



NEWSLETTER
April 9, 2023



There's a New Gardener in The Garden

THE Feast is a weird community. Search for another Catholic group around the world who studies *Leviticus* for three months, and very soon, will study the Book of *Numbers* for another three months.

A leader from another community asked me what were we preaching at The Feast. When I told him *Leviticus*, he kept quiet, waiting for the punchline. He thought I was telling him a joke.

But because of what we're doing, more and more, Feasters are now realizing that the Bible is a gigantic magical house with an infinite number of rooms.



Back to Eden

We live in this house, but every day, we discover a new room we never saw before—and each room is mind blowing. Reason? The Bible is meditation literature. You don't just read the Bible, you meditate the Bible.

The ancient writers designed Scriptures to be read not once but again and again, each time going deeper, layer by layer.

For example? In this Holy Week, you discovered that when the Bible mentions *garden*—like the Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden of Easter, the writers were giving you a hint. The words were winking at you, asking you to think about the Garden of Eden back in *Genesis*.

Today, you will learn that the Garden of Easter is the new Garden of Eden with the new Gardener in charge. His name is Jesus. This new Gardener will make your life flourish and bear fruit in abundance. Are you ready for that flourishing?

Happy Easter!

May your dreams come true

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bo Sanchez".

Bo Sanchez

**WELCOME
to our
GRAND EASTER
FEAST!**



LETTERS

Have a Life!

YES, you do something else outside of work, or you stop carrying people's responsibilities-- have a hobby, get out, have a social life.

Exist. Live. Breathe. Survive.

Google, Wikipedia, dictionaries offer such definition about the idiom *have a life*—or *get a life*.



Fr. Paolo Asprer in last Sunday's Feast asked the question: What is your definition of *life*?-- *page 4*.

Bro. Bo Sanchez hints that *life* is a *Garden*, *page 1*.

Bro. Audee Villaraza pointed out *life* is there, right in your heart-- when you say *You're welcome here! Welcome who? Flashback*, *page 15*.

Sr. Victoria Sanchez knows who gives her a good *life*, *page 30*.

You know that's what we celebrate today,

April 9, 2023, Easter Sunday.

Yes, *Easter*. We owe the word from pre-Christian England celebrating the goddess Eostre at the beginning of spring, bringing rebirth after the long lifeless winter. Yes, *rebirth*-- because she was the pagan goddess of fertility. And *fertility* brought to mind bunnies, rabbits, eggs-- consequently, fun egg-hunting!

But our key word now for this festival is *Resurrection*. We celebrate not a goddess but our One True God-- our Lord Jesus, who, after the punishing winter of Crucifixion, fulfilled the prophecy that three days after His death, He would come back to *life*.

Yes, that's what He did. That's what He gives us to this today: Life everlasting,

Rejoice, we have *this* Life!



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

APRIL 2, 2023

Holy Mass



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

FR. PAOLO ASPRER

on the Gospel: Matthew 26: 14-27, 66

The Crucifixion of Christ

Excerpts...

Good morning, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

A blessed and a fruitful Holy Week to everyone.

What is your definition of life? What is life for you? What is your life's deepest *why*? He who has a *why* to live can bear almost any *how*.

There's this one poet philosopher who said, "Life can be found in the big things, in the small things, and everything in between."

Nakikita mo ba ng buhay sa mga pinakamaliit na detalye? Can you see life in the smallest, the simplest details of your life?

Can you feel your heartbeat? Can you check your pulse? Can you see life there? You know, if you are in a hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) you realize the truth: hearts that beat today are not guaranteed to do so tomorrow.

Can you see life at the smallest, simplest details of your life? Like, as you sip your morning coffee and you bask in the morning sun.

Do you see life in smiles or embrace of your loved ones?

Or perhaps, life for you is found in the big words...Happiness for you is life. Contentment for you is life. Success for you is life. Productivity for you is life.

Or perhaps, you see life deeper -- like in purpose, meaning, significance, legacy, transcendence. What is really life to you?

L-I-F-E

My dear friends, this Holy Week, the readings present to us Jesus as a dead man walking, but in spite of His fate, in spite of that severe trial, rejection, persecution, there is clarity of vision, clarity of purpose in life that Jesus still brings life, fullness of life, eternal life in spite of opposition.

My dear friends, how can we live our lives to the fullest like our Lord? Let me share with you this acronym—L-I-F-E.



Live

Mabuhay ka. Live! Don't just simply exist. Don't just simply survive. Bible scholars say our Lord Jesus lived for only 33 years here on Earth. While many of us were born to live, Jesus was born to die.

Ano nga ba ang buhay? What is life really? Life is not simply about length. Life is about depth. Life is not simply about speed, velocity. The society we're living today is a velocity society—so many deadlines, so many schedules. It's not just about speed. It's about substance. Life is not simply about profit, but purpose. Live!



Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7

⁴ Lord Yahweh has given me a disciple's tongue, for me to know how to give a word of comfort to the weary. Morning by morning he makes my ear alert to listen like a disciple⁵ Lord Yahweh has opened my ear and I have not resisted, I have not turned away.

⁶ I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face away from insult and spitting.⁷ Lord Yahweh comes to my help, this is why insult has not touched me, this is why I have set my face like flint and know that I shall not be put to shame.

Intimacy

Our Lord Jesus, in His 33 years of existence here on Earth, He engaged in deep relationships, friendships.

Pope Francis said, “What is our heart’s real riches and truest treasures? Our truest treasures are matters of the heart—persons, friends, family, relationships, integrity, peace of mind.

What kind of friend are you? There are friends who would stay with us during difficult situations. There are friends who would leave us during difficult situations like many of the disciples of our Lord did.

And there are also friends who would put us in difficult situations. What kind of friend are you?

A true friend would not only see just our smile. A true friend would see beyond-- and within. A real friend sees the sorrows and scars of our heart.



Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Reading II: *Philippians 2:6-11*

⁶ *Who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped.*

⁷ *But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being,*

⁸ *he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.*

⁹ *And for this God raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all other names;*

¹⁰ *so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus*

¹¹ *and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*



Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God why have You abandoned me?

Faith

This Holy Week, spend moments in looking, meditating at the face of Jesus on the Cross. Who among you here has the devotion to the Hesus Poong Nazareno—Lord Jesus, the Nazarene? What do you see in the Nazareno? First, color—black or brown-- close to our color. Second, the position of the Nazareno. While He carries the heavy Cross, He continues to fight, to stand up.

Pero pansinin ninyo kung saan nakatingin ang Nazareno. But notice where the Nazarene is looking. Sa baba ba? Down? Forward or upward?

My dear friends, the Hesus Poong Nazareno is not simply the image of God. Hesus Poong Nazareno is the image of us Filipinos—with deep faith, who know how to handle problems.

As a friend told me: “Alam mo, Father, lahat naman ng problema may solusyon. Kung walang solusyon, ‘wag mong problemahin. – All problems have solutions. If no solution, don’t make it a problem. Ang mga Pilipino magaling magdala ng problema.—Filipinos are good at handling problems. Pansinin mo—baha, bagyo, Pandemic. — Notice: floods, storms, Coronavirus Disease Pandemic... When a news reporter asks a Filipino, “Kumusta kayo? How are you doing?” The Filipino simply takes a photo selfie, or groupie. The Filipino knows well how to handle problems—like Jesus does.”

What is faith? Faith is not just simply waiting for the storms to pass. Rather, faith is being able to face the storms, the crises, and the conflicts of life.

Self-Emptying

For love to be real, it must cost, it must hurt, it must empty us of our self.

But you might say, “Father, quota na ‘ko. I’ve reached my quota for suffering, for sacrifice.”

Love until it hurts. But the Lord said *love until it hurts no more*.

My dear friends, it is not the suffering of Jesus that redeemed us humanity from our sins and death-- but *love* in the suffering. It is (His) love that redeemed us.

On the Cross, the Lord said don’t be afraid to die for your loved ones, your mission.. *Fear not death. Rather, fear an un-lived life*.

Death is terrifying. But we must be more terrified if we have not yet started living a life with significance – like our Lord Jesus had done. Amen.





AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Good Morning, Feast Bay Area! Let's give the Lord a big hand, come on!

I see so many happy, wonderful, blessed people in the house of God today. Is there anyone coming from out of town, from abroad?

Let's clap our hands for our visitors today. Thank you for braving the traffic in the parking area.

Are there first-timers here? Raise your hand if you're a first-timer, a newbie. We want to recognize you this moment. All the first-timers, come on, raise your hand. Let's all clap for our first-timers. Welcome!

My name is Audee Villaraza. I'm so privileged and excited to serve you today. I'm so glad that you are here.

I want to read just a few Thank You notes for answered prayers. These are prayers that you write on those Love Offering envelopes that you give and we're glad that you do that because we record how God is working and blessing us here at The Feast.

As of last Sunday, March 26, throughout the week, we had 231 answered prayers. Can you give the Lord a big hand for that one?

First message is from a woman and she says, "Thank You very much Lord for the gift of my new work. Thank You very much for my family for their unending support and love because through them, I can testify about Your love."

Thank you for that wonderful sharing. Thank you for writing that.

More Answered Prayers

We got a message from another lady:
“Thank You Lord, for new work...”

Woah, God has been blessing people here with financial provisions.

She says, “Thank You for always guiding me, for the good health of my family.”

Another woman says: “Thank You, Lord, for protecting me and my heart from a bogus love.” (Or from a fake love.)

“Thank You for the lessons learned and continuously teaching me about love and relationships.”

Thank you for courageously sharing that one.

A man says: “Thank You, Lord, for the new car and for the professional driving license. I’m happy that I am able to attend the Holy Week Lenten recollection and for the good health of my family.”

Another guy says, “Thank You, Lord, for the high result of my exams! Thank You for granting my prayers.”

We have another lady: “Thank You, Lord, for answering my prayer to be a million-dollar table member with a bonus trip to Japan.”

Take note, *million-dollar* --not peso... She says Thank You for blessings for her family... She adds, “Grateful for sales that were closed and for opportunities to earn. Thank You, Lord, for providing our daily needs and even giving extra so we can share it to others and we are able to meet all financial obligations.”

Thank You, Lord! Thank You so much for sharing all the answered prayers.

We hope, next week, we get to read your answered prayers.

A graphic titled "Ways to Give Online" with a blurred background of people. At the top center is a red circular logo with "THE FEAST" in white. Below it are four white boxes with rounded corners:

- UnionBank**: BANK DEPOSIT, The Builder of the Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Feast Bay Area, Inc. 000-4000-24846, CHEQUE DEPOSIT, Feast Bay Area.
- GCash**: Scan the QR Code shown or visit: TheFeastPICCAM.com/commit. A QR code is shown to the right.
- BDO**: BANK DEPOSIT, Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Inc. 003970143807.
- Debit/Credit Card**: For giving via Debit/Credit Card, visit TheFeastPICCAM.com/commit for giving instructions.

Worship!

EXHORTATIONS



LIA BALAGOT: Good Morning, Feast!
Good morning, Everybody! To all those watching online, Good Morning!

I'm inviting everyone to please stand up, up on your feet, everyone. Come on! More energy for Jesus, come on!

We are going to give God an amazing Worship today. Are you with me?

We could go louder for Jesus.

JHONN JAVIER:

Come on, we give praise to Jesus today.

Everybody, say, "Thank you, Jesus. Hallelujah! We thank You, God, for Your Presence. We truly believe that You are here. You are in the midst of us!

Let us reflect on the love of God that He has really given us. A love that is so simple, a love that is not complicated. A love that understands, not demands. God's love is the greatest gift of all.

Do you feel God's love today? Come on, if you do, let's be in the moment of Worship, in this moment between you and God alone. Let's come and Worship! In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.





Sing His praise aloud

Let His praise rise up
don't hold it in



I could sing over and over
I love You

Where we hear praises
He hears faith



Jesus have Your way in me



I'm totally surrendered
With open hands and open heart



All hail the Lord
All hail the King

Awake My Soul • Hillsong Worship, Brooke Ligertwood
Words & Music by: Brooke Ligertwood
© 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
CCLI# 7134998

Worship!

EXHORTATION

AUDEE VILLARAZA: You know, one thing I love so much about Worship is that you get to be in the Presence of God. And once you are in the Presence of God, here's the thing:

You don't have to pretend to be somebody that you're not. You don't have to pretend before the Presence of your God that you're okay. You don't have to pretend to the Lord that you get it together. You don't have to pretend that you're strong. Because God is a father and a father knows his children.

You are God's child and in the Presence of your Father right now, I want you to lift up your hands in complete surrender. You don't even need to know the lyrics of the song, or the rhythm, or the beat. You don't even have to be in tune to sing that song. All you've got to do is lift up your hands and for sure, God knows what you're going through. Because He is your Father.

And in the Presence of our Father right now, we say:

Lord, for those who are sick—physically, mentally, spiritually— I pray in the mighty Name of Jesus that You are sending Your healing grace down to them right now.

In the mighty Name of Jesus, we proclaim that all those whose hearts are broken at this moment, I pray that You are mending and restoring them to fulness. For those experiencing defeat, I claim that in the mighty Name of Jesus, there will be victory, there will be glory in their life. And for those who are praying for a miracle, I pray that in the mighty Name of Jesus we shall be victorious and we shall sing in Your Presence right now. Thank You for loving us. Thank You for embracing us. Thank You for accepting us for who we are. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





Come on, celebrate Jesus! The Name above all Names. The Name that is stronger than all your problems. The Name that is stronger than what you are going through.

Somebody, shout for Jesus!

Everybody say it out loud:

I love You, Lord!

Thank You, Jesus!



All right. I'm so sorry that I know some of you might be expecting Bro. Bo to be with me today but he has to rest. He came from a mission trip in Bukidnon, and so we're giving him this extra time to rest so he can be prepared when he preaches this Holy Week.

So, I'm all that you have for today and I hope that's more than enough.



DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

Everybody, lift up both hands. Say this wonderful prayer with me:



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

Everybody, lift up your hands
and sing with me in honor
of God's Word:

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*





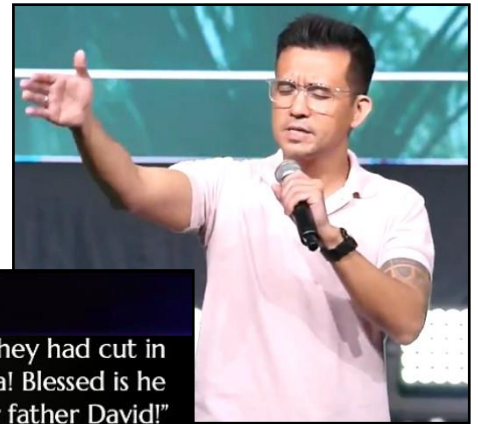
FLASHBACK! **APRIL 2, 2023**



Special Talk

Today, we're going to have a special talk. Because it's Palm Sunday. So, I want to give you this special Palm Sunday Word—It's a story about the time Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem.

From Mark 11: 8-10:



MARK 11:8-10 NLT

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

If you can bow and close your eyes, let's want to pray:

Father, we're gathered here in Your Name, in Your Presence—those who are here in this venue and those who are even online, we pray that You would unleash this Word and unpack it. Not through my wisdom, not through my voice, but through Yours. Because I want them to see not me onstage-- but You. So, remove my pride, remove my ego, so that whatever I speak here, translate it in the sense that they would understand it in the context of their situation. And I pray that all of us together would walk out of this place completely changed and completely refreshed and revived, ready to take on this week for Your glory. Thank You so much for the life that we lead, Lord. Not easy but it's possible because of Your Grace, and we thank You.

Holy Spirit, we pray that You would be active in the heart and the mind of Your people. You are the Conductor of the Symphony. We pray that this Word will change lives and shift hearts.

This is our prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.

One more time, Everybody, sing:

*Thy Word is a Lamp
unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*





I want you to preach our big message to someone today. Here's our big message: *You are welcome here!*

Quick question: How many of you would agree with me when I say that Filipinos are one of the most hospitable people in the world? Yeah.

We're very hospitable. Filipinos are regarded as very hospitable people. I mean if you ask any foreigner—Are there foreigners in here? We got one right there. Hello! Do you agree that Filipinos are hospitable? Just wave your hand if you agree. Yes.

We're very hospitable. You want to know how I know that Filipinos are very hospitable?

Remember back in 2020? You know, during the Pandemic, when COVID came to the Philippines? COVID was so surprised when he entered into the Philippines. It used to be that when COVID would enter different countries, you know, he would be surprised because they are very strict about letting visitors in. But here, when he arrived, in the country, he was surprised. He just easily came in.

To prove my point a little more: when COVID came in the hospitals, those who used to be popular illnesses—diabetes, hypertension, high blood—suddenly disappeared.

They stepped aside and said, "Ooops, friends, we have a visitor. Let COVID be the one popular today."

We are very hospitable in that sense. I actually borrowed that joke from comedian Alex Calleja.

Three Reasons the Jews Welcomed Jesus

Why am I talking about hospitality? Because our topic for today is about the hospitality of the people Jerusalem when Jesus entered in the city.

This was Palm Sunday and it says in Mark 11: 8: *Many people spread their cloaks on the road while others spread branches they cut from the fields. And those who went ahead and those who followed, shouted Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

You know, reading this, I felt the excitement of the people expecting to welcome Jesus. Do you feel that? That they were excited, they were happy? Yes, they were very happy.

I can think of three reasons they were excited:

1. Curiosity. People are naturally curious. That's a natural human instinct. You know, sometimes you see a crowd in the mall and people are running towards a certain direction—happy, excited! What happens? You also run. You're also excited. You're wondering, "What's happening there?"

That's what happens, right? We're naturally curious beings.

And so, I wonder how many people here who encountered the Lord for the very first time-- because you were also curious about Him. You heard about Jesus from somebody when you were young and you wondered who is this man named Jesus.

So, curiosity is a good thing—especially when it leads you to the truth.

2. Certainty. Some people who were there truly believed He was the Messiah-- the one who would save them from the Roman oppressors. They were certain that Jesus would come to solve all their problems in life.

I wonder also how some of you, you're excited to be in the Presence of the Lord because you believe in your faith that He is the Savior. He is the Redeemer. He is the One. That's a good thing.

3. Necessity. The third reason is the most common reason. All of us get excited when it comes to being in the Presence of the Lord.

How many of you have needs? Do you pray to the Lord for your needs? Yes, right? So, necessity is not really a bad thing. You know, sometimes, we think necessity is bad because you only go to someone when you need something from him. But actually, I realized that necessity brings us to the Lord. Because we need something from Him. God is a father, God is a provider, God is a healer. So, we need those from the Lord.



Short-Lived Relationship

There are functions we cannot do ourselves so we approach God so He could help us. Some of you, that's how you came to know the Lord. You had an exam that you wanted to pass. You're praying for a girlfriend or a boyfriend. You're sick and you're praying for healing.

You come to the Lord because of a necessity. It's not a bad thing.

Here's when it gets really dangerous: When you go to the Lord *only* because you need something. A relationship that's based *only* on a need, it's not actually a relationship – if you're only there for a need. How many of you had been in that kind of relationship? You have friends like that—who only come to you because they need a favor?

But you know, I've struggled so many times thinking about this. How many of you have ever gone through this: you need something from someone—you haven't spoken to that person in 10 or 15 years. How do you even message that person? Do you ask, "How are you?" Because somehow, that's a little awkward, right? Because you know a favor will follow.

So, here's what I learned over time. I don't need to do all that.

Especially when I'm really busy, I don't have time to chat, I just jump into the conversation and say, "Hi, Bro. I pray that everything is going well in your life. But you know what? I need something ..."

So, I go straight to the point. Because I know if I am not really close with that person, that person is not going to expect me to chat with him at that moment. Because he too probably does the same thing.

But here's one thing I realized: That if the relationship is based only on a need, what happens is that that relationship will be short-lived.

And that's what happened to the people welcoming Jesus. One day, they're proclaiming that He's King of Israel. In less than a week, they're saying that the only king that they have is Caesar himself. One day, they're saying "Hosanna!" In the next few days they're crucifying Him.

So, you know that that's not really a *relationship*.



Fans or Followers?

I wonder how many of you know this statement. This is a problematic statement:

“I love you because I need you.”

I don't like that. Because it's conditional. If I no longer need you, then it means I don't love you anymore?

There are so many things that's wrong with that statement. You know what the better statement is?

“I need you because I love you.”



Because love becomes the priority and the need becomes secondary. Did you know that sometimes, you approach God that way? Maybe not all the time, but there are times when you approach God, and you pray for that need. But when God blesses you, you forget about God. You move on—until the next need happens.

You know what that's called? That's called *fandom*.

That's what fans do. Fans will only celebrate a celebrity when the celebrity is entertaining them. But the moment the celebrity gets into a scandal, or stops entertaining them, they discard the celebrity. .

God is not looking for fans.
He's looking for followers.

Here's the truth: God is not looking for fans. *God is looking for followers.*

What are followers? Followers are people who will follow the Lord even when it's hard to do so. Followers are those who will praise Him even when it's difficult.

Isn't that what Jesus said? He said, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*” (Matthew 16:24-26).

How many of you know that following the Lord is very hard? But that's the call of Jesus-- following the Lord even to the darkest valleys, even to the narrowest of paths.

That's what Jesus wants. He wants a follower and He was specific in saying this about the Kingdom He was building. He said that this Kingdom is like no other. Let me prove it to you. It is going to be different.



All four Gospel writers wrote about Jesus arriving in Jerusalem.

They have a title for this event: *The Triumphal Entry*.

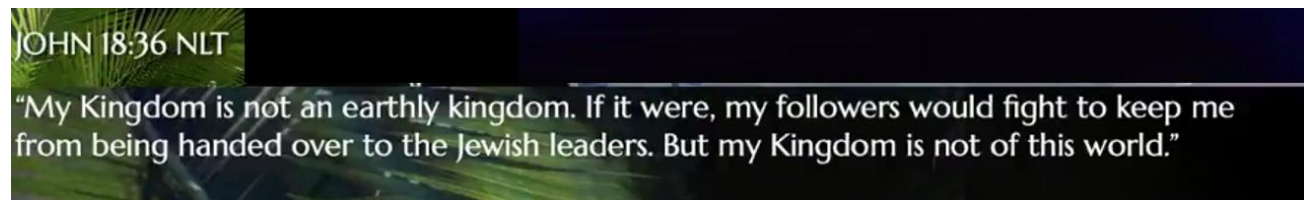
Triumphal means *victory*. It means *great victory*.

But back in the day, if Romans would hear those words-- *triumphal event*, or *triumphal victory*, about the entrance of Jesus-- chances are, they would laugh in your face.

Because to a Roman, the picture of a *triumphal event* was this: It would be an army general coming back into the city, after winning a war. A great victory. Killing at least 5,000 soldiers. And then marching into that city, riding a steed, a glorious horse. And then behind him, his army marching unit by unit and they would be carrying the spoils of war-- all the treasures that they won. To Romans, *that* was a *triumphal event*.

When Jesus walked into town, it wasn't very *triumphant*. Why? He wasn't riding on a horse. He was riding on a donkey. And instead of wearing a royal garment, what did Jesus wear? He was wearing something very simple.

Jesus said this in 18:36:





What's Important in the Kingdom

Jesus rode on a donkey and He really didn't have an entourage.

Prior to this, Jesus instructed His disciples to get a donkey and lay their garments on the donkey and He sat on the garments. (Matthew 21: 1-9)

Question: Is that royalty?

Remember how we would dress up a venue, like for a wedding or an event, we would have the red carpet, and then everything would look glorious.

This is how this event spoke to me: How many times have we been tricked by the world in this sense? I am guilty of this as well.

Women, when you go to a wedding, what's the first thing that you would do? Especially if you're the ninang—wedding sponsor? You would have a dress sewn, right? Nothing wrong with that. You want to have a grand entrance. You want to make sure that people will notice you. You would spruce yourself up, you would have a great haircut, you would shine your shoes, and you would go into that event... You want to have good photos.

And yet Jesus is speaking to us from this standpoint: That this Kingdom He was talking about is not built on splendor. It's built on simplicity and servanthood. That's what's important in the Kingdom.

Some of us have been so blinded by the world that we think that, you know, we got to show up and we got to show off.

Jesus showed up and He showed up in complete humility, complete submission. I mean, how amazing is this Kingdom that Jesus was building?

It's not about the brand that you wear, or the attire that you buy. It's about what's here in your heart.

Are you entering into your relationships and situations in this life with pride and ego, thinking that it's all about you? Or are you just like Jesus? You're ready to be humbled and you're ready to sacrifice, and you're ready to *serve*.

That's what Jesus was saying here.

Question: Bro. Audee, why did Jesus ride on a donkey and not on a horse?

I'll give you the reason. Because this fulfilled the prophecy that said...

MATTHEW 24:4-7 NLT

This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, ⁵ "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your king is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt.'" The two disciples did as Jesus commanded.

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.



Jesus' Message Today

This is the message of Jesus for all of us today:

In this Kingdom that Jesus built—and is building right now as I speak—*competition starts at the bottom.*

Let me say that again: In His Kingdom where Jesus is King, competition starts at the bottom. The One who is at the very bottom, he has the best position.

Think about it: Jesus did not come to be served. He came to serve. Jesus did not come here to make demands from people.

He was the one who came to make the miracles, to give them healing.

Servants of The Feast: You're serving the Lord today. Praise God. But did you know that before you came here to serve the Lord, the Lord was the one already serving you? Amen. Before you even came here God was the One who healed you this week. God was the one who provided for you this week. God was the one who restored that relationship for you this year.

God is a servant. That's what Jesus showed. He's the King of Kings and yet He's the Servant of Servants. I mean, how amazing this God we worship!

Serve. Sacrifice. That's really what Jesus is trying to tell us. Competition starts at the bottom. Jesus Himself says in Matthew 19:30:

MATTHEW 19:30 NLT

"Many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who see least important now will be the greatest then."

If we want to be part of this Kingdom that Jesus is building, this is what we need to do: We need to take the path of peace, the path of humility, the path of sincerity, the path of sacrifice, the path of servanthood. Because taking these paths will make us be part of that Kingdom.

4 Deterrents to Welcoming Jesus

Now, I'll make this practical for you. I want to teach you four deterrents that I believe hindered people from *really* welcoming and accepting Jesus then.



Confusion is not necessarily a bad thing-- especially if it leads you to know more of Jesus. So, confusion can be good.

But confusion becomes very, very difficult and dangerous the moment it removes you from the truth.

There are people here who have doubted whether God can do a thing in their life because they encountered a very difficult problem.

You encountered a very difficult situation and now you're wondering whether God can move you to a different place, a better place.

There's somebody here who because you have doubted God, your faith has been shaken.

There's even somebody here, sitting, who once doubted whether God was real.

Confusion can be dangerous if it leads you away from the Lord.

What are you confused about right now? What are your doubts?

As to how God can perform miracles or how God really loves you.

What you need to do is surrender that confusion at the foot of Jesus, to give it to Him. Because He can handle that. And then you have a conversation with Him.

Surrender that to the Lord.



OLD SELF

The perfect example to this would be The Feast Builders. You know, the Feast Builders who stand here every Sunday to preach to you, they're not perfect people. Once upon a time, they did terrible things.

You don't even have to look too far. Just look at the person right in front of you. I did so many bad, terrible things in my life, and yet, one thing I realized is that when I gave myself to the Lord, He made me brand new. He gave me a new heart.

How many of you here are so stuck in the past? Here's the truth: If you're not willing to let your past die, you're not going to have a good future. Because your past will not let you live. It's going to continue chasing you. What is that old thing in your life? A trauma, a pain that you need to surrender to the Lord. Surrender to Him.



ARROGANCE

How many of you have a temper problem? We really need to surrender to the Lord our pride. Because our anger comes from pride. It comes from our ego. When you get hurt, it's your ego protecting you thinking that you need to defend yourself. Surrender that to the Lord.

What did Jesus say? This is a path of humility. So, surrender all your arrogance. Everything needs to go to the Lord.

TRANSGRESSIONS

Surrender your sins to the Lord. We have confession here every Sunday. We make it available to everybody. Just walk in. Priests are available there. When was the last time you went to Confession? Please surrender your transgressions to the Lord. Because He loves you so much and He wants to renew you.

What am I trying to say? Surrender your Confusion, your Old Self, your Arrogance, and surrender your Transgressions.

In another word, surrender your:
Surrender your COAT to Jesus.

Lay it on that place where He can sit on. That is your surrender.

C-O-A-T

4 Traits You Need to Welcome Jesus

PURE INTENTIONS

Question: What are your intentions in serving the Lord? What are your intentions when you come and worship the Lord? Servants who come here to The Feast: Why do you serve the Lord here? Is it because your crush is serving here? Is it because you gain something here? You get free food or free air-con? What are your intentions?



What are our intentions when we follow the Lord?

Sometimes, we've got to ask that question. Is it because we want to show people that we're good people? That's why we wear a cross around our neck? So that people will say, "Ah, he's so good."


What are your intentions? If you think that you have intentions that are not very clear – and clean—you approach the Lord and say, "Lord, cleanse me. If there's anything that is not of you, please remove it, please correct it."

ABSTINENCE

I know that this Holy Week you're planning to abstain from things, right? Sugar, meat, social media. You're going to do that during the Holy Week because this is good commitment. But more than that, I pray that you abstain from this: Sin. Abstain from sin. It's not easy to do that. But did you know it's possible to do that?

I know some people think--and you probably might agree with me when I say this – that politicians generally have this image that they're corrupt... But I have friends who are politicians and they're very upright. Because they have abstained from sin. If they can do it, you too can do it.

Feast Builders themselves, you know, we're able to do it. You can do it as well. Abstain from sin.




LOYALTY

Are you loyal to the Lord? Or are you loyal to the world? You've got to ask that crucial question. Who are you more loyal to: the person sitting next to you? Or are you loyal to the Lord? Because if you're loyal to the Lord, it will show in your words, in your actions.

Loyalty is really knowing who you're giving your heart to. Because if you're saying you're loyal to the Lord, you know what you're saying to Him?

My heart belongs to You.

That's loyalty. So, wave your loyalty to Jesus.



MERCY

How many of you are in need of God's Mercy?

I don't know any person in this place who doesn't need the Mercy of God.

Welcome the Mercy of Jesus. Because you need it.

Pure Intentions

Abstinence

Loyalty

Mercy

In another word, Wave your:



P-A-L-M





You Are Welcome Here

It's a difficult message to preach but I pray that God is speaking to you.

I'm just a messenger trying my best to deliver God's message and I'm praying, "Lord, it's Your turn. Holy Spirit, this is really Yours. I'm just trying my best..."

You know, I asked that question last week: What does it really mean when you say, *You are welcome here*?

It's a beautiful message: *You're welcome here*. It's you welcoming the Lord. I thought of only one thing that God put in my heart. The only way that we can welcome the Lord. If we're going to welcome the Lord, it only means one thing to me, and it's this: it's that we give our heart to Him. We give what is precious to us-- which is our heart.

But when I was thinking about that, it made me realize something. As you say *You're welcome here*, you're receiving the Lord. You are receiving something from the Lord, and as you receive something, you're also giving something:

I give You my heart. As I welcome You in here, I give You my heart.

Isn't that the process of how God sometimes works?

The Bible says *the Lord gives, and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord.* (Job 1:21). In the process of your receiving, you're also giving. You cannot receive, and not give.



Give and Take

Here's the thing: When you give your heart, there are two possibilities:

First, you're simply saying: *This is mine to give.* And if I am giving it to You, this now belongs to You.

So, when you say, "*Lord, You're welcome here,*" you mean, "*I'm giving You my heart. So now, my heart belongs to You.*"

Second, when you do that—when you give your heart to somebody, it opens to a lot of dangers. It opens you to pain, frustration, stress, heartbreak.

You've experienced that, right? When you gave your heart one day to that person, that person disappointed you, that person discouraged you. I mean, every person here has gone through a heartbreak.

But the thing that you've got to understand is that when you give your heart to the Lord, He is not that careless person who would just abuse your heart. He is the kind of person who is so careful about holding your heart-- that when you give it to Him, He'll cherish that. He'll embrace that and He'll take it and make it *His*.

So, when you give your heart to the Lord today, I want you to imagine that you're saying, "Lord, my heart belongs to You. Your Name is written here. Your Name is tattooed on my heart."

But I don't want you to be scared even for a single moment that when you give your heart to God, He is going to break it. No. Because when you give it to God, He's going to be so careful, taking good care of that heart so that you know that God is in your life. He'll cherish it, He'll love you more than you think He can.



Lord, You're Welcome Here!

So, today, whoever this message is for, I want you to open your life-- not just your hands—and say, “Lord, You’re welcome here. This is the place where you need to be. Because my heart belongs only to You, and You alone.

Open up your hands, lift up your palms...

God, look at this glorious place, look at Your children right now. They say Yes to You. Welcoming You, Jesus. Thank You for looking at us, for who we are. Thank You for being a good, good God, a good Father. Even if

our heart is unclean, even if our heart is sinful, even if our heart is filled with so much mess, thank You, for accepting it.

And we declare that because Your love is so great for all of us, that You will not allow this heart to stay this way. You will cleanse my heart. I give this to You, all my heart, Jesus. I surrender this to You.

Walk into my life and change me. Mold me. Be with me. Now and forever. In Your Name. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.”

-- Proverbs 22:4

JESUS CHRIST CARES FOR CANCER PART 2 *Roller-Coaster of Burdens ... and Blessings* By SR. VICTORIA B. SANCHEZ

I AM a member of the Franciscan Community of Sisters of Mary of the Eucharist. Before joining this congregation, I worked as a houseparent with Bro. Rey Ortega, brainchild of the various Mercy Ministries of the Light of Jesus Family faith community. While I'm not a licensed social worker, I did the work of one, preparing case studies of potential beneficiaries.



Sr. Joy Castillo, a nun from another religious order, arranged a meeting with me, Bro. Rey, and another nun somewhere in Antipolo City. We talked about the plight of five street kids who were under the care of Sr. Joy and her dream of setting up an orphanage for abandoned, neglected, and impoverished children. Little did we know the planned ministry will eventually materialize through the effort of Bro. Rey.

In 2002, Bro. Rey asked me to help him in his Ministry for indigent children called Tahanan ng Pagmamahal. The five street kids who needed shelter were its first beneficiaries.

Bro. Rey arranged for a temporary shelter for the children in his own home in Pasig. I helped him and his wife Sis. Myrna take care of the children until such time he was able to rent a place for them in Oranbo, Pasig.





Ministering to Women in Crisis

Tahanan ng Pagmamahal was set up as a foundation and foundation regulations specify that personnel must be licensed social workers. I am not, so, after about two years, Bro. Rey assigned me to another Ministry – Grace To Be Born, which provides shelter and pastoral care for unwed pregnant women in crisis.

Without a spouse to support them, unwed women are inclined to abort their pregnancy. So, I felt blessed ministering to these women, praying with them, giving them hope that God will find a way to solve their problems.

Aside from taking care of the women's material needs and spiritual nourishment, Grace To Be Born also attends to their legal cases. Bro. Rey saw to it that justice is served for them.

One case was about a woman who got pregnant because her father raped her. Bro. Rey helped the woman file a case against the father and relentlessly pursued the case until the man was put to jail. That's how serious Bro. Rey was about making sure Grace To Be Born does its best for its beneficiaries.

I felt so blessed helping Grace but I could not stay long there because I needed to give time for my congregation.

Trials and Triumphs

As we've often been told, choosing to serve God does not mean we would be spared of trials in this world.

I have my share of life's challenges. In 2017, I went for a health exam and I was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer.

I could not believe the test result. What I knew at that time was when you have cancer, that's your end – because cancer is incurable.

I would then go through a roller-coaster of trials and triumphs, burdens – and blessings. Because amid my agony, God did not fail to make me feel His Presence – that He was truly in control of my situation.

My doctor scheduled me for an operation at the Philippine General Hospital on September 8, 2017 — a blessed day because that's the birthday of the Blessed Mother Mary. But my blood pressure went up to 250 over 100. I almost collapsed.

So, my doctor re-scheduled the surgery operation for the next day. Blessing No. 2, for then I had a chance to attend the Solemnity rites celebrating Mama Mary's birthday.

Journey to Healing

I felt better but still with a heavy heart. I had to accept that I had to be operated on as soon as possible as my doctor advised. So, I underwent the procedure under heavy anesthesia. As soon as the drug expired, I felt excruciating pain, mercifully alleviated only by some pain reliever my doctor prescribed.

But what would not go away was the utter sadness that gripped me, the sense of hopelessness that I would ever survive cancer.

After five days, my doctor told me that I could already go home. But ... to make sure the cancer cells would not grow, I would have to go back for chemotherapy – eight sessions, and radiation – 15 treatments.

And, as if the pain was not enough, I reeled over what I knew was the prohibitive costs of those procedures —chemo, P80.00 per session, and radiation P30,000 per treatment!

I could hardly understand what I felt at that time.

I asked myself, “Am I afraid to die?”

Actually, not so. What scared me was, with the high costs of treatments, I would be a burden to my loved ones. And I definitely did not want that. If I die, I want to die with a happy heart.

But yes, another blessing: my doctor told me not to worry because I had PhilHealth insurance benefits which would cut down those expenses.

Still, this was cancer – there were other medicines and health care procedures to fight it.

So as not to shell out too much cash, I decided not to undergo chemo and radiation.

Again, a blessing: Earlier, as part of my missionary vocation, I joined outreach programs for villages in need in the rural areas. There, I learned about herbal medicines and so, I knew what herbs I could use as an alternative to the costly pills I needed to take.

Blessing of Blessings

I cap this sharing with the blessing of blessings I’ve received from our amazing God: My vocation has well taught me the power of prayer which has so deepened my faith in God that I’ve been able to submit myself to Him.

I told the Lord, *“If I am no longer of use here, You can take me, Lord ... But if I could still do something to those who are in need, please help me to go on, Lord.”*

God answered my prayer through Bro. Rey. He introduced me to yet one of his Mercy Ministries – Jesus Christ Cares For Cancer (JCCFC) — which has been a big support for me in my journey through cancer.



God Cares

Today, I am with Duyan Ni Maria Children's Home for children in dire need. I help take care of children who are abandoned, orphaned, abused, or surrendered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the institution.

Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), as a non-stock, non-profit organization established in 1988, Duyan Ni Maria Children's Home, is based in Dapdap, Mabalacat City, Pampanga.



Here I am (at head table) serving as executive director for Duyan ni Maria Childrens Home. With me are Duyan Ni Maria board of directors, clockwise, from my left: Ruth Anoos, auditor and bookkeeper; Dr. Nelly Delos Reyes, treasurer; Gemima Estrabillo, board secretary; Sr. Cecile Ruiz, board member; Esther de Guzman; board member; Fr. Jose P. Casas, Jr., president.

The goal of the mission is to provide the children a temporary shelter with access to basic services like food, shelter, clothing, education, medical provisions. Most important, the foundation provides immediate pastoral interventions as well as spiritual formation.

The foundation thrives on, thanks to the concern of individuals, families, organizations, and communities who share what they could – goods, services, cash gifts.

They believe in the children's right to live, reclaim their sense of dignity and power. It is our desire and hope that someday, they will become self-reliant and responsible members of their respective families and our society.

From here, I don't know where God would take me next. Suffice it to say that I know, I've experienced that Jesus cares — not only for cancer, but for my entire well-being. For, indeed, He died for mankind—and He lives to this day for us. He cares for me and for you too.



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

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.

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 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 Shepherd's 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 Shepherd'Ours Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherd's Voice Account in any branch of these banks:

Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation

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

Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch

Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

Note: Text, Fax, or email us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us. Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



**FAMILY
ONLINE
NEWSMAGAZINE**

The Feast Family online newsmagazine is produced
by the Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation,
which is also our partner beneficiary, with editorial services
by the Light of Jesus Family Library Ministry.

Founder: Bo Sanchez

Mercy Ministries Chairman
Hermie Morelos

Editor-in-Chief
Cynthia U. Santiago

Chief Photographer
Edmundo L. Santiago

**Feast International
Region Head**
Vic Español

Reporter-Writer
Cybill P. Bayto

Multimedia Staff
Ronaldo Antonio U. Santiago
Dylan Anthony A. Santiago

Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo

Contributors
The Feast Builders

Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant
Chelle S. Crisanto

Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura



For comments, article contributions, write or call us:
Email Address: lojlibrary2819@gmail.com
Landline phone numbers: 8725-9999, Fax 725-1230
Mobile phone: 0998-953-0657

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

