



NEWSLETTER  
March 12, 2023



## *Who Is Really Our Neighbor?*

TODAY, I want to preach the message, *Love Rules*.

The phrase has a double meaning—and you'll find out soon in this talk.

In Talk 8, we'll continue unpacking the Holiness Laws of Leviticus 18 to 20.

Yes, they are Love Rules. And their purpose is to make love rule our life.

For those who are joining us for the first time, let me ask again the question:  
“*Why talk about rules anyway? Aren't rules burdens that suck the joy of life?*”

But the opposite is true: *Rules are boundaries that protect our joy.*

Today, we'll talk about how God wants us to treat the weak and wounded among us. As you follow Him, trust that God will increase your joy.

Have a lovely Feast today!

May your dreams come true

**Bo Sanchez**

**WELCOME**  
**to Closer Talk 8:**  
***Love Rules***



## *What Are You Thinking?*

THIS issue of our *The Feast Family* is making us think a lot.

Fr. Bob McConaghy, discussing the Gospel last Sunday, March 5, 2023, sort of entered into the mind of Peter the Apostle thinking of what Peter must be thinking when Jesus brought Peter, James, and John up a high mountain where they witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus—and realized that He was not an ordinary human being. So, what must have Peter thought? See *page 3*.



In today's Feast, Bro. Bo Sanchez makes us think—really think—who is really our neighbor. His intro on *page 1*.



Bro. Bo and Bro. John Ben Rodriguez also make us think about mind-blowing perspectives of ancient laws we read in the book of *Leviticus*, subject of our ongoing Feast talk, *Closer*, *pages 16-35*.



Bro. Audee Villaraza does not make us *think*. In this issue's *Love Offering* section, talking about tithes, he makes us *imagine*: What if we give not only 10% but 90%?, *page 10*.

In our *Mercy Ministries* section, we see Lola Pat sitting outside her cottage at our Anawim Home for the Elderly, quietly looking far away. What could she be thinking? Meet our oldest Anawim grandma, *page 36*.



More to think about: What's *on* your mind—something or someone you worry about?

Or what's *in* your mind—something or someone you just think of without the worrying connotation? Whatever, the best food for thought is that God is always thinking of you.

All for God's Glory,

**Randy Borromeo**  
Media Ministry  
Executive Director





***FLASHBACK!***  
**MARCH 5, 2023**

## **Holy Mass**



**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**FR. BOB McCONAGHY**  
on the Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9  
*The Transfiguration*

Excerpts...

I OFTEN call him *Peter the Mistake Maker*. He made a real big mistake up on Mt. Tabor.

Jesus brought James and John along with him, and suddenly there was Moses with the Tablets-- the law giver-- Elijah the prophet, and Jesus-- unlike he had never seen Him before.

I wonder if Peter was thinking this way:

“Ah, when He gave me the keys, what He meant was the keys to getting one of these three tents that we’re going to set up... And then that whole thing about the Cross and being crucified--He was just kidding me.

“This is where the Kingdom is going to be, on the top of this mountain, where everybody sees Moses and they see Elijah, and they see Jesus dazzlingly white-- that’s it!

## What Peter Must Be Thinking...

“This is where the Kingdom’s going to be and even those nasty Pharisees will have to admit that Jesus wasn’t a phony after all... That He is the Messiah and now those Romans will never persecute us again. Everybody will come up to the mountain and they’ll want to see Jesus, and they’ll want to meet Moses and Elijah the prophet.

“John, you take care of Moses. Let whoever wants to get in the tent go in. James, you take care of Elijah, and I’ll make sure-- because I have the keys-- of who gets in to see Jesus...”

Now, I don’t know what’s in Peter’s mind.

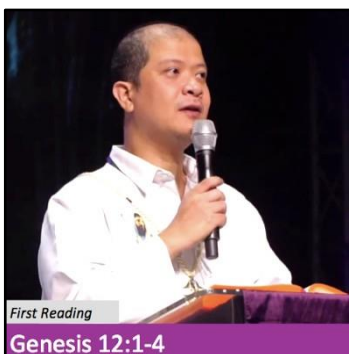
But I think he may have thought, “Maybe I could make a couple of bucks to see who gets in and doesn’t. There’s going to be a huge crowd coming up here...”

I think that’s what went through Peter’s mind.

And the reason, I think that was going through his mind was that for the first time in Jesus’ whole ministry—except during His baptism—that the Heavenly Father had to interrupt what Peter was thinking:

“Peter, this is my beloved Son. Stop making your plans. Listen to Him.”

And why should Peter listen to Jesus? Because Peter didn’t realize --as Bro. Bo told us at the Mall of Asia Arena in 2018—that Jesus came here from the comfort of Heaven and was sent as a missionary.



### Reading I: Genesis 12:1-4A

*<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram: “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.”<sup>2</sup> “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

*<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”*

*<sup>4A</sup> Abram went as the LORD directed him.*



## God Makes the First Move

You and I come into the world to live. Jesus came into the world to die. And not only did He come into the world to die-- but He came to heal people-- and something else...

He came in to heal the image of what people had of His Heavenly Father-- because it was so distorted by the Pharisees-- with 613 little laws. And they scared the death out of people because every time they would see them break a little law-- and they couldn't read, they didn't know—the Pharisees would say, “You just broke that law. God will smite you for that.”

So, the people were frightened.

Jesus didn't want them to be frightened. So, He did things and said things never been done in Religion before. Because you see, the word *religion*, comes from the Latin word *religo* means *to bind back*.

Jesus came here to bind you and me-- to bind us back to God who is love, who is crazy in love with you. And how did He do it!

But we'll see next Sunday He did something totally unexpected. He met a woman at the well who was there at noon time because all the other women came in the morning so they could gossip about her—five husbands, living with somebody... And yet He chose her to be the first one-- as you'll see next week—to know that He was the Messiah.

And then Zacchaeus, a tax collector, a traitor to the Faith. People were hoping that when Jesus said, “Come down Zacchaeus,” that He would take him and shake him and say, “You better repent.”

They hated him.

But Jesus said, “Zacchaeus, I mean to dine with you today.”

A woman caught in adultery, they threw her at His (Jesus') feet and told Him: “We should be allowed to stone her.”

Then what did Jesus do after they all left? He picked her up—the lost sheep, the lost coin—showing that His Heavenly Father, in bringing us back to Him, always makes the first move.



## The Scapegoat

The parable I wish would be read every Lent -- but not this year—is the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*. When the son says, before his father dies --in Jesus’ culture-- to have his share in his inheritance, that was like saying to his father, “Drop dead.”

And so, when Jesus first began to tell that parable, the people were hoping that He would say, “...And the father sent him to take care the pigs.”

But it was not the prodigal son. It’s the prodigal father, and *prodigal* means *wasteful*.

He was out every day, looking for the son to come back. He patiently waited. And when the son came, he had his confession all set to go. But the father didn’t even let him do that. He just hugged his son.

We always see here at The Feast, “Welcome home.”

You’ll see on the back of all of us who wear the jacket that says *Feast*, the words “*You are loved.*”

That’s what the father said to his son, “Welcome home! You are loved.”

Last week, this Feast series that the builders and preachers are doing titled *Closer*, talked about a *reset*. There can be a *reset in your life* because of the scapegoat.

What is a scapegoat? Someone who takes the blame or is blamed. That’s what Jesus did. He took the blame and made Himself a scapegoat.



## Reading II: 2 Timothy 1:8B-10

<sup>8B</sup> *Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.*

<sup>9</sup> *He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

<sup>10</sup> *but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

## Press the *Reset* Button

During Lent, I'll be preaching at the 8:00 a.m. Mass only once this month. At this time of the year, I always like to tell you something very, very important. This year, you can have the button pressed on a *reset* in your whole life and it only takes one moment of decision, you see?

And you might say, "The builders, Fr. Bob, they might have pressed the *reset* a long time ago and they are telling just now us how to do it."

Ah-ah.

I have had to reset many times during my 48 years that I have been a priest. Bro. Bo will tell you he has to reset. Every one of these preachers can tell you their stories and often there are people witnessing up here all saying that in one moment of time, God's grace worked within them.

Many of you have not been to Confession in two years. Last week, somebody came to me, hadn't been to Confession in 30 years.

Maybe you're carrying something that you've been carrying for a long time—something you did years ago-- that's so heavy, and it makes you sad, and you keep beating yourself up and you feel like a failure because of it. I know that I'm speaking to at least 20 of you-- that maybe some of you are here for the first time and you said "*I'll go*" because somebody invited you.

That's not the truth. God always makes the first move. It's called His *grace-- the grace of repentance*.

If you're carrying something heavy, if you've been away for a long time, if you've committed an embarrassing sin, come home. You are loved, and the place where we most beautifully can share that love is at the hallway -- at Confession.

You know, the Pope said that when you go to Confession you're going to feel "*I got to tell them that...?*"

And you think when you tell us something that's very embarrassing, that somehow the next time the priest sees you, he would be saying, "Oh my, I remember what he said."

No, just the opposite is true.

If you come in to any priest and you open up your heart and soul, I admire that. That takes courage and our Lord recognizes it might be difficult for you but He says, "Be not afraid."

You can *reset* the button. That's what *repentance* means.



## The Pope on Confession

You might be thinking, “No, I’m going to this direction. I’m carrying this sin, this embarrassment.”

But then by His grace, God says, “Repent, there’s some good news here.”

Repent means simply to turn around, have the *reset* button pressed in one moment of time and begin going to the other direction-- towards Him.



See, in the morning, if you walk west, the sun is behind you, isn’t it? And so, you’re going to see shadows in front of you. But if you turn around and walk toward the sun, no shadows.

That’s what it’s like to go to Confession, and really unload, you know. You don’t have to have a photographic memory. You might be away 20 years. Know that 99 % of what you have to do to receive mercy is having the courage to walk in, sit down, and say, “Bless me Father, for I have sinned.”

The priests here at The Feast will be welcoming you. Maybe you had a bad experience in Confession. Maybe your priest was nasty to you, raised his voice to you, lectured you, said, “You did what?!!!”

You know what the Pope said? He said to us priests, if you raise your voice to people, if you ask too many questions, if you are mean and nasty to them, he said, please don’t hear Confessions!

You are not there for that. It’s God’s grace that brought them there.

Don’t let your sinfulness get in the way of what God wants to do with them.

And you know what? When you press the *reset* button, you’re going to have to press it again. Come back each time. Be not afraid.

The next two weeks, I’m not going to be having Mass here.

Although I love preaching, what I love more is welcoming. So, these next two weeks, I’ll be hearing confessions from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

I don’t know who’s on this morning but I promise you, whoever is, will be welcoming and compassionate and merciful.

I have to say Mass next week at The Feast Novotel. But I’ll stay here until 1:00 --if I have to stay here.

That’s how important you are to God. This can be the time to just let it all go. The Pope said when you do, leave the guilt behind.

Because if you take the guilt with you, the evil spirit will use that to discourage you.







## Come Home

And Padre Pio, of all people, said that once you go to Confession and receive absolution, you are not the person you were before you came in.

He said if you are tempted to believe that you are, that's not coming from God. That's coming from the evil spirit. When you leave the confessional, he said, leave, in joy, and think only about the person that you are *now* and *what you can be*. That's a change of attitude. Come home. *You are loved.*

I'll finish this homily with a poem that was given to me many decades ago by my sister Susie who, several months after that, died of heart disease...

And every lent, I like to use the poem just once or twice. And after this, let's *not* applaud today-- just today. Before we do the Profession of Faith and after I shared this poem, just be quiet. Let God's grace penetrate... And if you're watching online, when you can, go to Confession. Resolve inside to go—and our Lord knows that *you will*-- because His grace is operating in you.

## *I Slipped His Fingers*

*I slipped his fingers, I escaped his feet  
I ran and hid for Him I feared to meet.  
One day, I passed Him fettered on a Tree,  
He turned His Head. and looked and beckoned to me.  
Neither by speed, nor strength could He prevail.  
Each hand and foot was pinioned by a nail.  
He could not run nor clasp me if He tried,  
But with His eyes He bade me reach His side.  
For pity's sake thought I, I'll set you free.  
'Nay-- hold this cross,' He said, 'and follow me.  
This yoke is easy, this burden light,  
Neither hard nor grievous if you wear it tight.'*

*So did I – we-- follow Him Who could not move,  
Uncaught captives in the hands of Love.*

**-- ELIZABETH CHENEY**

Let's just be quiet for a moment and allow God's grace to touch your heart.



**AUDEE VILLARAZA:**

Good morning, Feast Bay Area!

Can you greet the people around you and say, “Good morning, Friend!”

Hallelujah!

Thank you so much for being here.

How many are joining us for the first time today? Can you raise your hand very quickly? Clap your hands for those who are here for the first time.

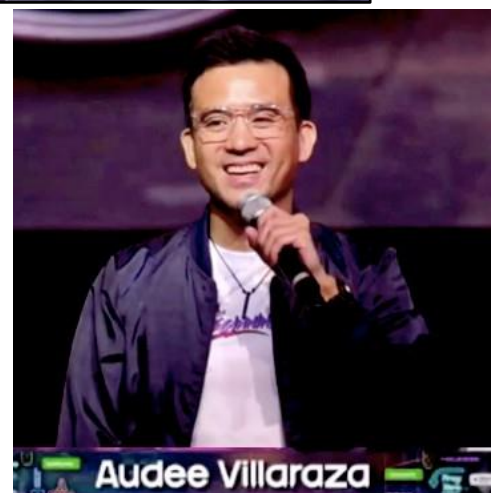
We welcome you to our spiritual family.

Everybody say, “Welcome home!”

After this session, I want to invite you to be welcomed properly, if this is your first time. We have a special gift that we’d like to give to you, we want to pray over you, and we’d like to welcome you officially to this Community called the Light of Jesus, or commonly called The Feast.

And, of course, if you’re watching online, and if you’re a new comer, please type on our Chat app, “I’m a first timer” or “I’m a newbie”.

We would like to invite you to an online gathering called *Zoomustahan*. That happens right after every session. So, please join us. We’d love to hear how God is blessing you and working in your life.



## LOVE OFFERING

How many of you are ready to be blessed?

You know, lately we have been noticing that not everybody writes on the Love Offering envelope nowadays. You know the reason for the blank space on the envelope? The note says *Prayer Requests and Thanksgiving for Answered Prayers*.

The Prayer Ministry members pray for your requests. And at a certain point, they gather all the envelopes. They have a prayer ritual-- they burn the envelopes, pray over them, and offer them to the Lord.

So, please put in your prayer requests. We'd love to be your prayer partners...

You know, that's a beautiful way of living your life—that you don't come here to The Feast and just give 10%. You (should) put in your name. You put in your prayer request.

That's Biblical. Malachi 3:10 says: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be enough food in my temple..."

You know *tithe* means *tenth*—(10% of your income for the Church). Some might say that 10% is big. You know what's big? The 90% that you get to keep. Aren't you glad that God allows us to keep 90%? Imagine if God is a God of only 10%. I'll show you:






One of the most popular Scriptures of all time is John 3:16. Here's the 10% version of that: "For this is how God loved the world that He gave 10% of his Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but shall have a 10% life."

Do you like that? Is that what the Bible says? No!

The Bible says, "*For this is how God loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but shall have eternal life.*"

God is a giver. So, if we are to reflect the heart of God, we too must be givers. So, give your 10% just like what God recommends. But more than the 10%, when you come in the Presence of the Lord, give a hundred percent. Give your full attention, give your service, give your love, give your hundred percent self to the Lord.



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# Worship!

## EXHORTATION

**KISHA CASTRO:** The Word says,  
“*Oh, Lord I am your servant, you have freed me from my chains.*” (Psalm 116:16).

We are all servants of God. We are set free -- all through the power of His Holy Name!

Today, as we continue to worship, let's declare that power! Let's declare the power that will break every chain that limits you, that limits us, in praising His Holy Name.

So, together let's sing.





There is power in the name of Jesus



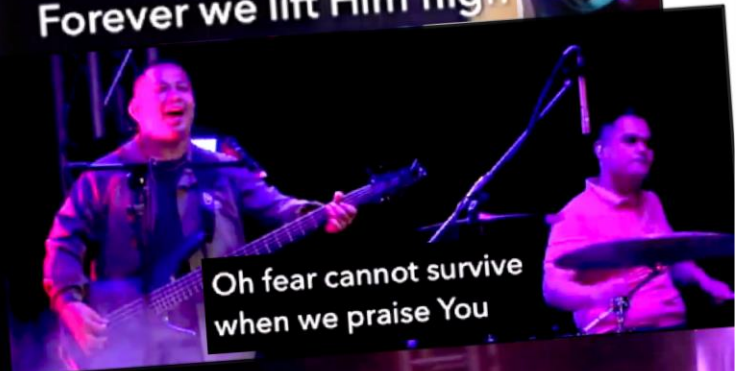
Let it rise, let praise arise



Let praise be a weapon that conquers all anxiety



Forever we lift Him high



Oh fear cannot survive when we praise You



Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy



The God of breakthrough's

## DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

How many of you are praying for a breakthrough in your life? There's somebody here who is praying to Jesus to be broken from the bondage of addiction. I don't know what kind of addiction—it's a gambling addiction, it's a sexual addiction, an addiction that has plagued this person for so long and I am praying and declaring that in Jesus' Name, today you will walk out of this place completely free and brand new.

I pray for breakthrough for those of you who are praying for a breakthrough in their finances – you are in financial debt and you are wallowing in despair-- I pray that in the mighty Name of Jesus you are going to experience the financial breakthrough – financial abundance is coming your way in Jesus' Name, I pray.

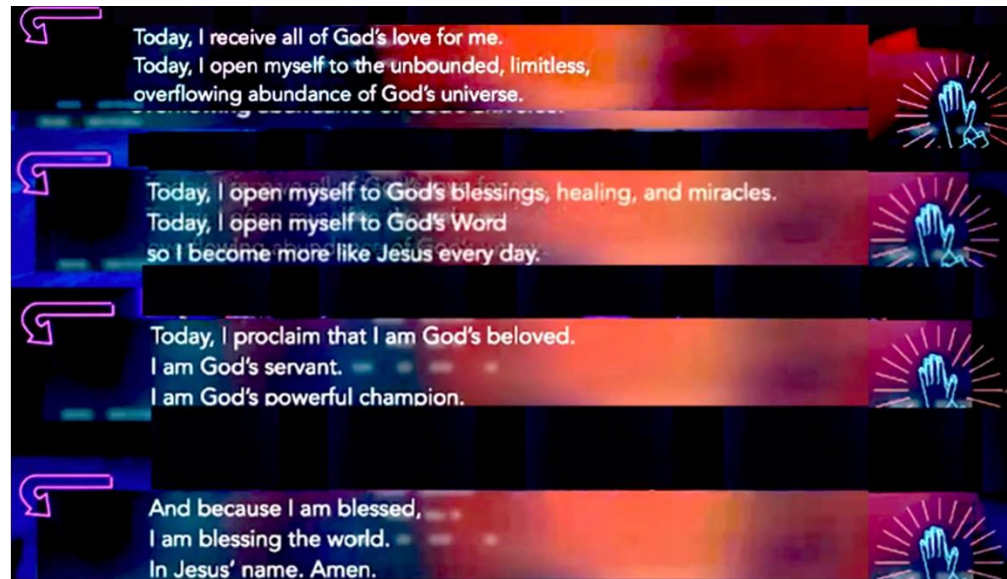
And for those who are praying, lifting to God because you are broken in your body, in your spirit – you got your heart broken—I am praying that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that you will get up today and you will start walking step by step towards your healing—because Jesus walks with you and He is healing you. He is a mighty God.

You ever heard the term *it runs in the family*? Well I get to declare that, somebody, if it runs in your family, this is where it runs out, this where it stops. You are broken but God is restoring you today... And if you lift your hands to Jesus, I believe He is improving your situation to let you experience a breakthrough. I declare in Jesus' Name. Amen!

Come on, put your hands together. Somebody here, give a shout to Him. Praise Him, love Him! Hallelujah!

I want you to touch as many people as you can and say that in Jesus' Name, you are free. Whatever is plaguing you, entrapping you in that prison, Jesus has freed you from that. I want you to walk in that declaration that Jesus has indeed given you the freedom.

May I invite everyone to lift both hands in the air as we declare the abundance of God in our life, in our situation.  
Say this with me:



We have a video greeting, an introduction for Talk 7...



# FLASHBACK!

MARCH 5, 2023

## Talk



## Talk 7



### **BRO. BO SANCHEZ:**

Questions: Do you want to live in freedom? Do you want to experience abundance in every area in your life?

I've got good news for you: You're not alone in wanting that you live a full life. I'm telling you now: *God wants you to live a full life.*

I need you to do this: Put your hand over your chest and declare the truth—just make it first person, and say: God wants *me* to live a full life. One more time: God wants *me* to live a full life.

I want to say thank you that you're giving me this opportunity even just by video to do a short intro to the Talk that we will be having today which is amazing, powerful, controversial-- but you know, if it's not to be given by The Feast, who else will do it. So, you need to hear this life-changing Talk.

By the way, I need to do this by video because I have to leave the country again. But I hope to see you this coming week. So, here we go:

For the past 17 years, I have been teaching people how to gain financial freedom. And to gain financial freedom, they need to follow certain rules. Simple rules.

My question to you—this does not apply only in finance but in every other area of your life: If you want to be successful in your career, in your physical health, there are certain rules that you have to follow – if you want success.

If you don't want success, then you don't need to follow the rules.

Same thing here. I teach people simple financial rules to retire rich. I've been doing it for so long that I actually see the lives of people when they follow the rules. They become millionaires. People who don't follow the rules, they end up poor.

## Two Simple Rules

I'll give you a sample—I cannot give you all the rules—but let me give you two of the many simple rules.

These two rules you already know. I'm sure you know. You've heard this, you've read this—even you've told other people about this.

The rules are simple, but they are not easy to do.

**No. 1: Stop borrowing and live below your means.** Do not be trapped in consumer debt. Get rid of it. You don't want that. You don't want the greatest miracle in the world-- compounding interest-- to be your enemy. You want it to be your ally. But when you borrow, you're making it your enemy-- this greatest force-- according to Albert Einstein.

So, live below your means. If you do use your credit card, pay it at the end of the month. Do not borrow from your credit card. Just use it.

**No.2 Invest 20% of your income every single month—consistently.** If you do this, and if you invest in the right way, here's what is going to happen: you will end up a millionaire.

Now, overtime – 20 years, 30 years overtime—here's what's going to happen: It's so important for you to earn money—of course. But more than earning money, it's what you keep from what you earn that's more important. Because this is what will spell your future. Now, here's the thing...

Oh, by the way, just a little story... I was in Tel Aviv, Israel, two weeks ago. I was walking on the street and then somebody recognized me – a Filipina—and she was so happy: “Bro. Bo!”

So, she greeted me, and the first thing she told me was music to my ears.

She said, “Bro. Bo, because of you, I am investing in the stock market, I have been doing it for a number of years.. Wow. I'm so happy. I'll tell you why. Because I've met many OFWs – Overseas Filipino Workers-- who did not do that. You know, working 20, 30 years abroad only to come home poor. Broke. It's a tragedy – a tragic story.

This woman I met in Tel Aviv, she's not going to make that mistake. And so, it's beautiful.

Here's the thing: Are these two—the two samplings of rules that I gave you—are those two rules, will they constrict you? Will they limit your freedom? Will they crimp your style, or your spontaneity?

Yes! You know, let's admit it. From one perspective, yes, it's true.

The problem is this: That perspective becomes your reality. You're going to be bombed out, right?





## Another Perspective

I'm going to introduce to you another perspective. What if—from another perspective--rules create freedom?

What? How?

Well, if you follow these simple rules, if you follow all the rules that I tell you so that you will gain financial

freedom, here's what's going to happen: you will grow older but richer. You will have money to do what you want to do. You'll be able to treat your kids to a Boracay trip—and your grandkids. You'll have money. You'll be generous even until you grow older.

I have another story to tell you...

Last year, a friend of mine called me up—she's in her '70s.

She said, "Bro. Bo, I need to tell you, just to inform you—I wrote my last will and testament. When God calls me home, Anawim, your Ministry for the abandoned elderly, will receive 10% of my money."

Wow. Now that woman, that friend of mine, managed her money very well. So well that even when she dies, she continues to be generous. That's amazing.

But if you do not follow these rules...

What if you say, "I don't like these, you know, 'Live below your means...' 'Invest 20%...' Hello?! I want to live. I want to live today. I want to spend, I want to buy this and that—*now*."

So, you shun these rules. Guess what? A time will come when you'll be depending on your kids, and your relatives for your food and for your medicine.

Is that freedom?

And the answer is "No." It's misery.

Poverty is bondage. So, what am I saying?

I'm saying that laws don't restrain you. Laws release you to your abundance.

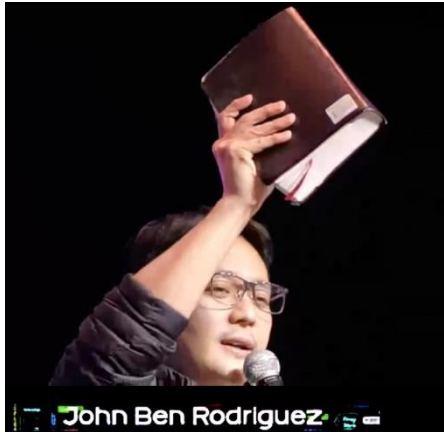
Now, this is just one example—your finances, your financial life.

Now take those rules—the concept of rules, the concept of laws—and see that it applies in every area of life.

Talk 7 and Talk 8, we will be talking about the laws. Holiness Laws in Leviticus 18-20. So, if you are ready to change your life, and to receive God's Word, I want you to open your heart and say, "Yes, Lord, speak to me today."



Laws don't restrain you,  
they release you to your abundance.



## Jesus' Framework for a Full Life

**BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:** We will begin by raising our hands and honoring the Word of God: *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.*

And today we start by reading the Word from Leviticus 18: 2-5:



I'd like us to just dwell on that last line for a while: ...*you will find life through them.*

Say this in the first-person perspective: ...*I will find life through them.*

I love what Bro. Bo said that rules and laws are actually designed by God not to limit you but to actually allow you to live a full life.

But many years back, I didn't agree with that – especially when I was a teenager. I felt that the rules and the laws of my parents were a bummer.

I was like, “Kill joy, Ma. Why am I not allowed to have freedom?”

But now that as I am maturing in my faith and now that I am a father, I realize that rules and laws are important—especially if you have children, and if you love your children. Because in your maturity and in your capacity, there are things that you can perceive that they cannot yet. Do you agree? And I believe that with God, in His maturity and in His infinite wisdom, He has things that He can perceive already that you cannot yet perceive. That's why He is establishing a framework for you to operate. So that you can live a full life.

## The Leviticus Laws

Just a short background about Leviticus 18:2-5. God was telling the Israelites not to live like the Egyptians and the Canaanites. Because you know what? The norm back then was that the Egyptians and the Canaanites were doing pagan rituals. And those pagan rituals included sexual acts.

In this world where this is also the norm—you watch it on television, you see people doing it, they think it's good, then you think it probably must be good.

But God is telling you otherwise today: *My laws are here so that I can ensure that you will have a full life.*

Put your hands on your heart, pray with me:



*Almighty Father, open my heart to receive your laws with openness and trust. May they change my life for the better. This I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Let's raise our hands to the Word of God and sing:

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.*

Give the Lord a big hand and praise Him. Praise His Name.



So, going back to the context of the verses that we were reading: God was telling the Israelites they need not live the way that the world lives.

Specifically in the way the Egyptians and the Canaanites were worshipping God.

Do you remember our talk last week? It was about the word *A*—*Atonement*.

So, it was the start over for the Israelites—God was teaching them that *if it's your start over, I'm calling you now to holiness*.

And one phrase for *holiness* is being *set apart*. So, if you are already set apart for God, how should you live?

That was the question God was asking the Israelites.

And this is what we're exploring: the five groups of Laws in *Leviticus*:

1. Laws on Sex (*Leviticus 18, 20*)
2. Laws on Sabbath (*Leviticus 19*)
3. Laws on Society (*Leviticus 19*)
4. Laws on (human) Sacrifice (*Leviticus 18, 20*)
5. Laws on Superstition (*Leviticus 20*)



Leviticus verses 18-20 have many laws. We will start with item No. 1: The Laws on Sex.

One morning, a little girl-- around five years old-- went to her mother and she asked: “Mommy, can you tell me about sex? What it is and what it is about?”

The mother was shocked: “Oh, my God, what do I tell my young daughter? She’s too young to comprehend this. How do I explain the complexity of this? ...Ah, I know my answer...”

She told her daughter, “Baby, go to your Dad and ask him.”

So, the girl went to her father and asked him: “Daddy, can you tell me about sex? What it is and what it is about?”

The father started scratching his head: “What do I do?”

And suddenly, he thought of a way... He asked the girl: “Honey, can you spell that for me first?”

So, the girl said, “S-E-C-T-S.”

Relieved, the father said, “Ahh, *sects*. Okay, I get it.”

But would you agree with me that somehow, among us Pinoys, it’s taboo to talk about this? This is a difficult talk, but here in The Feast, I am actually glad that we are not afraid to talk about topics like this. And I want to bring to you the truth that according to the Bible, according to our Faith, dictated by the Catholic Church, here is the reality...

Who are parents here? What you learn here you can pass on to your children when they ask you... just ask them first to spell it for you so you know it’s the same thing you’re both talking about. Okay?

Because if they don’t learn about these from us, they will find ways—because of their curiosity— to discover the meaning of those things.

And sadly, if they get it from mainstream media, social media, movies, their view will be distorted.

That’s why I love it that we get to talk about this topic here.



Sex is not evil or bad or dirty.

Our first declaration: Sex is not evil, bad or dirty. Sex is God's idea. Sex is good.

And the purpose of God for sex is to bring forth life in two ways.

God's purpose for sex is to bring forth life:  
Physically - through a newborn baby | Spiritually - through a loving marriage

1. Physically, through a new born baby. Look at the person beside you. That beautiful person originated from a wonderful act of love. Is there someone here who just sprouted from the ground and your parent just picked you up? None, right? So, sex must be good because its brings forth life to more people – beautiful people.

2. Spiritually, it can bless married couples. The Catholic Church declares that sex in its God-given design is both procreative and unitive. It creates life and also unites the life of married couples.

My wife and I had an argument. And Bro. Didoy Lubaton and his wife Mayi, gave us a tip: You had a quarrel, you didn't speak to one another. Something happened at night... The next day are you still enemies?

Yes, in the morning, we were no longer quarreling.

Because marriage is unitive. The challenge of marriage is hard. The challenges of raising a family and running a household are hard. But I believe God designed something so good and something pleasurable so that even when you are fighting each other you get to do something that unites you.



**Example 1: Against Incest**

As we read in Leviticus 18: 6:



Nowadays, for us, this is already obvious. We know chances of genetic diseases can happen, can ruin relationships.

But in the context of people back then, this was something new to them. Because the norm then was the Egyptians believed that the gods they were praising were marrying intermarried with their relatives, practiced incest—they married their daughters, they married their brothers, siblings got married with one another, cousins married with cousins.

So, God was teaching them to worship in a new way. This—intermarriage—must no longer be part of their norm.

This also happens today. That's why I want to thank you in behalf of our Jeremiah Ministry. We fund this Ministry through your giving. Jeremiah is a shelter for abused, sexually assaulted girls. Do you know that we have there victims as young as nine years old raped either by their father, uncles, neighbors. That act alone has broken them.



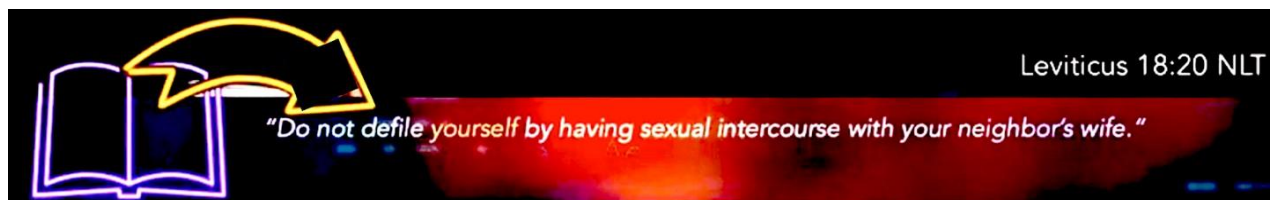
So, we love them, we give them a home so they could be brought to their healing.

*At the heart of these laws on sex is God's desire to protect the sexual dignity of every person and; The sacred relationship of every family.*

That's the difficult happening. That's why God says that this should not be allowed.



Leviticus 18:20 says:



I'd like to point out the first part: *Do not defile yourself*. The damage, when adultery happens, begins with yourself. I guess some of you are familiar with the macro level of how adultery leads to broken families, and how broken families lead to children not having sufficient love from father and mother raising them, and how that contributes to crime rates, and how that contributes to a broken society in general. I'm sure you know those facts.

Adultery destroys yourself and your family. But today, I'd like to share something different because I experienced this. No, it's not I committed adultery—my wife might be watching... Oh, my God. 😊

Those of you familiar with my background know that I came from a broken family. We were the second family of our dad. Later on, we found out we were not the second family. We were actually the fourth family.

This is sensitive to me. I have a little request... I'm sharing this not for you to hate my dad or to judge him. I have forgiven him. He's a great father to me.

But I want to share with you what I saw—with his life and my life-- and how it affected my family. When Dad became older, I went out on dates with my Mom, because Bro. Bo taught us that—to build a wholesome relationship with your parents. Just spend time with them—they want time with you.

## The Effect of Adultery

In line with having this good relationship with parents, a lot of times, I would give my dad a portion of my income, telling him, “Dad, here, for your expenses.”

He would always decline accepting the money and say, “No. Just keep that to yourself.”

I would tell him, “You don’t want to buy clothes? You don’t want to eat out—somewhere?”

He’d say, “No. I’m okay. Itabi mo na ‘yan.-- Keep that.”

After he said “Itabi mo na ‘yan,” he would always tell me, “Ibigay mo na lang sa Mommy mo. Bumawi ka sa Mommy mo.—Just give the money to your Mommy. Payback your Mommy.”

At another particular time, because we were already accepted by the first family, they invited my siblings and I to a trip to Palawan. We were also inviting our dad. But he did not want to come along.

He kept saying, “Walang magbabantay sa bahay. No one will take care of the house.”

I said, “Daddy, the house has a lock...”

Still, it seemed he didn’t want to join us.

Later on, I was processing, processing... Maybe because of his sins, now that he is old—and the libido is gone—the remorse started coming in...

So, that’s how I interpreted it.

That even as we were there, we wanted to pour out love to him, it’s difficult for him to accept it.

So, I think firsthand, that would be the effect of adultery to you.

Husbands, boyfriends here... Can we help out each other? Can we pray for each other? *So that we would be the most loyal, most loving, most caring, husbands and fathers that we can ever be. Amen.*

*Thank You, Lord.*

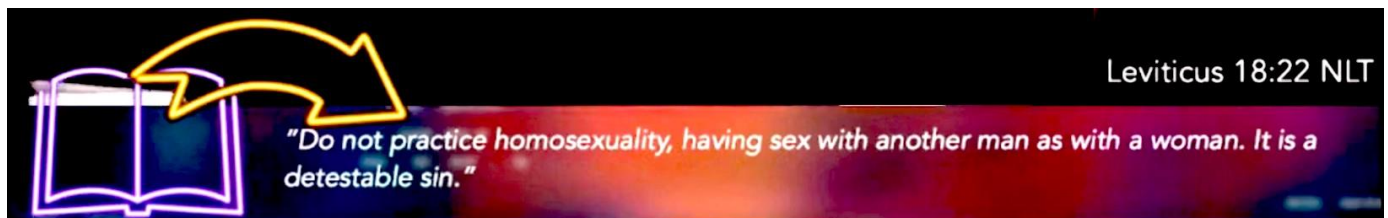
That’s why Community is here. That’s why The Feast is here. Because we help out each other as we journey closer to God.







Leviticus 18:22 says:



A little context: The norm then – pagan rituals. There was a certain pagan practice about cultic prostitutes. There was a prostitute at the Temple. For example, you're praying for a harvest and you want to offer a sacrifice, you must pay and have sex with the cultic prostitute – regardless of the gender of the prostitute. So, at that time, homosexuality was happening whether you are inclined to it or not.

That's the context of this verse.

But today, we want to make it clear: Homosexuals, and those having same sex attraction, first and foremost, you are a child of God-- therefore God loves you and wants to journey with you and bless you.

So, the truth is here:  
The physical sexual act between the same genders is a sin. But being a homosexual, or being attracted to the same gender is not a sin.

***"The physical sexual act between the same genders is sin.  
But being homosexual, or being attracted to the  
same gender, is not a sin."***



### Example 3: Against Sex With The Same Gender

*They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter.*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC #2358)*

## An Apology

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church —there are many other verses, you can read up more if you want to know more about this. I just want to quote this part: CCC No. 2358.

Why am I saying this? Because even I, when I was new in my Faith, I was confused over how to really address this matter, this issue. But as I mature, I feel that God's message for you, if you are a homosexual or an SSA, we have servants like that who have been struggling with that but who have found their joy in their life and meaning, and a full life with Jesus and the Community. Doing their profession and being excellent in it.

But to those here, on behalf probably of people who have bullied you, or your uncles, aunts, parents, teachers, colleagues, who have discriminated you who made you feel that your existence is wrong, or your person is wrong, I'd like to apologize – on behalf of them.

Don't get me wrong. We're not lowering our standards. I believe your call is to chastity and purity. But I always believe that your journey must always start with acceptance, love—genuine love from the Community, from the people around you, and from God.

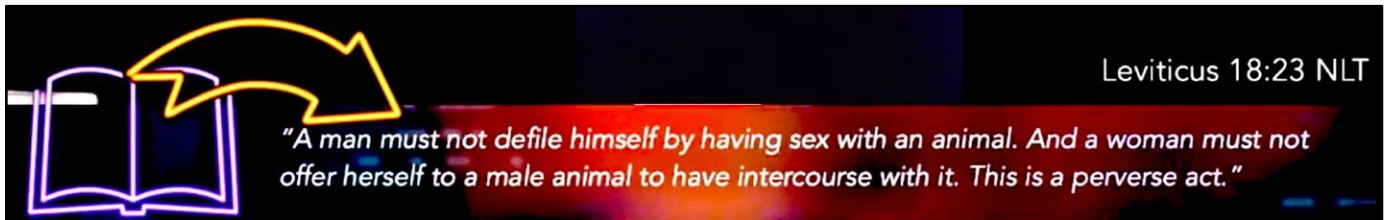
I want to declare that you're not a failure. You're beautiful. You're amazing. And your Divine Calling is the same as mine. He calls you to follow Him, to live a great life, and be a blessing to the world.

### Example 3: Against Sex With The Same Gender

*"You are not a failure. You are beautiful. You are amazing. And your Divine Calling is the same as mine. He calls you to follow Him, to live a great life, and be a blessing to the world."*



Leviticus 18:23 says:



One ‘perversion’ back then was having sex with animals -- because again, it was part of pagan rituals.

But today, modern versions of the perversions still happen.

### Modern Versions of Ancient ‘Perversions’

#### No. 1 Perversion: Pornography

Do you know that the porn industry is worth almost triple or quadruple than the Hollywood industry—in valuation?

Hollywood makes 450 movies a year.  
Bollywood makes 1,000 movies a year.

But the Pornwood creates 13,000 movies a year.

So shocking facts.

That’s the macro-level perspective.

Hollywood = \$24B industry  
Internet porn = \$97B industry

Hollywood = 450 movies/year  
Bollywood = 1000 movies/year  
pornwood = 13,000 movies/year



## Long-term Damage of Perversion

I want to give also a micro-level perspective.

I also struggled with porn in my life. I started watching those movies when I was a teenager because I grew up in *the culture*.

You know—your uncles, cousins are like, “Hey let’s watch this on Betamax.” Or when you pull up the cushion of a bed, there are porn magazines there.

I struggled with porn until I experienced spiritual renewal.

Bottomline message *for men*-- because I think this is a weakness mainly of men, although also of some women, but mostly of men:

You know what’s the long-term damage of Pornography? I believe it’s this: it takes away your resolve to do the hard work—in all aspects. Because it’s a quick fix. Instant gratification that feels good, pleasurable-- in no time.

I noticed that in my performance at school, my performance at work, when I’m stressed—I wanted a quick fix. No longer resolve to work on things that matter. My relationships back then, no resolve to work on properly caring for my girlfriend. That was my experience.

So, if it cannot be avoided, it can be stopped altogether. I think that’s why it’s part of God’s Laws.

## No. 2 Perversion: Casual Sex

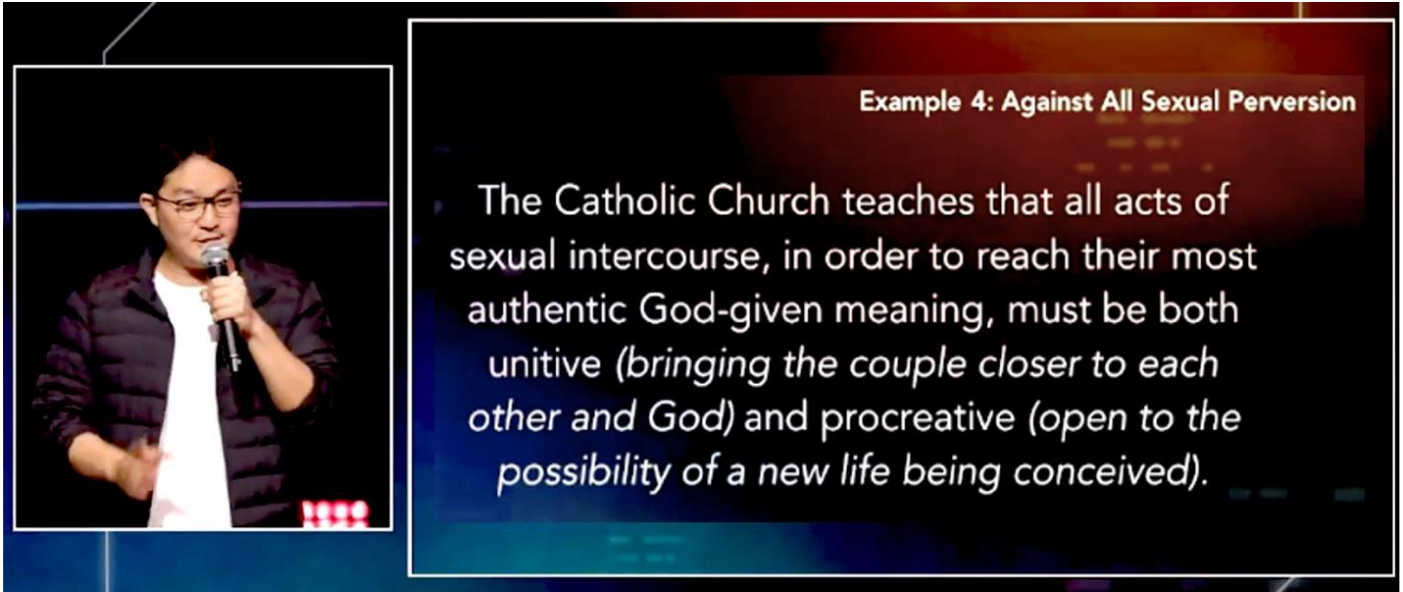
I believe I want to address this especially to single people. Because it’s the time and age of, you know, FUBU (For Us, By Us—an acquainted person who offers sexual intercourse without romantic commitment), Momol -- Make out, Makeout lang (only)-- or “friends with benefits”.

But I tell you, sex can never be casual because it’s sacred. The only right place of sex is actually in marriage. For you to realize its God-given beauty and design.

Because sex is not only a biological act but a highly spiritual act. Life-long marriage is the only place for sex.

Sex can NEVER be casual, because it’s sacred.

Because sex isn’t just a biological act but a highly spiritual act, lifelong marriage is the only place for sex.



## Practical Tip

Practical tip, boyfriend-girlfriend: If you are here together, hold each other's hands and tell each other: "It takes two to tango, three to mambo, and everybody to party." Joke.

Seriously, it's a team effort: you, with each other, and God. Because there will be times when one person is weak, there will be other times when the other person is weak. I hope the time will not come when both of you are weak. But when both are you weak, God is there. Pray.

In reality, it's common – even our mothers, grandmothers know—that it cannot be avoided. It's what we call in Tagalog *bugso ng damdamin*—burst of emotion.

So, sometimes, parents tell their daughters, "Huwag kang magkakamali.— Don't make a mistake... Huwag kang mabubuntis.--Don't get pregnant."

It's like saying, you can do everything else...just avoid getting pregnant.

But that is only addressing the pro-creative aspect. We want to change this to what God is calling it. Because if you're not yet married, don't pro-create.

The Catholic Church teaches that all acts of sexual intercourse, to reach their most authentic God-given meaning, must be both unitive (bring the couple closer to each other and to God) and procreative (open to the possibility of a new life being conceived).

## Consequence of Casual Sex

There's consequence of casual sex-- that is the unitive factor.  
And I want to illustrate it by doing this:



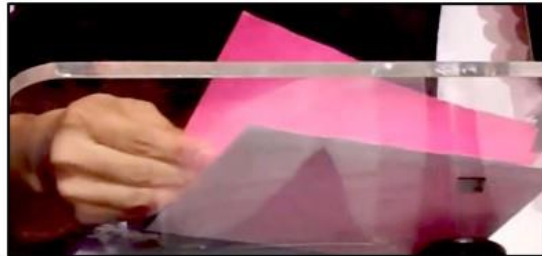
White Paper: You



Pink: Your Partner



Take a Glue



Paste the Pink on the White



“When you hold your body close to mine,  
I want to hold you in my arms forever...”



Something happens...  
You realize...  
the relationship  
is toxic...  
You want to get out...  
Okay, let's separate...



Even you try to carefully separate it,  
notice what happens...  
Certain parts of *you* – the White  
—are stuck on the Pink.



And certain part  
of the Pink stuck  
on the White.

## Cycle of Consequences

So, imagine:  
Since the separation  
already happened...  
You find a new FUBU  
— a new partner.  
More demanding, more toxic.  
You quarrel, you separate.



Another person  
comes into  
your life...  
You find a new  
one on the social  
media.. swipe,  
swipe...



After a while  
of doing it over  
and over,  
this is what  
happens to you...





## **The Reality**

When people consult me when they are in sexual trouble or they had lived a promiscuous life, they always say, “I feel that my life is incomplete. I feel that my life is disorganized, why is it this way?”

Because in reality, certain portions of your being, of your soul are ripped apart from you.

And you carry a lot of broken pieces also from other people that are not intended to be there. Probably, their hurts, their traumas, you also bring with you. So, that’s how it destroys you.

Why am I sharing this with you?

Because at one point in my life, I was like this—broken.

Because I came from a broken family, self-worth issues, I retorted to porn, promiscuous life, jumping from one relationship to another, casual sex...

You know, one, in a way, fun fact, when Bro. Audee got married, on his wedding day, I was there, standing beside him... The door opened, his bride stepped in, and as she walked toward the altar, I started crying...

Note, at the time, I was just courting the girl I hoped to marry—my wife now.

So, first of all, in my mind, “Lord, how can I afford this expensive wedding...?” 😊

Second, I was telling God, “Lord, will I ever deserve something good as this—eventually in my life?”

Fast forward today, I can say with 100% confidence that the Lord is very good. That in my journey, in striving to move closer to Him, He has blessed me with a wonderful family, a beautiful wife, a beautiful baby girl.





## What God Wants for Everyone

And I am here to tell you that it does not end with me. He wants to do this for everyone—regardless of gender orientation, or anything. He wants you to experience life to the full.

I love the story (in John 7:53-8:11) where Jesus saved the woman caught in adultery. The leaders (a group of scribes and Pharisees) brought her to Jesus, and told Him, “Lord, look at her. She has many colors, we could hardly count them. Moses (Mosaic Law) said the punishment for someone like her is stoning.

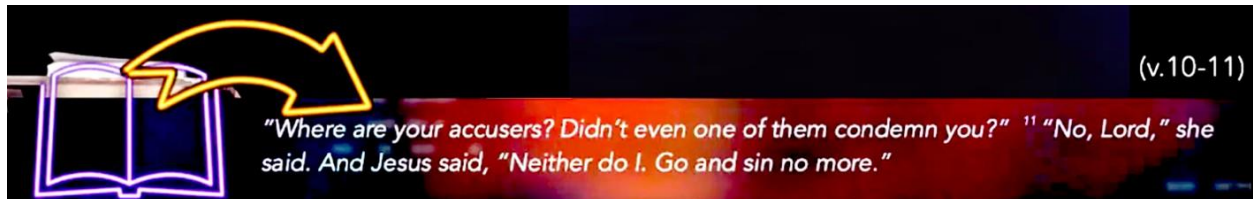


What did Jesus say?

“Let the one with no sin cast the first stone.”

So, the woman was ready to be stoned. After a while, she noticed no stone hitting her. She looked around...

And the Lord told her:



“No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”



## What God Will Do Today

And this is what God will do for you today:  
He will take away every piece that is not meant to be there—one by one. Your worries, your fears, your pain, your trauma, your wounds, your neediness.

He will bring back the things that are actually part of you. Return your goodness, your self-discipline, your worth, your dignity.

He will return them one by one...



... until there will come a point that you will no longer recognize this paper...



... because it was already returned to something like this...



This is God's invitation to you today. That New Life can happen. You may have broken the rules for so long and you feel, "I'm not worthy, Lord, today."  
But God is telling you today: "More than My rules, My Love is greater. Your journey always starts at the door of My Heart. My Mercy overflows."  
If you feel that God is speaking to you today-- to end that relationship that you must end-- to be able to start following Him—it may not happen in an instant.  
I tell you, it may take years. But I invite you to come here every single Sunday, offer yourself to God every time we do this until you will reach a point that you can say, *"Lord, You are enough. I can let go of these unintended things that give me a quick fix, these useless things that give me short-lived pleasure. Because I know now Your true joy – genuine, one hundred percent joy, joy that cannot be taken away by anything, joy that cannot be shaken by challenges and temptations, joy that is guilt-free and life-giving."*  
If you want that, raise your hands as we sing and worship God—because God wants to heal you today. Hallelujah!



## MERCY MINISTRIES

*So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

–Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31

### ANAWIM HOME for ABANDONED ELDERLY PART 2



### *Quietly, Looking Far Away*

SHE sits at her favorite spot just right outside her cottage in Anawim, gazing beyond the greenery, her right hand inside her pocket, perhaps touching a little gift she hopes to give to someone-- a loved one?-- who might just come visit her... sit on the empty bench in front of her, chat with her...

Patrocinio Karaniwan was born on May 23, 1925. So, this coming May, Lola Pat will be 98 years old--the oldest resident in our Anawim Home.

She's Catholic, so like most Catholics, she's been given a Spanish name. Her first name comes from the Spanish word *patrocinio*, meaning *patronage, support*. And, she's Filipino, so her last name is from the Filipino word *karaniwan*, meaning *ordinary*.

Everyone in Anawim know Lola Pat as lovingly supportive-- yes, a patron especially for her younger co-Anawim. For that matter, she is not just ordinary.

## Twilight Time

Old age already taking its toll on her memory, all Lola Pat tells us is she holds a Bachelor of Science degree, major in Commerce, and that she worked as a cashier in a private company. So, she merited a pension from the Social Security System (SSS)—which from Day 1 of her retirement has never been enough to make both ends meet for her.

She is single and she used to live with her nephew and niece-- *they* already had family of their own to take care of. Their income spent on their family needs, they could no longer provide for Pat in her twilight years.

So, they had no choice but to bring Pat to an institution for the aged in need. They brought her to Tahanan Ni Maria located in Carmona, Cavite, way back 2008.

## Name Above All Names

In 2016, unfortunately, Tahanan Ni Maria had to close. So, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which monitors services of charitable institutions—and thus also knows about Anawim-- referred Lola Pat, along with 10 other elderly residents, to our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez. And readily, he admitted them in our Anawim.

Ms. Arlene Gonzaga, social worker in DSWD Region IV-A which monitored the services of Tahanan, brought the elderly to Anawim on October 11, 2016.



In Anawim, Lola Pat has easily won the appreciation of lolos and lolas as well as the leaders and personnel and volunteers serving in Anawim. She always happily says “Thank you,” for their services.

Most important, although she can’t remember facts and figures about her past, in Anawim, she has well learned and has kept in mind spiritual lessons.

Yes, she may be Patrocinio, a patron. She may be Karaniwan, ordinary. But she knows very well she has a Patron for whom she has never been ordinary. One who has given her not only patronage but Unconditional Love. And she’ll tell you His name is *Jesus*, the Name Above All Names, meaning *Savior*.

And so now, saved in Anawim, she lives by her favorite Bible verse, Mark 12:30:

*Love God above all.*

### **LET’S GET CONNECTED!**

We are at the Anawim# Home for the  
Abandoned Elderly Office  
1860 Rodriguez, Rizal  
E-mail: alm.montalban@yahoo.com

Thank you very much  
And God bless you more and more!



**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.

### **FOR EXISTING DONORS:**

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

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

Email Address: [jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com](mailto:jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com)

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com> Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/

Fax 725-1230

## Our Partner Beneficiaries

### Jeremiah 33 Foundation

is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.

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



### He Cares Mission

provides shelter for street children.



### Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation

gives scholarships to poor students.



### Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer

provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.



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



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



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

LIGHT OF JESUS FAMILY  
DISASTER RECOVERY MINISTRY

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



### Anawim Lay Missions Foundation

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



## CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

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

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

3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office For US and CANADA: Address  
Checks to Kerygma Family, 848  
Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107 For Other Countries/Philippines:  
Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation and mail  
(registered mail) to Shepherds Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City,  
Philippines 1109

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherds Voice  
Account in any branch of these banks:  
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BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch  
Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 3970019804 General Araneta, Cubao Branch  
Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 160506123 SM Cubao Branch  
PNB - Current Account no. 371157500015 SSS branch  
Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch  
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998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



**FAMILY  
ONLINE  
NEWSMAGAZINE**

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*Go and make disciples of all men.*

— Matthew 28:19

