "No"—that "God doesn't want this from me; that maybe He's angry with me that's why He doesn't want to give me what I pray for."

But sometimes, "No," is an answer in itself. He don't want that.

But then when we say the prayer *Our Father*, when we say, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done," are you sure *Thy will be done?* Or *your* will be done?

Guys, let us be honest. We repeat this phrase many times. When I pray the *Our Father*, saying *Thy will be done*— let me believe it. Let me trust God-- with confidence that His will is much better than what I want.

So, prayer is important-- not to change God but to change my attitude, to change my heart, and to entrust myself into His hands as a child entrusts his life into the hands of his father.

So, yes, I pray and I pray always-- as I said at the beginning of this homily. We can't stop praying because prayer, as I said, is a relation, a connection with our God.

I don't just pray when I want something. I don't stop praying because I think God is losing His hearing and He needs a hearing aide. No. I keep on praying without being weary-- which means I keep my relationship with the Lord always open.

That is what prayer is all about and it's not going to change God's thoughts. It's going to change my heart—my stone heart, to a loving heart—that I accept that God loves me, that God truly cares for me, that God is not going to abandon me but He listens to me always.

So, if His answer to my prayer is "Yes," or "Wait a bit," or "No," He is still communicating with me. And I know that when I hear the word "No," and I don't like it, I understand that God is going to help me.

So, please, let's keep praying, and let's keep our connection with God always open. Amen.

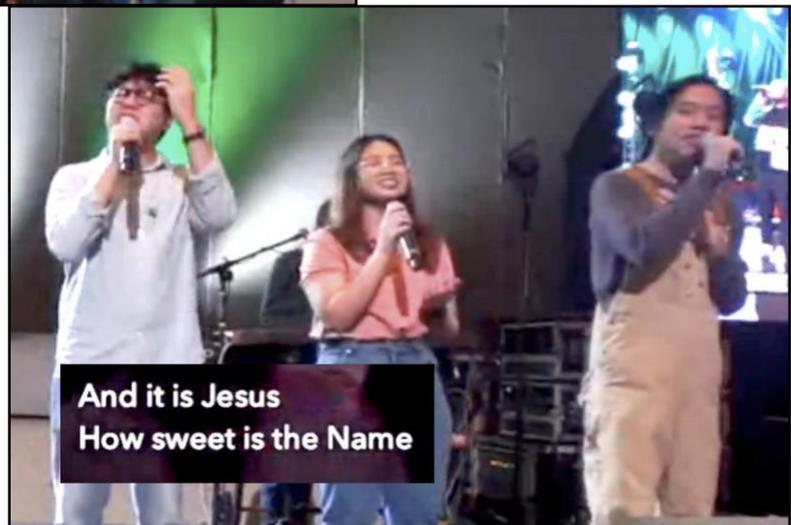


Worship!

EXHORTATIONS

KISHA CASTRO: Good morning, Feast! May I invite everyone to stand up and greet someone beside you a very, very, very Good Morning! And as we come into Worship today, let's lift our praises loud and clear to Jesus!

He is here! So, let's declare today that in His Name, in His Truth, and in His Love, we have been set free!





MHADZ PAMAONG: Come on, let's say, "Jesus!"

We have been set free!

And praise God for the gift of this venue,
for the gift of this Family, for the gift of the Internet,
for the gift of the person beside you.

Come on, let's say, "Thank You, Jesus!
Thank You, Jesus!"

If you don't have any prayer today, just say,
"Thank You, Jesus!"

So, we just sang a song about freedom, and, you
know, in John 8:36, Jesus made a powerful
statement. Listen to this:

Jesus said, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

You will be free indeed! And this is Good News for us!

Today, we have been given a gift, a gift that came from our Lord Jesus Christ—
to live a life of abundance that Jesus wants us to live. Amen?

But if you came here today feeling otherwise, I pray that as we sing this song
of Worship, we may be reminded that we are not meant to be chained. That no
matter what we had done, no matter what they say about us, this is never going
to define us.

I pray that every person, every mouth in this room will confess our real
identity: that we are sons and daughters of our good Father.

So, if you're ready to worship today, I invite you to lift up your hands or you
can be in a posture of Worship, or you can come as you are—this is called *Grace*.

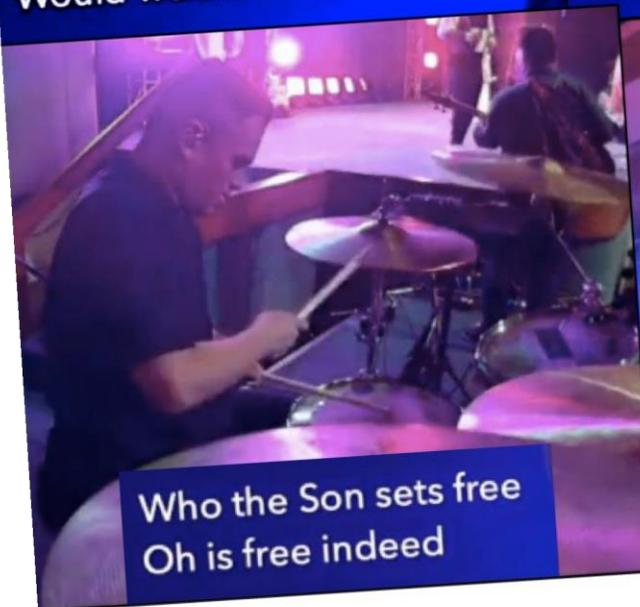




Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me



I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me



Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed



I'm a child of God
Yes I am



Free at last
He has ransomed me



While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me



His grace runs deep



In my Father's house
There's a place for me

WELCOME!



DIDOY LUBATON:

All the children of the Lord, give the Lord His praise! Oh, Heavenly Father, we love You! We praise You! Glory, glory to You, Lord! Amen!

Dear Church, dear Family, it's so good for all of us to be worshipping together. Welcome to the Family!"

Those people watching online, far, far away or near, you are part of the Family. Welcome to the Family! And yes, this is our Light of Jesus Family and The Feast is our gathering and we're excited for our Heavenly Father to come and dwell with us and bless us and heal us, and provide for us.

We want to greet some special people to this place...
Welcome to the first-timers! Welcome to the Family!



Prayer of Abundance

Today, we are going to learn about God providing us with His Mercy. I'm excited about that because I can just sense our need for it.

Let's pray our prayer in The Feast... This is our *Prayer of Abundance*.



*In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Today, I receive all of God's Love for me. Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless, overflowing abundance of God's universe. Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles. Today, I open myself to God's Word so that I become more like Jesus every day. Today I proclaim I'm God's beloved,
I am God's servant I am God's powerful champion. And because I am blessed, I'm blessing the world, in Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Sing to the Word of the Lord: *Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path.*

Put your hands to your heart and just. have that moment with the Lord. Father, there are so many things—done, not yet done throughout the week, so many voices, so many concerns, so many “urgents.” But in this time, I listen to You. My heart is open to You. My spirit is wanting You.

So, Lord, speak to me. Speak to us, as a Family, and our Father in Heaven, come and do Your will. This is our Family prayer. Jesus, we pray, Amen.

We've missed him. He just came from a wonderful journey, let. us give a big warm welcome back again, Bro. Bo Sanchez...

BO SANCHEZ: I came from Paris last night. I just want to share something with you. I really believe this:

While we were celebrating Mass, I felt God speaking to my heart, and God was telling me, and He really told me: “Whatever is happening to you right now was once upon a time just a dream—you were just dreaming of what’s happening to you right now, this moment, in your relationships, in your health, your career.”

You know, we don’t notice it, we don’t realize it-- but once upon a time, look back five years ago, look back ten years ago, look back. If you’re my age, look back 30 years ago... Whatever is happening right now was once upon a time just a dream. You understand me? And we don’t realize it and we’re not appreciative, we’re not grateful because--three reasons:

No. 1: We’ve got new dreams that we’re working on. But that’s an error. Because we need to celebrate the dreams that were already fulfilled.

No. 2: We have set deadlines for those dreams that are already fulfilled, that were unrealistic-- because they came from pride and impatience.

What am I saying? Those dreams took too long to be fulfilled-- and we did not realize that they were already fulfilled.

No. 3: The dreams came with problems. Because you’re a human being and you live on Planet Earth-- because you do that and you are that-- what happens is that you get surprised, and then you’re not grateful for the dreams that were already fulfilled.



I had a picture with my wife – we were on a plane and we took a picture last night. And then I realized something-- that many, many years ago, I drew a dream board. I had a dream board—it was big. And I drew this pretty girl and me riding a plane, and it represented what we were going to do when the kids get bigger—that we would have mission trips and we would lead pilgrimages more often.

And then I realized-- I was looking at the photo and I was saying, “Wow, the dream is happening.”

The first thing we did was we went to Milan and we met The Feast leaders from all over Europe. And to consider that the Feasts are growing in Europe is a dream that once upon a time, you know, they were just thoughts.

They were just a figment of our imagination: Ano kaya maganda mag-karoon ng Feast sa...? — What if we would have a Feast here and there?”

But it’s happening already.

I met leaders from Brussels, our Feast leaders from Spain, our Feast leaders from the UK (United Kingdom). We have a Feast in Ireland. We have a Feast in Norway. We have a Feast on a small island in Spain.

And we all met in Milan, and I was saying, “Wow, this is a dream come true.”

Here I am with a dream board declaring we would have 1,000 Feasts!

Touch somebody beside you and say, “Keep dreaming.”





And sure, it took a long time for that dream to happen. But it happened. And those Feasts, you know, they are not like us—this is a big Feast. This is an anomaly. Most Feasts are small and they're beautiful because they're little families where they know each other, they serve one another.

That's why we invite you to join small groups here-- we've got Light Groups. And we invite you to build your own Feast. You can do that wherever you are. Be the Light of the world in that place and in that city that you are in.

And you know what the Feasters in Europe told me? That they join us online. You know, they wake up at 3:00 in the morning—wherever they are—just to be here.

Right there, and I just want to greet you guys from Italy, from the UK, and from all over.

They're here. They're here every

Sunday with you. We are one big Family. Amen!

And one more time, I just want to say this: Guys, this was but a dream. What's happening right now—you know. Those of you worshipping, those of you who are playing instruments – once upon a time, that was just a dream.

Hold the person you went with today—once upon a time, that person was just a dream. You were just dreaming. That you would have somebody that you would be holding right now. But guess what: that person is there. That friend is there. That family member is there.

And I want you to know, I was dreaming of this time. I was dreaming that I would be 56 – and look younger. That was just a dream. I now look 55 and a half.

Thank you, guys. I'm not preaching here. I just want to greet you.

Please welcome the guy who will be reaching out to us, man of God: Audee Villaraza!



Talk



Talk 4

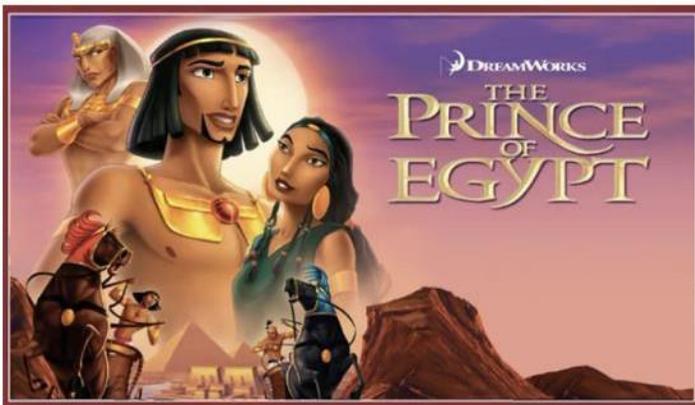


AUDEE VILLARAZA: How are you guys? You blessed? I see so many good people in the house of God this morning. Let me give you our big message for today:

We are in Talk 4—we’re talking about the book of *Exodus*, the story of Moses. But I’ve got a question: How many of you actually saw the original movie of *The Ten Commandments*? You remember that movie—the original one with Charlton Heston as Moses and Yul Brynner as Pharaoh. That was a classic. I mean, it took you almost a week to finish that movie – but it was good.



How about this one? The cult Disney classic, *The Prince of Egypt*? That was also a good one—with the Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston song: There can be miracles...





How about this one—the latest one? It came out, I think some two years ago, called *Exodus: Gods and Kings* starring Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton. Did you catch that one? I really liked that one.

Why am I sharing this? I've got a point. You know how Hollywood likes to take bestselling books and then turn them into movies? Then you'd read the book, you loved it.

And then you watch the movie, and you're like, "Hmm, the book is so much better."

You know, it's like they cut off some stuff from the book, and the acting was not good, and you feel like you're short-changed because the book was so much better than the movie.

That's how I feel when it comes to the story of Moses. Because I'd seen the movies—I'd seen all three movies. And you know, now that we're studying the book of *Exodus*, I feel like the book is so much better. And there's so much stuff in the book that the movies were not able to depict.

For instance, this was the first time that I realized that Moses was actually this insecure person. He was Hebrew, adopted into Egyptian royalty, and now he didn't really like who he was-- he was running away from his identity. The movies did not really show that to me.

And the other thing that I love, appreciate, so much that I'm reading now the story of *Exodus*, in the book, is that I see now how different Hollywood and the directors would portray scenes—like Egypt was portrayed in one movie as this evil nation, like the bad guy. But when I was reading the actual book, I felt like Egypt was more than that-- that Egypt was actually a representation of everything that goes wrong in any society, whether it's in the past or in the present, or even in the future.

Think about it: What does Egypt represent? Opulence, lavishness, having too much, much excess, right? That's what Egypt was all about. Slavery, corruption, greed. If you think about it, Egypt represented everything that God wasn't. So, you could say Egypt was like the anti-Heaven.

God was all about serving others, being selfless—while Egypt was all about serving yourself... God was all about freedom. Egypt was all about slavery, subjugation. God was all about humility. Egypt was all about pride.

We studied *Babel* a few months ago and I remember the Tower of Babel—when the Israelites erected a monument so high. Why? They wanted to reach Heaven. They wanted to actually be God. Not reach God but *be* God.

And, you know, Egypt is like the next version of Babel. The people erected monuments. But here's the difference between Egypt and Babel: In Babel, they erected monuments in honor of their name—to make a name for themselves. But in Egypt, yes, they erected monuments, but it wasn't in honor of their name. It was in the honor of one man, and they called him Pharaoh.

Let me explain a little context about the Pharaoh. You see, the Pharaoh, he's not like your regular ruler. Like, you know, we've had presidents, and prime ministers whom we call public servants, right? They live to serve the public. The Pharaoh was a bit different. He lived so that the public would serve him.

Anyway, why did the people worship the Pharaoh? The Egyptians believed that Pharaohs came from the lineage of the god Ra, the sun god. So, the Pharaohs were children of the sun god. And so, anything that the people would pray for, would be answered. Their prayer to Ra would be granted. It would happen. So, they worshipped Ra.

And you know, this actually put Moses in a very unique position. Because remember: Moses was Hebrew but he grew up with the Egyptians. So, he was rubbing elbows with the Pharaoh, he knew the officers. He knew the people believed that they should worship the man called Pharaoh.

But then when Moses encountered the Living God, that's when he realized that, hey, this man, this Pharaoh, was really just a man.

Do you have anybody in your life that you look up to so much, that you idolize? Let me use that term: *idolize*. And that person doesn't meet your expectations. Like, you put him on a pedestal and you realize he's just like you.



Nowadays, we don't use the term *idol* anymore. There's a new term. You don't say, "Who's your *idol*?"

You know what they say today? This: "Who is your *bias*?" Ha-ha. That's lingo from my wife.

You know, how they say, "Never meet your idol?"

You know what I say? Meet your idol. Why? Because when you meet your idol, you realize that really, idols are just like you.

They are really just like you. They are imperfect. They're impatient. They're inconsiderate. They're just like you.

So, meet your idol. Because then you realize your idol is so imperfect that the only idol you should have is God. Because God will never disappoint you. God will never discourage you. God will never leave you. God should be your only idol.

Right now, I'm going to give a quick recap for those of you who were not here last week. We're in this part in our study of *Exodus* where Moses had just encountered God through the burning bush. And if you watched the movie, you read the book, you know this part:

Remember that Moses had just fled from Egypt—he was running away from the Egyptians.

Then God came in the form of a burning bush. And God said to Moses, "I want you to go back to Egypt, where you came from. And I want you to tell the Pharaoh 'Let my people go.'"

And you know the reaction of Moses: "Lord, who am I?"

Moses represented all of us who are so insecure. One thing I love about Moses is in spite of his insecurity, he was so obedient. I wonder how many of you here feel that you're so insecure at times but you still show up. You're so unqualified for what you need to do but you still show up every single time.

That's what Moses did.

Now Moses, along with his big brother Aaron, has an audience with the Pharaoh and they have a conversation.

Let me read the passage to you. Moses is now in front of the Pharaoh

EXODUS 5:1-2 NLT	After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:
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EXODUS 5:1-2 NLT	Let me people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness." 24"Is that so?" retorted Pharaoh. "And who is the Lord? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go."
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The Problem of the Egyptians

You know, the main problem of the Egyptians, and namely, the Pharaoh, is that line where he says, “I don’t know the Lord.”

He didn’t know who God was. The Egyptians didn’t know who God was – the One true God. And so they worshipped this man-god that they name Pharaoh.

Did you know that you can do the same thing in your life? You think that you’re worshipping God – but actually, you’re not. You’re worshipping a false idol. May I show you some evidence that this is true?



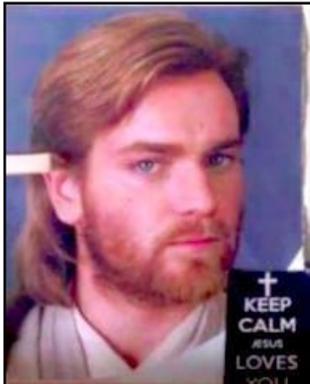
This is the story of a woman in the Philippines who was a Buddhist. She spent four years praying to a green “Buddha” – until a friend of hers said, “That’s not Buddha. That’s Shrek.”



Here’s another one:

A grandma who was praying to this image for so long. She thought she was praying to Jesus, to the Master. Apparently, it was a different master—it’s a Jedi master.

If you don’t know who this guy is—that’s Ewan McGregor who played Obi-Wan Kenobi in the movie *Star Wars*.



But this one is my favorite: There was another elderly woman who thought she was praying to Jesus, the Lord of all—until she realized the image was actually the Lord of the Rings. That’s Lord Elrond, you know, the lord of the elves.

So these are proofs, my friend, that sometimes, we think we’re worshipping God when actually we’re worshipping false idols.



False idols have names: *Power. Position. Possessions. Even People.*

You know you can be worshipping the very people whom you look up to. And the danger there is that you leave no space for God to be in your life when you start worshipping people. You know, no wonder sometimes we feel so chaotic. We feel so terrible because we've been worshipping the wrong god.

And you know what? The scariest part about this is that even when you do that, God is not going to stop you. God is going to allow you.

What scares me so much is this: God will even allow you to make a wrong decision. He will allow it. He's not going to stop you. I'll tell you more about this later.

Right now, how did the Pharaoh respond? Verse 6 in that same Chapter says:

EXODUS 5:6-9 NLT	That same day, Pharaoh sent this order to the Egyptian slave drivers and the Israelite foremen: ⁷ "Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Make the people get it themselves!
EXODUS 5:6-9 NLT	⁸ But still require them to make the same number of bricks before. Don't reduce the quota. They are lazy. That's why they are crying out, 'Let us go and offer sacrifices to our God.'
EXODUS 5:6-9 NLT	⁹ Load them down with more work. Make them sweat! That will teach them to listen to lies!"

FOUR MESSAGES



I want to give you four lessons—four messages from this story.

Here's the first message: *God is fighting for you.*

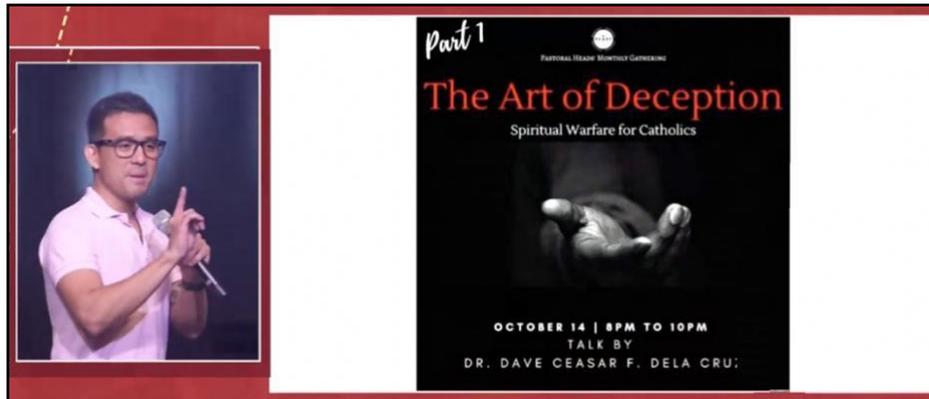
So, Moses tells Pharaoh, “Let God’s people go.”

And Pharaoh—how does he respond? Instead of letting the people go, he makes it even harder for the Israelites. He punishes them even more.

Think about it: Egypt represents evil. Yes? Egypt represents sin. If there's one thing you can learn from this, it's this: That the more you try to get rid of evil in your life, isn't it true that evil punishes you more? Evil latches on to you even more. Because the truth is sin will not give you up easily. It's going to try and grasp, and grab, and latch on to you.

SIN WILL NOT GIVE YOU UP EASILY.

That's why, sometimes, you ever had a sin so bad, that you try to get rid of it and you think you're taking one step, but meantime, the following day you take two steps back. You're always backsliding. Why? It's because sin loves to do that. The Devil wants to present sin as something pleasant, approachable, attractive. It starts out as a seed. But then it gets planted in your life. And before you know it, you start watering that seed until such time that it becomes a big tree and you're unable to chop it down just like that.



We always say this at The Feast: That the way to fight sin is to fight it when it's still young, when it's still early. When you recognize it as a bad habit, chop it down, uproot it from its source. Because that's the tactic of the enemy.

And I want to tell you this: Just in case you're not acknowledging it yet, there is a battle between good and evil. It's spiritual warfare out there, my friends. There's a battle going on between good and evil.

I'm going to share this with you:

Just last week, we had an online program for our pastoral heads. It was via Zoom. It was called the *Art of Deception: Spiritual Warfare for Catholics*.

And I'm telling you—true story: Before it even ended midway through the whole program, you know what happened? The speaker's computer got cut off. Couldn't connect it back. He tried using different laptops from his friends, but he could not get back to his presentation. So, they just ended the program.

The Devil is trying to make sure that you stay in that place of sin.

This is the story of *Exodus*. You leave the place of sin, sin will follow you. Remember what happened that day? The Israelites wanted out of Egypt, Pharaoh finally said, "Okay, go. Get out of my place. Get out of here."

And then they are out in the desert. Little did they know, eventually the Egyptians were chasing after them.

Sin will always try to chase you down. That's the bad news: The Devil is fighting for you.

The Good News is that God is also fighting for you. And the truth is, who wins in the end? God does. God is fighting for you, my friend.

This is the part that I love so much.



Message No. 2: *God allows problems to change us.*

And I'll tell you how. This is how Moses reacts. He goes back to God and starts complaining...

EXODUS 5:22-23 NLT	Then Moses went back to the Lord and protested, <u>"Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me?"</u>
EXODUS 5:22-23 NLT	²³ Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!"

I wonder how many here can actually relate to Moses. Anybody here can feel, sometimes, it's hard when you're with God? Like, you ever feel that as you get closer to God, you get more problems? You're doing good, you want to be good, you're trying to be the best husband, the best wife, the best employer—and yet baggage after baggage just keeps on piling on you. You ever feel like that?

May I share this analogy from a perspective of a parent? Parents who have kids who go to online school. You know, the number one complaint of every kid who goes to online-school...

This happened many times to my son Ethan when he is in a Zoom class led by the teacher: “Dad, Teacher is not calling me.”

You know what, I could do two things: First, I could tell the teacher, “Teacher, please call my son.”

But, the second, my wife and I do this: We believe that it’s much better to just talk to our son—instead of telling the teacher.

So, we tell our son: There are 25 people in the Zoom class. Teacher will not be able to see everybody. You have to wait for your turn.”

And the reason we do this is we realize we can definitely avoid discouragement for our son—but we don’t. Because we believe that hey, in the real world, sometimes, you have to wait, right? In the real world, sometimes, you are not first in line. In the real world, sometimes, you’re not the one who gets promoted first. In the real world, sometimes, hindi ka crush ng crush mo.—You’re not the crush of your crush.

I don’t know who that message was for-- but God bless you.

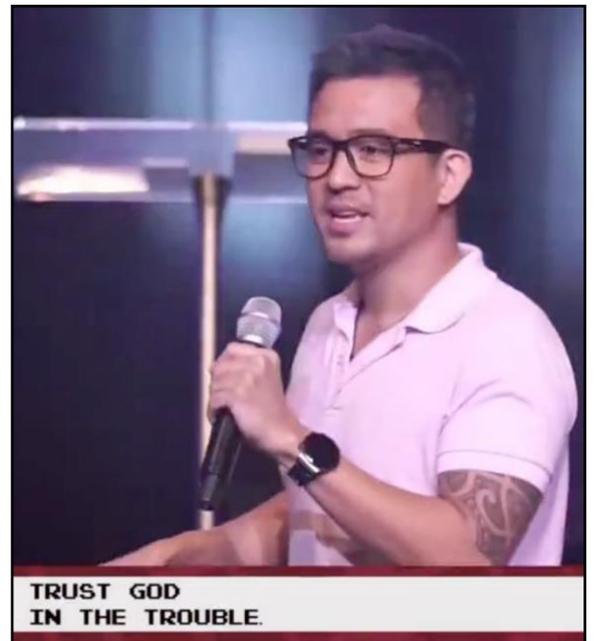
Sometimes, when you complain to the Lord, “Lord, I need a new crush. This one doesn’t like me back.”-- That’s what happens. That’s reality.

And you know what? God is a parent. Sometimes, God will allow you to go through discouragement. Because He knows that He’s going to strengthen you. He’s going to make you better. He’s going to make you more patient. He’s going to make you more compassionate. He’s going to make you more loving and more generous towards people.

That’s why God allows trouble in your life. So, what do you do?

Trust God in the trouble. Praise Him for every pruning that you went through this year. Praise Him for all the problems that kept you standing in your life. Praise Him for the problem that did not break you. Praise Him for every beating that did not put you down.

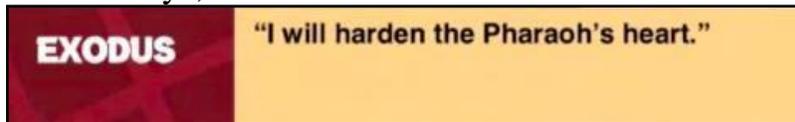
Trust God in the trouble. Because it’s in trouble where He tests you. Where He makes you stronger and better.





Here's Message No. 3: *God can hasten the bad consequences of your choices.*

You see, there is a line in the book of *Exodus*... that's repeated and repeated and repeated... If you watched *The Ten Commandments* movie, you'll hear the line-- it says, *God hardened the Pharaoh's heart.*



Remember that? Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart.

When I was reading this, I was like, "Can that be true?"

God manipulates our heart? I mean, doesn't God give us free will?

And then it becomes an excuse: "No wonder, kaya pala yung katabi ko pusong bato—that's why my seatmate has a heart of stone."

You have this excuse: God hardened the heart of my friend.

But does God really do that? No.

Before we explain this, I want you to know that this text is very ancient. It's not from our time. It comes from an ancient place and from an ancient situation. And the first thing you have to know is that the author is not saying that God will manipulate you from becoming an innocent man into evil man. Or an innocent woman into an evil woman. God doesn't do that. He doesn't mess with that.

What is the author trying to say? That sometimes when God already sees you headed toward the wrong decision, He will hasten the consequences of that bad decision that you made. So that in return, God is also accelerating the mercy that will meet you in that place.

Let me put this analogy:

Imagine Door No. 1. Door No.1 is a door to life, a door to joy, a door to happiness, a door to abundance.

But there is Door No. 2. Door No. 2 leads to evil, to destruction, to corruption—to everything that is not so good. If God sees, and God knows that you've been choosing Door No. 2—there's a pattern, you've been choosing Door No. 2 every time—you know what God is going to do? He's going to go ahead and already give you the consequences of your choosing Door No. 2. So that in the end, He can offer His mercy to you already.

You see, God's mercy is so good that He's going to continue to give it to you, to give it to you, until one day, you will accept that mercy.

That's what He did to the Pharaoh. Before he gave the plagues—10 plagues—in the first five plagues—1 to 5-- the repeated line and the repeated statement was *Pharaoh hardened his heart*.

So, you see, even before God inserted Himself, the Pharaoh's heart was already hardened. God never influenced his heart. He was already bitter. He was already angry.

But then in the next five

verses, what happened? The repeated statement now was *Yahweh hardened the heart of Pharaoh*.

So, it was that time when God knew that because Pharaoh was choosing this, and choosing down this road, God was like, "What I'm going to do is I'm going to hasten the bad consequences—send plagues—so that I hope, I hope, afterward, he will receive my mercy."

I wonder, how many here need the mercy of God. And He has been

sending it to you. He has been sending it to you but you haven't been receiving it. I want you to know that there will be a point of no return. That's what happened to the Pharaoh. There was a point of no return where he completely rejected God. And that's why he encountered the plagues.

Don't make the same mistake, my friend. While you're still breathing, while you're still here, while you still feel the Presence of God, receive His mercy.

27 The FEAST October 23, 2022



PLAGUE 1 TO 5 = "PHARAOH HARDENED HIS HEART"

PLAGUE 6 TO 10 = "YAHWEH HARDENED PHARAOH'S HEART".

PHARAOH REACHED A POINT OF NO RETURN.



What is the significance of the plague? The plague is not just a random bad thing-- but an act of de-creation. What does that mean?

Remember that God created the world out of nothing. There was chaos. There was noise. There was nothing.

Then God spoke, and the world was created.

When you reject God, what happens is that chaos re-enters your life.

IF WE REJECT GOD, CHAOS RE-ENTERS OUR LIFE.

That's why sometimes, you feel like God is not there. You feel like everything is broken. Everything is in disarray. You get disoriented because chaos is re-entering into your life.

Receive God's mercy today—so you don't have to go through what Pharaoh did. You don't ever have to go through the plagues that he went through.

The plagues: water turning to blood; frogs; lice; flies; livestock pestilence; boils; hail; locusts; darkness; and the killing of firstborn



Message No. 4: *God will always provide mercy.*

The story of the Exodus started with Chapter 1 when the Pharaoh was so insecure about the Israelites growing in number. So, what did he do? He commanded that every male Hebrew child should be drowned in the Nile River.

Question: Was that an act of mercy from the Pharaoh? No. That was an act of violence. And some of you might say, wasn't God also doing acts of violence through the plagues?

For instance, what was Plague No. 10? Every firstborn son of Egypt would die. Wait a minute, where is God's mercy there? That's also an act of violence—killing people. Would you like to see God's mercy in the flesh?

In the book of Exodus, Chapter 12, Moses gives an instruction to the people and he says:

EXODUS 12:3-5 NLT	"Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a <u>lamb</u> or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.
EXODUS 12:3-5 NLT	⁴ If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat.
EXODUS 12:3-5 NLT	⁵ The animal you select must be a one-year old male, either a sheep or a goat, <u>with no defects.</u> "
EXODUS 12:12-13 NLT	On that night, I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord!

Where is God’s mercy in all that? An act of violence – just like the Pharaoh’s command: kill every Hebrew child, drown them in the Nile River.

And then God says, “I’m going to kill every firstborn child in Egypt.”

Who was He giving the instruction to—to put the blood on the doorpost? Was it just to the Israelites? Was it just to the Egyptians? No.

He said it to everybody there. Whether you’re Egyptian, whether you’re Hebrew, whether you’re Gentile, whether you’re a Jew, whether you’re male, whether you’re female, whether you’re old, whether you’re young, whether you’re healthy, whether you’re sick—God’s mercy is available to everybody. It’s available to anybody who receives Him.



EXODUS 12:12-13 NLT ¹³ But the blood of your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Some of us think, “Lord, it’s only for those who are righteous. It’s only for those who are saints.”

But you know Jesus did not come for the saints. He came for those who are sinners. Those who are far away from God.

And I want to preach this to somebody here today that if you’ve been far from Christ and if you feel like sin has taken a grip on you. I want you to know that there is a God who will save you from that—no matter how far you are.

There is no one who is too broken for Jesus to save you and to mend you. There is nobody too far for God to reach you and pluck you out of that pit. Because God’s mercy is available to those who will receive it.

Would you like to receive the mercy of God?

May I ask you to stand up as I close...

The story of the Exodus was in the Old Testament of the Bible. This was archaic. But the way the author wrote it, this was just a prophecy-- to point to an event that would happen much, much later on. This was Old Testament.

God said:

EXODUS 12:3-5 NLT “Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.

And then you go all to the end:

EXODUS 12:3-5 NLT ⁵ The animal you select must be a one-year old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.”



You need to choose a lamb that was perfect, flawless, without blemish, without sin. What lamb are we talking about? The Lamb Who would come to take away every sin in this world.

You see, this was pointing to something: Choose a Lamb. A Lamb that has no defect. And what do you do? You take the Blood of the Lamb and then you smear it on your doorpost. And the promise is this:

EXODUS 12:12-13 NLT	¹³ But the blood of your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.
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When you've got the Blood of the Lamb covering your heart, resting on the doorpost of your heart, covering your life... my friends, it's going to protect you.

Who is in your heart right now? Or what's in your heart? Is it anything but Jesus? Because if it's not Jesus, plague will touch you. Death will touch you. But the promise is that if it's Jesus in your heart, it will pass over you. God will protect you. He will make you His home.

Give Jesus a place in your heart, my friend.

It doesn't matter who you are—you can be of a different nationality, you can come from a different background, you can have different challenges going on in your life—but God says this is available to everybody.

Let the Blood of Jesus rest on the doorpost of your heart. Put it there. Smear your life with the Blood of the Lamb, the Perfect Lamb.

He's the only one who can save you.





Father, in Your Presence right now, we are here in Your midst. If there is anything or anyone that is taking a position on the throne of your daughter and your son, Father, I ask that you remove that. Help them get rid of the sin and the evil that has taken root in their life. There is nothing too great that Your Grace cannot overcome.

Father, You are a chain-breaker. You are a way-maker. And right now I declare that in the mighty Name of Jesus of Nazareth, chains are breaking in this place. Shackles are becoming loose in. this place Prison doors are wide open in this place. And your child is walking out.

And we are here to have Life with You, Jesus. We receive Your Spirit. We receive Your Life. We receive Your Name. We receive Your Love. Fill us with Your Love to the overflowing, oh God. Walk in and take Your Place. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Let Jesus occupy your heart. Give Him that space where once upon a time there might be other things there, other priorities, other idols. Now, put Jesus there. Make Him King over your life. Make Jesus your everything because when you make Jesus your everything, the Devil cannot take anything from you. So, make Jesus your everything. Make Him the center of your life.

Make everything revolve around Him.



MERCY MINISTRIES



GRACE TO BE BORN PART 3

My Share of Trials and Triumphs

By **ROCHELLE J. DELMONTE**



LIFE is a mix of ups and downs. I guess not a few will agree with me that this is the reality in this, our transitory world.

I know because I've had my share of trials and triumphs.

One trial: I once worked as a lady guard in a grocery store and I lost that job.

One triumph: I am now regularly employed as a caregiver in Grace To Be Born.

And Grace is not simply a job for me. It is a priceless blessing as it is a Ministry-- serving God and serving His people—the mothers and babies of Grace.

So, I am deeply grateful that I found out about Grace To Be Born.

A sister-in-law of mine happened to be a friend of Sis. Anna Marie Alianza, a house mother in Grace.

Sis. Anna introduced me to the Ministry and I started as a volunteer caregiver in 2019.

Here is Sis. Anna with me in Grace.

I became a regular employee in Grace as caregiver in June 2020.





Graces in Grace

Working in Grace To Be Born is among my triumphs—a number of graces, indeed.

First, serving even just one young mother and her baby is pure joy for me. They've well inspired me to be a better caregiver for them.

This year, I enrolled in a caregiving training course to improve my skills to serve the mothers and children the best way I could.

To help them realize and appreciate what's posted on this Grace wall-- God's Word in Psalm 139:14:

You are beautiful for you are fearfully and wonderfully made.



Second, I've found friends among the Grace family of dynamic, devoted servants, led by our executive director, Sis. Ester Palacio.

Here I am with her during a Grace Christmas.

And *below*, here I am with co-servants-- house mother Anna Marie Alianza (*center*), and caregiver Anna Ojero (*right*).





Spiritual Nourishment

Third, priceless is the daily spiritual nourishment I have received since we attend Holy Mass, The Feast, the prayer gathering of our Light of Jesus Family, and pastoral care by our spiritual advisers.

Burdens of my life trials have become light as I take in the Word of God day by day, assuring me of His unconditional love.



Family Treasure

Fourth, a treasure, is my regular income as a Grace employee which has helped me provide for my family.

Here I am with my love, Ariel, and our daughters Jeddah, our eldest, and Dahcheriel, youngest.

I dream to own a business someday, having our own house, and that our children may have college education.

Yes, I dare to dream since at Grace To Be Born, I have imbibed this inspiring promise in Proverbs 3:5-6:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.”

Yes, not every day is a struggle. There will be a day that you’ll be happy—reaching your hopes and dreams.



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.

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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.

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Our Partner Beneficiaries

Email Address: mercyministries@feast.ph Website: www.feastmercyministries.com

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is a shelter for girls
particularly victims
of sexual abuse.



Grace To Be Born is a halfway home
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He Cares Mission
provides shelter
for street children.

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



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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
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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19