



NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 20, 2022

15 Years and Counting...

“GOD calls us to *kerygma* which means to proclaim God’s Love to the world... Five years ago (2007) I observed that there were hundreds of learning events about hundreds of topics. But there was hardly a learning event about the most important things we must learn to live life in full...”

That’s how I introduced the Kerygma Conference in the first Light of Jesus coffee table published in 2015. Now you know this learning event as The Feast Conference marking its 15th year November 18, 19, and this Sunday, November 20. Yes, already 15 years of education on living life, God’s Way.

So, we paused our Feast Talk series on *Exodus* for one week to mount Feast Conference 2022.

The Feast Family covered this big event and will share with you a Special Report next week.

Yes, the learning continues for He who is in us teaches us greater lessons than the world can ever teach us.

I pray that you continue to be an empowered God student.

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez





LETTERS

Beginning from the End

YES, this issue of *The Feast Family* is about *beginnings* which we start with *endings*.



In his homily in last Sunday's Feast, Fr. Paolo Asprer pointed we came to the end of the Liturgical Year and we begin the Solemnity of Christ the King this Sunday, and after that, the Advent Christmas season. Fr. Asprer focused his homily on the End Times giving us important lessons on how to prepare for the final events of humanity's destiny, *page 3*.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez recalls the beginning of the Feast Conference, as this, our biggest inspirational learning event, ends its 15th Conference this Sunday, *page 1*.

Last Feast Sunday, Bro. Bo and Bro. Didoy Lubaton talked about beginning and ending. That is, how God begins Partnership with us, and how, we hope, will never end, *pages 13-29*.



Dr. Adeline Gonzales, serving as medical consultant for our Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer (JCCFC) ministry, shares also a beginning— how she planned to be a neurologist but instead got to be an oncologist, giving her joy she would not want to end, *page 30*.



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK! **NOVEMBER 6, 2022**

Holy Mass



FR. LEMUEL CAMACHO

Reading the Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs



Homily by
FR. PAOLO ASPRER

Excerpts...

Good morning, sisters and brothers in Christ! A blessed Sunday to everyone.

I hope and pray that you are in the best of health, the best disposition to receive the good news of hope and healing of new beginnings through our Eucharistic celebration this morning.

First of all, we welcome Fr. Lemuel Camacho—he's the spiritual director of Feast New Jersey City in the USA.

The End Times

My dear friends in Christ, we come to the end of the Liturgical Year because next Sunday, it will already be the Solemnity of Christ the King, and then the Advent Christmas season. So, as we come to the end of the Liturgical Year, the theme of the End Times (the final events or history of the destiny of humanity) or the Day of the Lord, pervades our Liturgical readings.

There are several meanings of the End Times or Day of the Lord.

In the New Testament, Jesus prophesied about the End Times which really happened with the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Romans.

The Old Testament also discussed a similar event—the destruction of the Temple of Solomon as prophesied by Jeremiah in 586 B.C.

You know, the Temple is central to the Jewish social, political, religious life. So, all human structures, no matter how glorious they may be, will be reduced to rubbles. That's the Historical, the first meaning of the End Times.

The second meaning is the Theological meaning which is three-fold:

First, the Day of the Lord— a Day of Reckoning.

John of the Cross said, “At the end of our life, at the twilight of our life, we would be judged by only one standard— and that is charity, not only to the lovable but to the last, the least, the lost, the lonely of the society.”

Second, the Day of Return. Who will return? Jesus.

Jesus will return in the future when He will judge the heavens and the earth, and He will come to us as merciful judge.

But also, Jesus comes into our life— daily. God is always present. Jesus is always present.

It is we who are not present in His Presence. Why?

We lack that sense of *presence*.

Third, the End Times means not only a Day of Reckoning, and Return, but also a Day of Renewal.



3 Ways To Prepare for the End Times

The beginning belongs to the Lord. The end belongs to the Lord. If the beginning and end belong to the Lord, so are our new beginnings.

God does not create junk. In the end, when we are faithful to His Word, we will be renewed. We will have a new heart, new Spirit, new earth, and heavens—when we are faithful to His Word.

Many are asking, “Is the end of the world going to be soon?”

With all the natural catastrophes, wars, and revolts, this Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, socio-economic collapse in other nations — is the world going to end soon?

Who is excited? Well, some are happy with the end of the world because it’s the end of suffering— no more tears, no more traffic, no more COVID Pandemic, no more debts. All debts are canceled when it is the end of the world. Who wouldn’t be happy?

But many fear the end of the world. They are anxious about it because there are so many unfinished businesses here on Earth.

Is the end of the world going to be soon?

It is only God—in His wisdom, in His providence— who knows the end of the world.

How can we prepare for the End Times? For the Day of the Lord?

Three Ways: No. 1: Be Grateful. No.2: Be Awake—*Gising na!*
No. 3: Be Not Afraid.

Sabi nga ni Jesus, “Not a hair in your head will be destroyed.”

Reading I: Malachi 3:19-20A

19 Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble and the day that is coming will set them on fire, leaving them neither root nor branch, says the LORD of hosts.

20A But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.



No.1: Be Grateful

Grateful people are happy people. They are not only happy people— but they are also healthy people. Grateful people are not only happy, healthy— but they are holy people.

We are thankful to the Lord for the gift of endings—gift of ending. *Nagpapasalamat tayo sa Diyos.* We didn't just simply survive, endured 2022, but we were able to raise 2022 in all its blessings, opportunities, lessons, brokenness.

Thank You, Lord, the year is about to end. We are grateful for endings. The end of trials, the end of suffering for people in the hospital. *Salamat sa Diyos sa biyaya ng katapusan, dahil kung walang katapusan, walang panibagong simula.* Thank You, Lord, for the gift of endings because it gives us a new perspective—a deeper perspective of life.

Swiss American psychiatrist, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, said, “One of the reasons we are living a meaningless life is we don't have a deeper appreciation of endings, of death and dying.”

And so, we have that tendency— to what? To postpone. I would postpone saying sorry, saying I love you— because I will still live tomorrow.

The movie, *Kung-Fu Panda*, says, “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift— that's why it's called a *present*.”

My dear friends, the only thing that is certain is the present moment. Sometimes we are living in the past with our bitterness, with our unforgiveness toward people and ourselves. Sometimes, we are living in the future with all anxieties. We thank the Lord for the gift of endings because we have an appreciation of life and death.





No. 2: Be Awake

Second, Be awake.

You know, there's this song,
"Be alive, alert, awake, enthusiastic."

Our seminary—when I was studying
in college— was in Silang, Cavite.
And it's cold there. It's nice to sleep.

Our Mass every day starts at 5:30 a.m.
Nag-uunahan pa ho kami sa comfort room
kasi ang dami-dami namin. —
We are many, so we race to be first
in the comfort room.

Our priest formators often told us: "When you wake up, you get up. And when you get up, you wake up."

Gising. Galawin mo ang iyong mga paa. —Wake up. Move your feet.

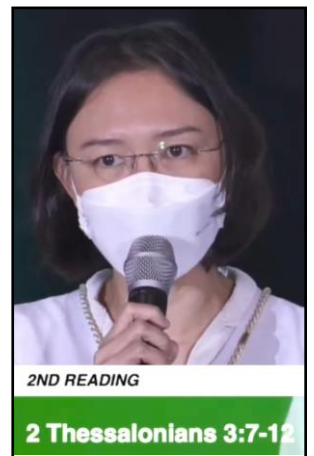
We have to focus on what is truly essential in our life. Do not sweat the small stuff.

As the Second Reading puts it, we have a tendency to meddle with other people's businesses. Instead, we have to be focused on what is essential in our life.

Hindi ba kapag nalaman natin na meron nang taning yung ating buhay, parang mas nagiging klaro yung ating pananaw sa kung ano yung tunay at higit na mahalaga sa ating buhay? — Isn't it that when we find out that we have just a few months to live, it becomes clear to us what really matters to us? Be awake.

Reading II: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Brothers and sisters:⁷ You know how one must imitate us. For we did not act in a disorderly way among you, ⁸ nor did we eat food received free from anyone. On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you. ⁹ Not that we do not have the right. Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us.¹⁰ In fact, when we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat.¹¹ We hear that some are conducting themselves among you in a disorderly way, by not keeping busy but minding the business of others.¹² Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and to eat their own food.



No. 3: Be Not Afraid

And finally, be not afraid.

Meron na ho ba kayong ilalagay sa iyong lapida? —Do you have already the words to be put on your tombstone? What will you put?

You know, there's this 14th-century epitaph— an inscription on a tombstone that says: “Today it is my lot, tomorrow it is yours.”

Who among us here is already prepared to die? Even I, as a priest, am afraid of death. Yes, we are afraid to die. But perhaps, we rather are afraid when we have not begun living at all. That is the reminder of the saints. We are

afraid to die—we are afraid of death— but we rather fear an unlived life. Nakakatakot ang kamatayan lalung-lalo na kung hindi tayo handa, pero mas nakakatakot kung hindi pa tayo nagsisimulang mabuhay ng makabuluhan.— Death is scary, especially when we are not prepared for it—but it is more frightening when we have yet to start to live a worthy life.

You know, I like so much this cartoon strip *Peanuts*. In a conversation between Charlie Brown and Snoopy, Charlie tells Snoopy, “You only live once.”

That's the battle cry of Gen Z—YOLO, right? You only live once.

What is the response of Snoopy?

“That's wrong. You die once—we die once. We live every day.”

That is the ultimate question. We are afraid of the end of our earthly life, the end times. But the question is, have we begun living our life to the fullest?

You know, there's this conversation between Marilou Diaz-Abaya, the local well-acclaimed director, and Bishop Ambo David. The Bishop asked Director Marilou, “Do you believe in happy endings?”

And the director smiled and said, “I always believe in happy endings. If it doesn't end happily, it is not yet the end.”

My dear friends in Christ, that is the gift and the challenge of the End Times. It is not to lead us into a grim preoccupation with death but to a deeper commitment to a well-lived life. Amen.



Worship!

EXHORTATION

TISHA CARO: Good morning, Church! Will you stand with us? Are you okay if we do a new song this morning? Okay, good. So, this is a new song by Feast Worship that speaks about intimacy with God. Our God who is infinite—whose ways are so great that what we already know about Him, what we saw Him do are but a glimpse of who He is. Yet He is a God who desires to make Himself known to us. And all we need to do is step into His Presence.

I don't know what thoughts or feelings you've walked into this room with. Maybe you've been distant from God, or you've felt confused about God's ways, or you've lost sight of who He is.

Let me tell you this: God is here and He knows and He desires, He wants to be close to you and to show you who He is...

So we're going to sing, and as we sing, we're going to step in closer to the Presence of God, with our God who is infinite. He has made His way into this room to be with you. Come on, let's sing this together!





I want You
More of You



In wonder and in awe
Of who You are



So with every Hallelujah
And with every great Amen



I want to hear Your voice
Over the raging noise



I want You
More of You



To know who You are
And Your heart for mine



Now there is nothing more
I could be living for



All that You are
Is all I desire

**YOU MADE ME SEE THAT YOU'RE THE WAY
THE TRUTH AND LIFE**



**AND BE SO SURE IT'S YOU
AND NO ONE ELSE**

WELCOME HOME! 



DIDOY LUBATON

DIDOY LUBATON: Welcome to everyone who has come to this place, and to those online. Welcome Home! Welcome to the Light of Jesus Family! The Feast is our gathering.

We greet those who came or watching for the first time. Hi! Hello! We pray that you may grow with us and be nourished by The Feast. Together, we will build our family here.

And it's beautiful that the people of God are singing, that we're saying to God we long for You.

We are going through our Talk series on the Exodus. We're in Talk 8. If you missed some of the talks, you can backtrack to different social media pages of The Feast Bay Area. And you can just watch different Feast builders preaching the Word.

I want you to connect. My exhortation for you is to try to connect every single Sunday. Because the truth is, everything is connected. It's not just one time, it's Sunday, we feel good, it's nice, Bro. Bo looks nice, Bro. Didoy sounds nice and the music is nice.

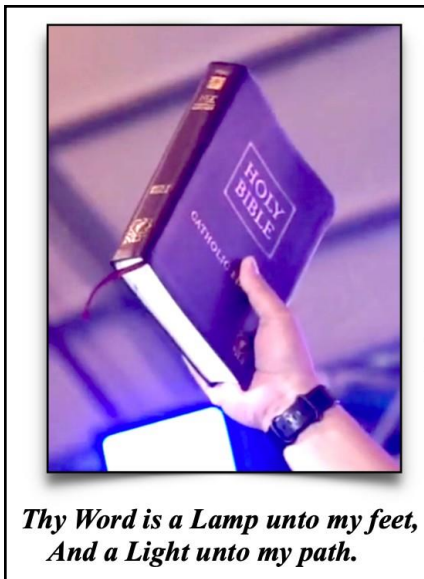
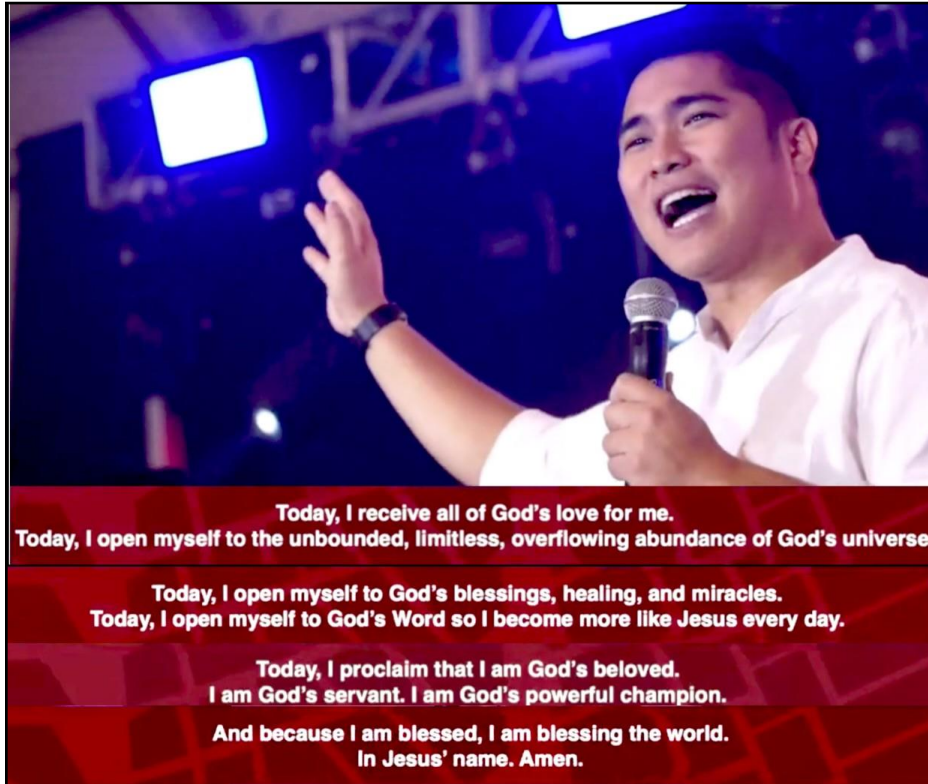
It's not just one event. It is a daily life. As Fr. Paolo Asprer, earlier, it's not just one day to die, but it's every day that we can live — families not only Sundays, families every day. And God is every day — not just on a Sunday.



Prayer of Abundance

Let's pray our favorite prayer in The Feast. This is our declaration of God's Love, God's Abundance. This is our Family prayer.

In the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Stretch out your arms as a sign of surrender, and trust, and love for God. Together, declare:



Put your hands on your heart and have that connection with the Lord today:

Father, speak to us. Our heart, our mind, and spirit are open to you. Do Your will. Build what You have to build. Break what You have to break.

Speak to us. We, Your Family, Your children, are listening to Your voice. Transform each one of us into the best human being, the best person that You want us to be. We declare and affirm Your Presence in this place. We are Yours.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Talk

Talk 8



BO SANCHEZ: So, I came from Indonesia, and we had an amazing, amazing presence there.

There are two Feasts in Indonesia. One is in English— half of the members are Filipinos and the other half are from various nationalities. And then there's this other Feast where members are all Indonesians. And so, it was absolutely wonderful.

We had a Feast Conference there last week.³ And there were 2,000 participants— 100 percent Indonesians. It is just mind-blowing what God is doing there.

We invited one of our Feast builders there, who is Indonesian, to come and preach to us next week in our Feast Conference. You're going to meet him. And he will be preaching in pure Bahasa Indonesia. But his wife will be there and she will be translating into English. So, it will be an experience for all of us.

Then, I went to Singapore. In Singapore, we have six Feasts, and beautiful, beautiful presence. I met the leaders— fantastic, dedicated people, amazing commitment. God is at work. Amen. He really is at work.

We had to cut short my trip to Singapore. I'll tell you the story...



Condolence—or Congratulations?

I was still working in Singapore. I was giving an online talk— my son Bene and I were doing a podcast for our Feast builders.

So, I was in a hotel room in Singapore, with my wife Marowe — who was monitoring her father. Because in the morning — Daddy Ruben, we call him, 84 years old— was complaining of chest pain. He had difficulty breathing.

So, he said, “Please rush me to the ER.”

And his wife, Mommy Linda, bought him to a hospital. And then the doctor said, angioplasty right away.

As Bene and I were doing the podcast, I saw my wife weeping, sobbing— and I knew there was something wrong.

At 4:00 p.m., in the middle of the angioplasty, Daddy Ruben died.

All of 84 years— he led a beautiful life.

Let me share with you what Fr. Willie Ramos (who presided over Mass during wake for Daddy Ruben) was sharing with us yesterday. It was so good, I need to share it with you.

He had a theology professor. The professor told him, he didn’t like to word *condolence*. You know, when someone passes away, he does not want to say “*Condolence*.”

He wants to say, “*Congratulations*.”

It’s kind of off. Like, yeah, right, you know.

But he explained: “Congratulations! Daddy Ruben has graduated from all the suffering, all the tears.”

And he’s correct, right? So, kailan mo sasabihin yung *condolence*?— When should you be saying *Condolence*?

Kapag sa kasal— Wedding. Because when you get married, you die to yourself.

But then that’s what I realized as I was hugging my wife the first time she found out that her father passed away. Until now, she would cry and I would hug her. But at the same time, as I hug her, as I speak to her, what really comforts us is that, yes, “Congratulations, he *is* with the Lord.”

And this is not the end. This is the beginning. You know, we’re going to see him again. The connection between him and us is even more real, more palpable— in the sense that the love is perfected and that he will continue to pray for us.

But thank you so much for all your congratulations, condolences.



A Business Lesson

Anyway, I need to go into our message today... I'd like to talk about Talk 8.

But before I dive into Talk 8, may I give a business lesson? Is that okay?

Because in the Truly Rich Club we teach entrepreneurship.

One of the most common questions people ask me is this: "Bro. Bo, me and my friends, we're going to get into a business. Are business partnerships okay?"

And then they'll tell me the story of how three of their friends or five of their friends, or eight of their friends are chipping in money because of this wonderful business idea and then they'll divide up the responsibilities, then it's going to be fun...

Then they ask me, "Is it okay?"

A BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP IS LIKE MARRIAGE.

The first thing I tell them is this: A business partnership is like a marriage. *Like*. You don't marry on the first date. No. You're not crazy. You want to get to know the person. You want to have a courtship process. Very, very important. In the same way, when you are thinking about a business partnership you really have to get to know people.

Bad news. This is what I tell people when they ask me if business partnerships are okay.

The second thing I tell them is this: In the first year alone, 50% up to 80% of business partnerships fail. They fail!

STATISTICS

IN THE FIRST YEAR, 50% TO 80% OF BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS FAIL.

That's horrible. Why do they fail? Many reasons. But let me give you two of the common ones. No. 1: The partners have different values. No. 2: The partners do not trust each other. So, imagine your two business partners. One business partner says, "Yung mga empleyado ko, mga pawns lang 'yan. Gamitan lang 'yan.— My employees are just pawns. You just use them. If you don't need them, you get rid of them."

The other business partner says, "No. My employees are my family."

Do you understand the conflict that will happen?



Synergy

When partners don't have the same values, you're going to have a business failure. And because the partners have different values, then they do not trust each other.

- The partners have different values.
- The partners don't trust each other.

Today, in our message, I want to preach to you something that the Bible teaches. The Bible shouts from the rooftops on every single page:

God wants you to be His partner.

I want you to chew on that thought. It's a staggering thought. Why would the almighty God—the owner of the universe, the creator of the heavens and of the earth, the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the saviour of mankind— why would He come up to you and say, “Can we be partners? Can we?”

My dear friends, there are business partnerships that work — and if they work, the business will fly to the moon. Why? Because of *synergy*. This phenomenon called synergy— where 1+1 is not equal to 2. One plus one can equal 3, 5, or 10, 10,000. And I want to believe and I believe this because we have this amazing Senior Partner. Our partnership with God can also work in that way.



How the Partnership Fails

Can you put your hand on your chest? I want to make this real for you. Everybody say, "I'm God's partner."

This partnership will also fail — for two reasons:

No. 1: When we do not value what God values;

No. 2: When we do not trust our Senior Partner.

That's when the partnership fails.

Now, let's backtrack. Where are we in this story?

God invites the people of Israel up the fiery summit.

And He says, "Come up."

What do the people say?

"No, thank You."

Why didn't they want to go to the fiery summit? They did not trust in God.

Does God reject them? No. God woos them. God courts them.

God says, "I still want to have a partnership. Come on."

- You don't value what God values.
- You don't trust your Senior Partner.



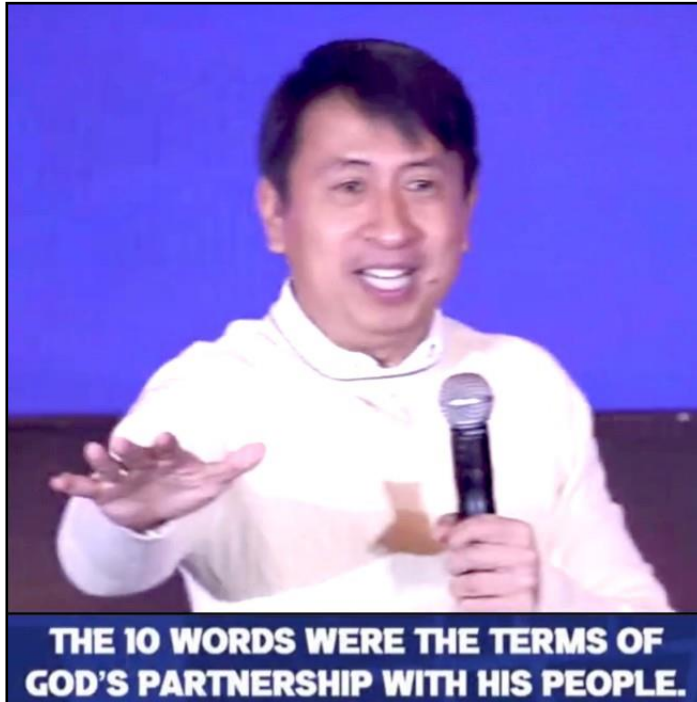
What God Does

This is where the Ten Commandments come up. Let's read:

<p>EXODUS 20:1-4 NLT</p>	<p>Then God gave the people all these instructions: ² "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³ "You must not have any other god but me.</p>
<p>EXODUS 20:1-4 NLT</p>	<p>⁴ "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea...</p>
<p>EXODUS 20:7-8 NLT</p>	<p>⁵ "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. An image of anything in the... ⁶ The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.</p>
<p>EXODUS 20:12-17 NLT</p>	<p>⁸ "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... ¹² "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.</p>
<p>EXODUS 20:12-17 NLT</p>	<p>¹³ "You must not murder. ¹⁴ "You must not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You must not steal. ¹⁶ "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.</p>
<p>EXODUS 20:12-17 NLT</p>	<p>¹⁷ "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."</p>

My dear friends, we are very familiar with this. You've studied this in Religion. It is very different if you know the context in which this was given.

Why did God give this to Israel? How did He give it? When did he give it? Where did He give it?



God's Values

In the Hebrew Bible, the set of rules was not called The Ten Commandments. It was called The Ten Words. They were the ten Words of the terms of the partnership that God wanted them to have. It was all about partnership. The reason we have such a thing as what we call The Ten Commandments, which the Bible calls The Ten Words, is God wants to have a partnership with us.

Partnerships fail when partners have different values.

So, what God was saying was, “Here are my values. I’m revealing to you my heart. Can we be partners? These are my values.”

What are the values? Another way of looking at and defining The Ten Commandments or The Ten Words would be like this:

They are like the Bill of Rights. Do you know what your rights are as a citizen? You have the right to vote. You have the right to free speech. You have the right to a free trial.

The Ten Words are like the Bill of Rights with a huge difference. The Ten Words are not your rights. They are the rights of your neighbor. They’re not your rights— they’re the rights of the person beside you.

Why? Because God values your neighbor. God values you and the person beside you equally. And so, loving God and loving your neighbor are just two sides of one coin. You want to love God? You’ve got to love your neighbor. Because He values that neighbor,...

And I’d like to put a comma here...

And I’m going to ask Didoy to continue preaching...

**10 WORDS WERE LIKE
THE BILL OF RIGHTS, BUT...**

**THE 10 WORDS ARE NOT YOUR RIGHTS,
BUT THE 10 RIGHTS OF YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

**WHY?
GOD VALUES YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

Basic Words

DIDOY LUBATON: Thank you,
Bro. Bo. Powerful.

God loves your neighbor. And He loves you and me. We cannot help responding to that — by loving each other too.

The Ten Words spell out the rights of your neighbor, in the different areas—relationships, work, family, property.

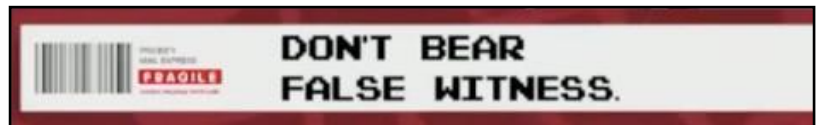
Some are basic. For example:



Don't murder. You cannot kill someone because that person is valuable. That's obvious.

But imagine if there is a community, a village where we can just freely kill one another. That is not in God's heart.

There are other Commandments that are more subtle. For example, God says don't bear false witness.



It's not just about lying. It's like, "How do I answer my wife when she says, "Mataba na ba ako? —Am I already fat? Do I look fat in this dress?"

Guys, one of the most dangerous questions in the world. You don't have any answer to that.

What is bearing false witness? For example: There are two project leads: John and Patrick.

They are in a town hall meeting— the CEO, members of the management team are there.

John accuses Patrick, "Hey, you stole my ideas. I should have gotten the merit."

Patrick says, "There's no stealing at all. The idea is originally mine. *You*, you do not amount to anything. You cannot have ideas like that."

That's bearing false witness. The younger generation calls it gaslighting. Psychological manipulation. These are under this Commandment.



Genesis Link

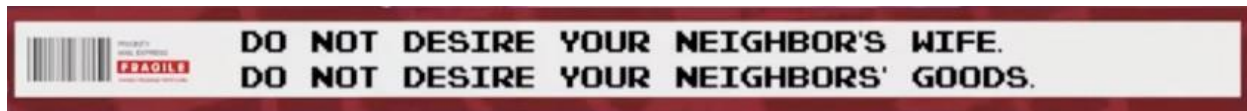
These Commandments are also based on the book of the Bible—*Genesis*. That’s why I was saying earlier that everything is connected. The ancient writers used *Genesis* as their lens, as they wrote the rest of the books of the Bible. You will see in *Genesis* that God revealed that He valued us, humans. He valued us very much. So, each of these Ten Words connects to what’s already in *Genesis*.

For example: Don’t steal.



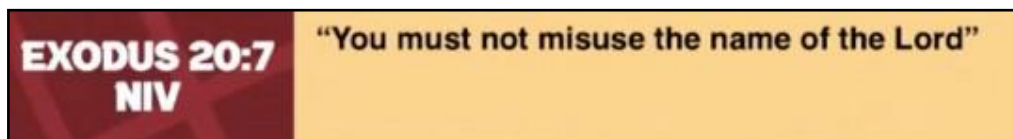
God has already given us what we can manage— to steward. When we work, we own things. So, when someone steals from his neighbor, the thief prevents his neighbor to rule over what he owns. So, the thief is going against what God intended for us, humans.

For example: DON’T COMMIT ADULTERY. In *Genesis*, God already said, that husband and wife become one. And God values that oneness. Adultery tears that apart — does not honor that oneness. God says:



Genesis used the exact words when Eve desired the (forbidden) fruit of the tree. Remember this: We desire the wrong thing because *we do not trust God that He will satisfy our deepest needs.*

One more very misunderstood Word. The Bible says:



What does it mean to *misuse*?

Some will say, “Oh, you do not say, *OMG* (Oh my God) or *Susmaryosep* (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph), or *Juskopo* (My God) or, Gee, d_ _ _n it.

Could there be meaning much deeper than that?



Carry His Name

In Hebrew, the literal translation of this verse, Exodus 20:7, is this:

LITERAL TRANSLATION
“DO NOT CARRY THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN.”

Carry. It doesn't sound right. Do you *carry* a name?

If you continue reading the *Exodus*, you will understand.

Because after God gave the Ten Words, He also talked of the High Priest.

Here's a picture of the High Priest:

When the High Priest performs his duties, he doesn't wear just jeans, polo, sweater, sneakers. The High Priest wears an elaborate apron, with gold threads. He wears precious stones in the middle of his chest— 12— actually to represent the 12 tribes of Israel. On his forehead, he wears a gold medallion—strapped on his turban and there are words there that say:



“Set apart for Yahweh” or “Belonging to Yahweh”

The High Priest carries God's Name on his forehead on behalf of the tribes of Israel.

That is very important: That a person is set apart...

Set Apart

This is connected to our purpose:
That we are His partners.
We are His representatives.

That is why the Second Word,
the Second Commandment:

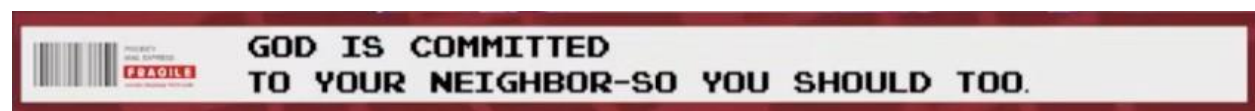


**“DO NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN.”
= WE MUST IMAGE GOD FAITHFULLY.**

We show that we are in His image— faithfully.

God created us in His image. Again, Imago Dei.

Because God’s reputation is on the line, He has to say, “These are the terms of our partnership. They matter to me.”



Anything we do to our neighbor is going to affect how others see God. The way we love one another, that’s how others would see how God loves us. How we, the Junior Partners, act will represent how the Senior Partner makes decisions.

And if our partnership with God is to work, we must value what the Senior Partner has told us— the values that He has shown us.

That’s why we cannot murder, steal, covet, harm other people. Because we represent God.



A Picture of God

The Second Word is also connected to the First Word.

The First Commandment is:

**EXODUS
20:3-6 NIV**

“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them...”

Why are there no images allowed? Because God has already made an image. Every human is a picture of God.

Look at the person beside you— that is the picture of God, whether you like it, or you really, really like it.

To love God, we must love our neighbor. But to love our neighbor, we must trust that the Senior Partner knows what He is doing.

**GOD HAS ALREADY MADE AN IMAGE:
YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

We trust that when God gives His Word, it is for our good.

How many of you can relate to me when I say, it is very tough to be faithful to God? It is very tough to be a Christian, a follower of Christ. It's very tough not to steal, not to lie, or not to bear false witness. It's very tough not to covet your neighbor's goods or wife.

It's hard, it's tough following God.

Welcome home, guys. We are in a Family where we say, “Let's go together. Let's go through it together. Let's build together. Let's suffer together. Let's *try* together.”

But the Good News today is God knows that already. God knows you're having a hard time.

The Tabernacle

The Ten Words are not the last that God did. You have to remember, you have to appreciate the narrative here. There were another *ten* before The Ten Words, The Ten Commandments.

There were the Ten Plagues. Israelites came from Egypt. God got them out of Egypt.

Just to give you the narrative— from Fire to Fire: The Burning Bush; God called Moses— “Take the Israelites out of Egypt”; the Pharaoh says *No*; Then God said Ten Words which turned out to be the ten words of the de-recreation; And God got them out of Egypt.

There was a turnaround— there was the Red Sea; they eventually got across the sea; Last week, we were preaching that God invited the Israelites to a Burning Mountain; and the people said *No*.

And that is the Word today: *God allows us to be with Him.*

Actually, this is what God said:



**EXODUS
25:8-9 NLT**

“Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.”

And that, my friend, is the reminder of God’s amazing compassion. The Israelites chose not to climb the Mountain. They chose to listen to their fears rather than to their faith.

But God, in His infinite mercy, love, and goodness, He went down from the Burning Mountain and said, “I want to live among them.”

The Tabernacle became this special place that God used, where God dwelt with them at the foot of the Mountain.

“Ayaw ninyong umakyat, ako na lang ang bababa.— You don’t want to go up? So, I’ll be the one to go down. I’m going to live among you.”

Wow, what a Partner!

**BECAUSE THE ISRAELITES DIDN'T CLIMB UP
THE MOUNTAIN TO BE WITH GOD,
HE WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TO BE WITH THEM.**

God's Territory

Later, this Tabernacle that they built, following God's instruction, went wherever they went: "I will be with you wherever you go."

And in their long journey through the wilderness, until they eventually reached the Promised Land, the Tabernacle would be their "portable" Temple. It would be where God's Presence is. They would *carry* God's Presence— and God's Name.

So, the next thing I want to remind you is this: The idea of that Tabernacle is it flips our well-known Christian thinking — it's a phrase I'm sure you'd name before, we may have heard before. It's a half-truth. I want to correct it now.

When we say, God cannot have anything to do with sin— or that sin cannot be in God's Presence— that is not true.

This a dangerous half-truth— if we believe it. Because through this example, through this Tabernacle, God declared: "I will dwell with my sinful people."



**"GOD CANNOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SIN."
VS.
"I DWELL AMONG MY SINFUL PEOPLE."**

Oh, thank You, Lord!

God pitched His tent in the territory of sin, apparently saying, "That is not the Devil's territory. That's My territory."

Look at the person beside you and say, "*You* are God's territory."

By dwelling in us, God calls us— every human— "You are My neighbor."

So, yes, God loves His neighbors— you and me.

Through His Presence, He redeems humanity. He re-creates humanity. He re-defines our Partnership.

And so, guys, the impossible becomes very possible— because of this Partnership being offered to us by the Lord.

The Partnership is not a command. No. The Partnership has a bonus. The most important: the Presence of God in that Partnership.

**BY DWELLING WITH US,
HE CALLS EVERY HUMAN,
"MY NEIGHBOR".**

Welcome Home!

God gave us Ten Commandments, Ten Words. But if He gave us *only* those Ten Words. We're doomed. We're not going to pass. We are going to be left out.

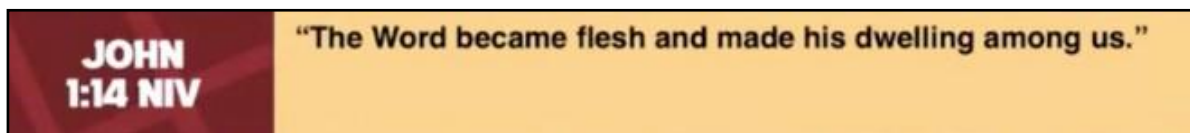
The reminder is this: God did not give us only His commands. He gave us His Presence. He gave us His commitment. He gave us His power. He gave us His love. God is committed to you and God is committed to your neighbor. And so we should be too.

That is God's Word today.

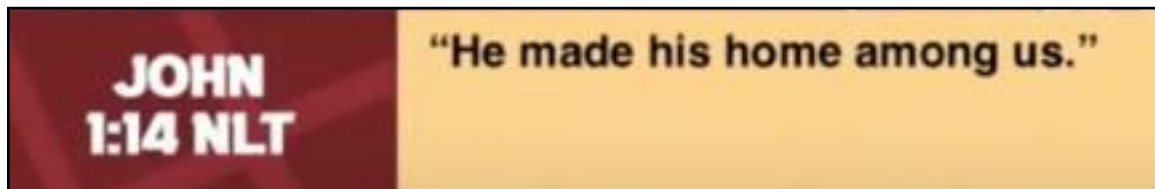
Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord.

We live it, we try. And if you fast forward to the New Testament, we meet Jesus, who is Emmanuel— God with us; Word became flesh, dwelt among us.

The Gospel of John opens with these words:



And another version is:



Welcome home!



God in Us

St. Paul's message to the Colossians in the New Testament, says:

**COLOSSIANS
1:27 NLT**

"And this is the secret: Christ lives in you."

**Because our Senior Partner lives in us,
we now have the power to be faithful to the Partnership—
to love God and neighbor.**

And through the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus, He shows us what it means to fully commit to God and to sinful humanity — to show us a way to move forward. How it is to love our neighbor, to die to ourselves just like Jesus did. Dying to ourselves leads to eternal life.

The Ten Words, The Ten Commandments, are not to inhibit us, to prevent us... It is actually the Partnership that is offered to us so each of us could have a good life, good relationships.

Are you ready to respond to Him today?

We look at Jesus. He guides us to be the kind of human that we are called to be. He shows us the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Guys, God wants *you* to be His Partner.

I'm going to sum up the Talk in two words: *Partnership* and *Presence*.

God is re-inviting you and reminding you that the Partnership has already been there from the very start— has already been there since the time of the Israelites, the people of God, up to us now, the people of God. There is a Partnership.

Jesus, We Want You!

You know, when I think about this, I get emotional a bit. Because I realize how we've failed as partners. We're always wanting something from our Senior Partner. We always want this, we want that. We hate that. We gaslight each other. How we dishonor this Partnership! And we think it's hurting us. But actually, it's our Partnership to that everlasting life, to that fulness of life that Jesus has promised. How many times does God need to remind us?

I'm so grateful that His compassion, His mercy are new every morning.

That's why I love attending The Feast because even I, as a preacher, I get nourished.

I get reminded that hey, God has a Partnership with me, and with you. And again, He does not abandon us. His Presence is in you and me:

“Do not be afraid. For I will go with you wherever you go.”

I invite you to respond as I ask you this question: Do you want this Partnership? And how committed are you to this Partnership?

And remember, God is dwelling among us. How lovely are the dwelling places of God!

So, today, let's love God and love our neighbor, as He has loved us first.

Let's look to Jesus:

And our prayer, Lord, I want You! Yes, oh yes, to our Partnership. Thank You, God. Thank you for not giving up on me. Thank You for not abandoning us. Thank You, for You've always been good despite the times we are not good. But You always believe in us. You have never failed us, despite we have failed You.

Lord, we are now made aware again that Your Presence is here. And we don't have to look very far. But we look within. And we look at each other.

Our prayer: We want You. No one else, Lord. We want You. Thank You, Lord, that despite our sins, despite our indifference, despite hurting others, You are our constant, who's loving, faithful, and true. Not giving up on us. So, receive Your Family's prayer now. We're lifting our eyes, our voice, our songs, our whole spirit, body, mind, heart, and soul to You. And we want You. We want You. I want You. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

JESUS CHRIST CARES

for CANCER MINISTRY PART 3

‘Not My Will ...’

By DR. ADELINE C. GONZALES

I FIRST attended The Feast at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) with my mom and dad when I was still in college. I still remember how amazed I was and touched instantly by God’s Word as preached by Bro. Bo Sanchez and since then, I’ve constantly looked for Feasts depending on where I am staying. Now, I am attending Feast Bellevue, Alabang.

This is my life story.

I’ve grown as an “achiever” kid. And so, I get my way, most of the time.

Early on, my petty problem was just, *“Bakit hindi ako crush ng crush ko?—Why am I not the crush of my crush?”*

Kidding aside, it was a manageable life, and I thought God must have been good to us because my parents and I are good people too.

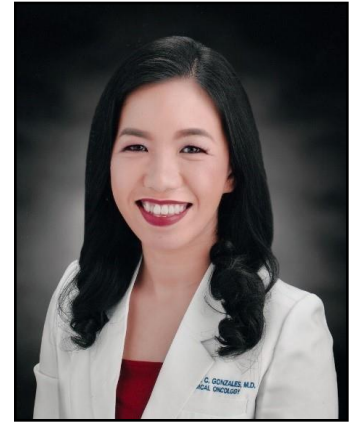
Life, however, happens and teaches you a lesson. And just when you thought you have been climbing up from your rock bottom, you’re slipping again farther down.

I planned to be a doctor. So, I took up Biology — my first step in getting into the medical field — at the University of the Philippines, and I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in 2007.

I went on to the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila where I pursued a degree as Doctor of Medicine, and graduated in 2011.

I then took up the physician licensure exam, passed it, and I geared up to train to be a neurologist — specializing in treating brain diseases.

But never in my entire life had I imagined I’d suffer too much stress in this field that I simply quit what I love.



Life Happens

Yes, Life happens. Later in 2011, my mom was diagnosed with the big “C”: she had breast cancer. And we began to go deep rock bottom.

As a doctor, I began overthinking all the side effects— what could happen to my mom. She underwent surgery and thankfully, she’s just fine after the procedure.

To be able to take good care of my mom and cancer patients in general, I shifted to a different residency training — now in Internal Medicine, a field focused on treating diseases that afflict adults.

It was as if God redirected me to that path because then, my consultant in Internal Medicine happened to be my mom’s oncologist (medical practitioner qualified to diagnose and treat tumors).

Like most cancer patients, my mom had to undergo chemotherapy, the dreaded, expensive drug treatment that uses powerful chemicals to kill fast-growing cancer cells in one’s body.

By God’s grace, the doctor administered the chemo for my mom – free of charge – and even helped us secure funds for the treatment.

In 2014, past one year of the cancer diagnosis, my mom completed all required cycles of chemotherapy and trastuzumab — a drug used alone or with other drugs to treat certain types of breast cancer (<https://www.cancer.gov>)

My mom recovered and just completing oral hormonal treatment.

Here we are — my Mom Deng, Dad Charlie, and me — at Feast PICC in 2014, celebrating life!



Deeper Than Rock Bottom

Yes, Life happens. In 2016, the big C visited us again. This time, it hit my dad. He was diagnosed with lung cancer.

It was more catastrophic than the first big C. My dad had to be confined in the hospital many times more than my mom had to. My parents shut down their small business so they could sell assets and fund treatment.

I almost had nothing in my bank account. I also had plans of going into further training and thinking again about neurology, but because of what happened, I had to delay the training — because I had to work to earn money so I could also help pay bills.

And we prayed hard for a miracle that my dad would be healed.

My dad underwent a lot of procedures, but eventually, he still didn’t make it. If there’s something deeper than rock bottom, this was it.

Path to JCCFC

During those times, even when we were at our deepest pit in life, we felt God's Presence. We never felt alone: people coming in to help, Papa's relatives and friends manifesting their love and care.

Even if we didn't get the miracle we prayed for, we received a different miracle — to still be able to sustain everything financially, emotionally, and spiritually. We never lost faith, and since then, to this day, God has been working miracles after miracle for us.

From Internal Medicine, I trained in medical oncology fellowship at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute and I finished the course in 2020 — which happened to be the start of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic. *Here* I am in 2020 on the frontlines at the COVID Emergency Room Triage of National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

Amid the crisis, I managed to take up the Board Exam in 2021, passed it, and was inducted Diplomat by the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology. I am now a medical oncologist – a cancer specialist — and not a neurologist as I set out to be.

Little did I know, what I went through was just one winding path to Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer (JCCFC).

If I had pushed to do it my way, I think I wouldn't be where I am now.

A “coincidence” or should I say a miracle, is that a good friend, Dr. Dyan Sabalvaro, introduced me to JCCFC in 2020 through Sis. Maritess Cordero, JCCFC board secretary.

I had been wanting to help in The Feast before, but I never got to really initiate conversations or join any Feast group at that time. But by His loving grace, God has turned my burdens into blessings, so that now I have this clear and present mission to minister to cancer patients.

I help in evaluating the medical abstract, treatment protocol, and other medical documents cancer patients who are applying for financial assistance submit to the Mercy Ministry. I'm blessed to be able to donate cash from time to time. And at one point, I provided a year's supply of Tamoxifen (oral hormonal treatment for breast cancer) to JCCFC beneficiaries.

I now know that I was redirected to this path because this was God's plan for me: to help more cancer patients and be God's miracle worker.

“Not my will, but Thy will be done.”



Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for Me.
— Matthew 25:40

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May we never forget that in our service for the poor, we are offered a magnificent opportunity to do something beautiful for God.
— St. Teresa of Calcutta



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, The Feast Family is 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 Mercy Ministries. 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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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.



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ONLINE
NEWSMAGAZINE**

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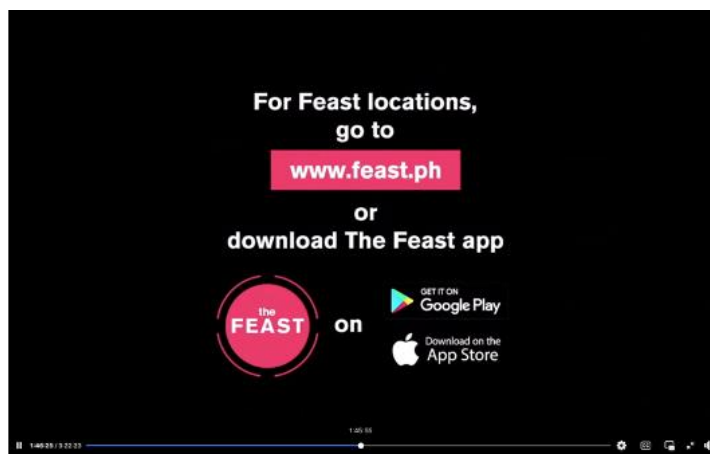
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

