



FAMILY

MARCH 17, 2024

Being Right Is Not Enough

ONE DAY, a husband and wife walked up to me, with the woman telling me, “Brother Bo, can you pray for us? We are always fighting. But in reality, there are no big issues. They’re all small ones...”

The husband said, “We just like turning molehills into mountains.”

His wife continued, “But the fighting has been soooooo bad, it’s very tiring. We’re afraid we’ll just give up one day.”

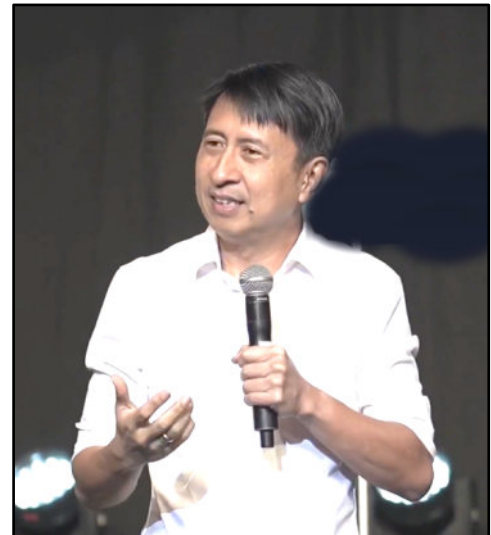
And right in front of me, they started to bicker. I could literally hear them say, “I’m right and you’re wrong!”

So, I raised my hand to interrupt and said, “I now know why you’re clashing. You’re playing this very popular game many couples play. It’s called ‘*Who Is Right?*’ You’re using all your energy proving you’re right and the other person is wrong. Instead of playing the game, ‘*Who is Right?*’, I suggest you play a better game. It’s called, ‘*Who Can Be Jesus to the Other?*’ The goal of married life is not to be right. The goal of married life is to become Jesus to your spouse.”

Have an empowering Feast!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



WELCOME
to our Feast Series
MESSY SAINTS:
Love Thy Neighbor
(Even If They Drive You Nuts)
Solving the Problems
in 1 Corinthians
Talk 3:
Correct But Still Self-Centered



Let There Be Light...

WE know Who said this first... Our God. He began it all, creating the heavens and the earth. The earth was dark.

So, God said, "Let there be light..."

And there was light. --Genesis 1: 3-25

To this day, we hope for, and we seek that Light.

Fr. Mark Demanuele, in his Homily last Sunday Feast, said human that we are, we still fall into the darkness of sin. The reason God sent us the True Light, *page 3*.

Major reason we are in darkness is pride. Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, unpacks today another message about pride in Talk 3 of our Feast series, *MESSY SAINTS*. Don't miss this lesson on why we are, yes, messy saints who need Light, *page 1*.

Last Sunday Feast, Bro. John Ben Rodriguez tackled a sin that keeps us in the dark: *Sexual Sins*, Talk 2 of *MESSY SAINTS*. Review the Practical Tips to Avoid the Temptation, *page 17*.

Bro. Tom Yokingco, welcoming us to The Feast last Sunday, especially acknowledged Light-bearers. Check out who they are, *page 8*.



Yes, we know darkness *literally*, when calamities-- typhoons, earthquakes-- cut our electric power. That's why one of our busiest Mercy Ministries is our Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry-- our *Feast Little Acts of Love*. Leaders, Bro. Hermie Morelos (*extreme left*) and Bro.

Marvin Tan are now discussing plans to establish official branches to bring the Light of Relief and Rehabilitation in each of our Feasts, *page 30*.

Yes, if we're in the dark, let us not forget right in the beginning, God already said "*Let there be light.*"



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borrromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

MARCH 10, 2024

Holy Mass



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Homily

REV. FR. MARK DEMANUELE
on the Gospel John 3:14-21



REV. FR. RYAN BARRIOS
Concelebrant

Excerpts:

IN our English language, we've got interesting phrases that come to my mind when I read the Gospel of today.

Have you ever used these phrases: *You are over the moon; You are on Cloud 9; I'm in 7th Heaven...* These are old phrases that help us to understand the experience we are going through... so that we might say, "The experience I am going through is lifting me to the highest point in my life."

And that is something that we have in today's Gospel. Jesus speaks about being lifted...

But you might say, "Lifted on a cross? Is that the highest point of His life?"

For us human beings, seeing Him in a human form, we'll say, "Of course, it's not."

But for this reason, God sent His *only* Son...He loved us so much that He wanted to be lifted on the Cross.

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From Darkness to Light

It's not only us who sometimes find it difficult to understand this.

In today's Gospel, we have Nicodemus who was a person of a lot of knowledge, of wisdom. He was one of the scribes, the Pharisees. He was supposed to know about all these. But he used to go to Jesus at night-- so, he was literally in real darkness. But figuratively, he was also *in the dark* because he could not truly understand that being lifted is *to be on Cloud 9, to be in the 7th Heaven*.

It was something difficult for Nicodemus to understand. But then he could truly understand-- when he was very close, probably, with Jesus on the Calvary-- seeing Him lifted on the Cross. And over there, he could perceive a different type of being lifted. Over there, on the Calvary, he understood. And he came to light-- from the darkness of the night to the light, to understand that: Jesus is being lifted for me, for us, for our salvation, for the world to truly understand how much God loves us.



First Reading: Second Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people wickedly transgressed according to all the abominations of the Gentiles: and they defiled the house of the Lord, which he had sanctified to himself in Jerusalem. 15 And the Lord the God of their fathers sent to them, by the hand of his messengers, rising early, and daily admonishing them: because he spared his people and his dwelling place. 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused the prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, and there was no remedy. 19 And the enemies set fire to the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burnt all the towers, and whatsoever was precious they destroyed. 20 Whosoever escaped the sword, was led into Babylon, and

there served the king and his sons till the reign of the king of Persia. 21 That the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremias might be fulfilled, and the land might keep her sabbaths: for all the days of the desolation, she kept a sabbath, till the seventy years were expired. 22 But in the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, to fulfill the word of the Lord, which he had spoken by the mouth of Jeremias, the Lord stirred up the heart of Cyrus king of the Persians who commanded it to be proclaimed through all his kingdom, and by writing also, saying: 23 Thus saith Cyrus king of the Persians: All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord the God of heaven given to me, and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judea: who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.

The True Light

Nicodemus then saw another Person...

In the Readings of today, they wish to help us understand what God is saying to us-- when He is saying, "I will be lifted ..."

"Yes, I will be the one to overcome sin, overcome division, overcome failures. I will be lifted to show how much God is a loving Father."

When we see such things, and then we hear the Gospel, even the Reading of Paul -- when Paul speaks about, for example, "*Made us alive together with Christ*" -- and the central point of the Gospel, saying

that God loves us so much... in the Light of Jesus, we realize that lifting us brings with it gifts, graces, mercy, love, forgiveness, joy.

Are these not what the world wants even today? In a world of division, God brings unity through His Son. In a world of unforgiveness, He gives us mercy. In a world where we seek selfish love, God is showing us how much He sees and shows unconditional love to all of us.

Yes, at that point, Nicodemus understood what Jesus was saying when He said, "*I have to be lifted.*"

And then, Nicodemus who came to the Light, who came to the True Light, from his darkness to Light, that brings us to that second point of today's Gospel...



Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift

of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Two Points To Be the Light

When Jesus spoke about the Light coming into the world-- they did not want to see that Light.

But then He says to us: “The Light helps us to see God’s work-- He made us a work of art because we are all in the image of God.”

That Light gives us, as Paul says, not just a creation, but an alive Person full of love to love others.

Wow, maybe this is a bit too theological.

But in simple ways, what is he trying to tell you?

That God, when He was lifted, He showed us that He is the Light of the World. He is telling us: “Believe. Trust me. Open your eyes and your heart so that you can then, through the Light of Christ, know how to love and share that Light with others.

Obviously, the first objection comes to us: “But when I am in darkness, when I am in depression, when I am at rock bottom, when I am in illness, how can I see the Light?”

Like the people in Babylon, in the First Reading, even in the Psalm, let us first of all *long* for that Light. Let us desire the Light of Christ-- *in my heart*.

Let us *ask* for that Light.

That’s the first step. Let us pray: “*That light will also enlighten me.*”

And like the people who were near the river of Babylon-- and they’ve been asked to sing -- and obviously, they couldn’t because of their sadness, their depression-- they still longed to go back to Jerusalem. They still longed to go back and be the family of God.

The first point: *Desire* the Light.

Ask the Lord: *Lord, give me this Light. Help me, like Nicodemus, to get out of my darkness, and when I see You on the Cross, lift it. I know that I am with You in Cloud 9. I am with You, being lifted out of my darkness, so I can see Light, Lord.*

The second point: Share that Light. Be a Light for others. Let that Light shine from you so others can believe that Christ is truly the Savior of the World.

If we are being called by the Lord to shine, let us shine. I can be this candle in darkness, and I will be a light for the people around me.

Now, imagine that not only one candle but all of us with candles in our hands, we will have light around us.



Lifting Jesus in the Eucharist

So, first desire the Light. Pray for the Light.

Second, do not be afraid to share that Light with others.

Third, you bring people back into the Light of Jesus.

Today, we will be also lifting Jesus in the Eucharist. When the priest is lifting that Eucharist, he lifts the Body and Blood of Christ.

I ask you: Look at Jesus, and at that moment, ask the Lord: *“Help me, Lord. Fill me with Your Light. Give it back to my life so that from darkness I will be able to see, I will be able to believe, and I will be able to trust again in You.*

You know, when we have a laptop, a computer, sometimes, it freezes. What do we do? We click the restart button.

Today, I want you all, together with me, to push that restart button to let God once again enter your life and give you this Light, so that you can continually be Light in the World.

May I ask you one big favor? Turn to the person next to you and tell the person: *“You can be a Light for me.”*

And in that way, what are we doing? We are bringing back Jesus’ Light amid the world. Amen.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

1 Upon the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept: when we remembered Sion:

2 On the willows in the midst thereof we hung up our instruments.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

3 For there they that led us into captivity required of us the words of songs.

And they that carried us away, said: Sing ye to us a hymn of the songs of Sion.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

4 How shall we sing the song of the Lord in a strange land?

5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand be forgotten.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

6 Let my tongue cleave to my jaws, if I do not remember thee: If I make not Jerusalem the beginning of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!



BRO. TOM YOKINGCO:
GOOD MORNING, FEAST!

Who are our first-timers? Welcome Home!

I'd like to acknowledge those who brought the first-timers. Everybody, let's clap for them. Earlier, in his Homily, Fr. Mark Demanuele told us to be Light-bearers. And these who brought here the first-timers are Light-bearers. They brought people here, to the *Light of Jesus*.



Love Offering

We say that your Love Offering goes to the various Mercy Ministries of the Light of Jesus Community. But aside from that, your Love Offering helps the *Life* Ministries within The Feast.

These are the ministries that conduct the Youth Camps, the Love-Life Retreats, the Lighten-Up Couples Retreats. These are the Youth, the Singles, the Couples, the Women's Life Group, and the Men's Life Group.

Why do we call them the *Life* ministries? Well, of course, depending on your life stage, that's where we go, where the Life servants help you. We encourage you to join any of these Life ministries.

Once upon a time, early on in my married life, I had a business-- everything was all going smoothly. That was the time I got to know Christ more deeply.

One of the teachings was, of course, about *Giving*. It's so easy to give if you have something to give. But God taught me something... Along the way, when my children were still small, my business collapsed.

I questioned the Lord: "Why? Am I not serving You already? Now, why *this*? And Your teaching was *Give until it hurts*. That was the hardest to do."

But being taught to trust in God, and to love God in whatever situation we are in, my wife and I still gave.

And God has been so faithful to us... Didn't I say my children were still small when my business collapsed? But now they have all graduated from college. They are enjoying careers-- they are even earning more than what I earn. One is a preschool teacher, another is a lawyer, and another is a musician-- shameless plugging, he's the one at the keyboard now.

God has been faithful. If you are faithful to God, God will be faithful to you-- even if you're not faithful to God, God remains faithful to you. He's always there loving you. Sometimes, you seem to have nothing to put in your Love Offering envelope. But it doesn't matter.

What's important is *why* we servants are here. One is to pray for you. Even if there's no *offer* to put in your envelope, just write what you want us to pray for you. That's what we love to do.

In all stages of your life, in whatever situation you are in, even if you have no offering, I believe God understands. So, just write-- even just a prayer request. Don't be shy.





As we all stand up and raise our envelopes, put in your mind that there's nothing in your life that God can't accomplish

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

Lord, our God, Thank You. Thank You for always being there. Thank You for always being faithful to us, though we are unfaithful at times. Thank You for loving us despite who we are. Lord, as we lift our offering to You, we just lay everything down before Your feet-- our plans, our thanksgiving, our worries, our concerns. For we know that You are God who can do a miracle. You can give us a breakthrough. And You can do anything. And so, as we put our envelopes as our offering, we just say that there's nothing You can't do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

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Happy Giving! Good Morning to all!

Worship!

SIS. LUAN FEDERIGAN:

So now, we're going to worship some more. We all started with a Mass. A wonderful Mass. Now we are going to worship and just remember that God is in this place. That God's Presence is in this place right now.

In the Bible, it is said that whenever two or more are gathered in His Name, He is there in their midst. (Matthew 18:20)

So, can you feel Him? Yes. Amen.

So, right now, we are reminded of God's love-- because He is here. And He will never leave us. Yes. Amen.

Brothers and Sisters, I'd just like to invite you to just be comfortable, just shake your body and relax. Coz this song will be a reminder for us that He will never leave us and He will not forsake us. This song is our prayer. Let's all declare our faith, in the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.





BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:

Father, I pray for every heart here today. For every person who is longing to receive Your grace and blessing. I pray for every heart here afflicted and wounded by the trials and tribulations in life. I pray for every heart shattered by sin.

I know, Father, that Your Spirit and Your Love are greater than any trouble, than any sin, we would fall into.

That's why today, we ask for Your Power, for Your Spirit to renew us, to transform us so that we can see Your great plan today. We are opening ourselves to Your Mercy, Your Love, Your Power, Your Grace. Renew us, transform us.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:

We are still in our series, *MESSY SAINTS: Love Your Neighbor (Even If They Drive You Nuts)*.

I want you to look at your neighbor. Does that person drive you nuts sometimes?

“Oh, Brother, not *sometimes*. *Every time*.”

Or let me turn the question around: Do you drive that person nuts at times?

Probably, *Yes ...*

But I believe that as we break open the Word in *Corinthians*, the essence is to learn to love our neighbors better-- with the lens of the love of God as our reference.

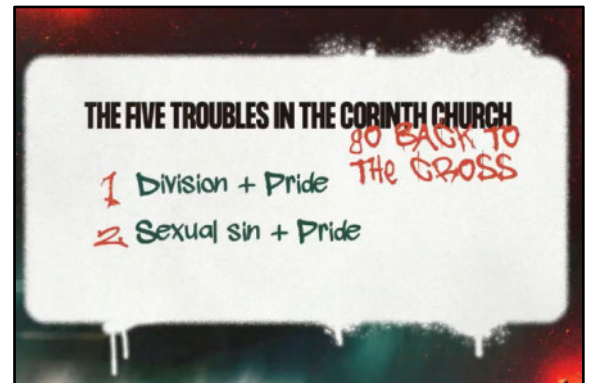
Just a little recap: Last week (March 3, 2024), Talk 1 was about the five troubles in the church of Corinth. And we first talked about *Division* in the church. And today, Talk 2 is about *Proud About Sin*.

I think this series lives up to the controversies that we're discussing. Because last week, it was about division that was coming from pride. People were proud: “Oh, what we know is better. What you know is not so good. We are at a higher level than you are...”

And what was our main message last week? It was *Go Back to the Cross*.

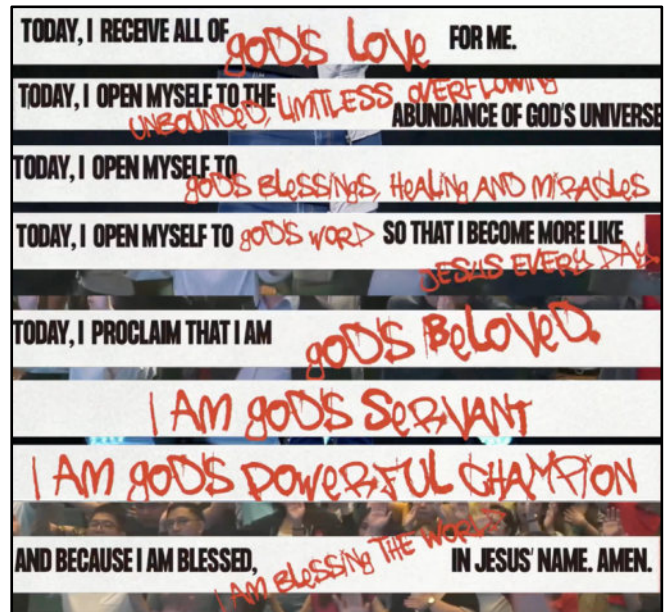
Today, we will discuss the second trouble of the Corinthian church-- and it is about *Sexual Sin*.

Sexual Sin. Supposedly, when you experience something like that in your life, it would lead you to repent and come back to God and change your ways. But for the Corinthians, it was different. After they were immersed in sexual sins, they became proud of it. How scandalous!





So, if you're ready to receive the Word of God, lift your hands and let us pray our favorite prayer>

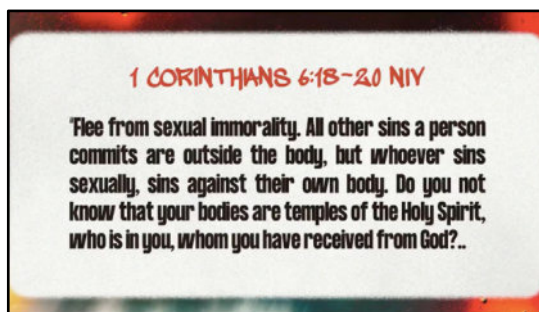


Let's extend our hands to the Word of God and sing:
*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path.*

Two-Step Approach If Facing Sexual Temptation



We'll be reading a verse again from *Corinthians*. And I think this probably sums up the lessons we can get from the Talk today-- From 1 Corinthians 6:18-20:



I think it's basic-- this tip from Paul if you're facing sexual temptation: *Flee*. To run away.

I love that his tip is a two-step approach: Not just flee.

He says: "*You were bought at a price.*"

What happens when you buy something at a price? You have to *pay*.

What if that something is expensive? What do you have to do? You have to *pay more*.

That's why I love that Paul is teaching us to flee from sexual immorality.

Paul's second tip is to remember that you were bought at a price-- because you are valuable. Because a lot of people are looking for value in the wrong place-- and sometimes, this leads them to sexual sin.



Because they feel: "Here, I feel loved. Here, I feel needed."

But God, through Paul, is reminding us today that if you acknowledge and appreciate your value in God, you will have all that you need.

Tell the person beside you: "*You were bought at a price.*"

It's not in millions of dollars. It's at a very expensive price: the Life of Jesus. If that's not *value*, I don't know what is.

Put your hand over your heart and let's pray:

Thank You, Lord, for paying the price for me. May I learn to appreciate that in a deeper way today. Amen.

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

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

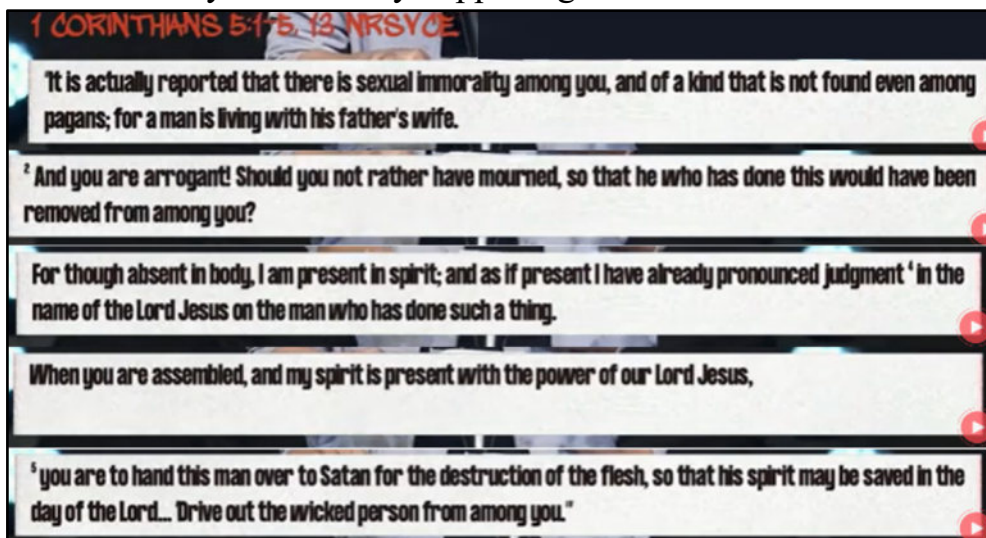


Talk



BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:

Sexual immorality was already happening back then. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 says:



Honestly, this passage is harsh, right? Isn't it we were talking about accepting and loving people in our previous series, *Table Talks*? Then why is the passage today like this? I'm quite confused. Are you?

This is a good reminder that you cannot read the Bible as it is and apply it literally. You must look through the lens of the context of what was happening back then.



Just a review: This series is about Paul’s personal letter to the Corinthians; hence, we cannot take it literally and apply it to ourselves.

Why does Paul want to expel the guy?

He was actually quoting Deuteronomy 17:7 NIV: “*You must purge the evil from among you.*”

Are they condemning the one who is sinning? Are they canceling this person?

That’s what we’ll find out today.

What This Case is NOT About

THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE CHURCH JUDGING THE UNCHURCHED

1. This passage is not about the church judging the unchurched.

If you take it literally, you can misinterpret it-- that you must condemn people who are into sexual immorality.

But no. This is about a church member of Corinth back then who was possibly a leader. The leader who was sinning was proud.

Who among you here has management roles in your office? You know that this is an admin-level matter. You need to issue a memo if something like that is happening because a leader is sinning and is proud.

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In 1 Corinthians 5: 12-13 NIV, Paul says: *For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? God will judge those outside.* So, it is not about judging other people who are sinning.

A survey among young people asked: “Why don’t you attend church anymore?” The common answer was this: “Because Christians are self-righteous.”

And sometimes, sadly, it’s a reality. Because everyone can be tempted to be self-righteous and judge others.

That happens because sometimes, people misinterpret verses like these. That’s why we are clarifying this in our Bible study today.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT JUDGING ANY CHURCH MEMBER WHO SINS

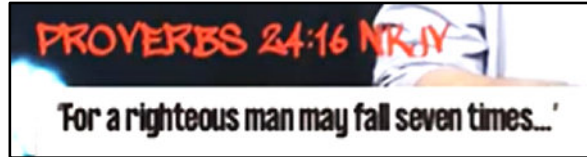
2. The passage is not about judging any church member who sins.

Reality check: Who among you here has never sinned? If you raised your hand you can already ascend with Jesus to Heaven. Even I cannot raise my hand.

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As human beings, we sin. Even the leaders, the preachers, and the priests do sin. Everyone falls short of the glory of God. Paul says that in Proverbs 24: 16:



The Hebrew word for *sin* is *khata* which means *misses the mark*. Everyone misses the mark-- and that's okay.

If this is not about judging church members who sin, then what is this about? It is about the *state of the heart*.

In Corinth, the leader who had been sinning was not repenting. He was proud of it.

I want to encourage you that every time you sin, and you feel bad and you repent, That's a good position that you must take.

You must always come back and say, "Lord, I have sinned. I want to follow You again."

THIS IS **NOT** ABOUT JUDGING SEXUAL SIN AS THE MOST EVIL SIN

3. This is not about judging sexual sin as the most evil sin. Paul does not elevate sexual sin. He says in 1 Corinthians 5:11:

Paul mentions other sins. He is not singling out sexual sin as the worst sin.



A priest once said the most commonly confessed sins are lust in nature-- such as sexual fantasies, masturbation, pornography, and adultery.

Few people confess about the sins of omission which means not doing the good that you were supposed to do. Church is about avoiding sexual sin but it's not just about that. You also have to bring justice to the poor, love the poor, and many more.



What This Case Is About...

THIS IS ABOUT A VERY GRAVE SIN OF AN UNREPENTANT MEMBER

1. This is about a very grave sin of an unrepentant member.

Paul was addressing this in a harsh way because the person was a leader yet unrepentant.

Pagans even abhorred what was happening because the person involved was a leader and was sleeping with his stepmother. In Roman Law, it was equivalent to incest. Paul may seem harsh, but it was his way of giving tough love.

If you're a parent, you should know by now that you cannot always protect your children from the consequences of their decision, especially if the child is old enough already. Sometimes, not helping is the way to help.

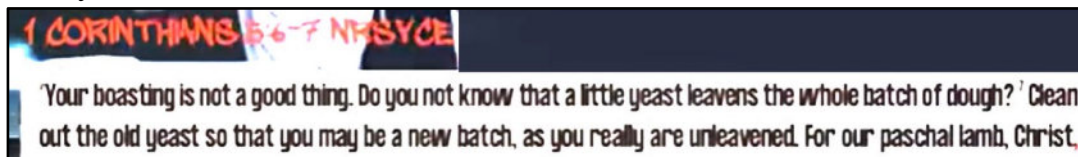
**HANDING SOMEONE TO SATAN COULD MEAN ALLOWING A SINNER TO HIT ROCK BOTTOM,
SO THAT HE WAKES UP AND REPENTS.**



2. This is about unrepentant sin that harms the church.

Paul’s approach is about balancing two factors: Loving the sinner yet protecting the flock – the other members of the Corinthian church. They need to be saved from the consequences of the sins of the man because he had authority over the people.

As he says in 1 Corinthians 5:6-7:



The reality is unrepentant sin is like yeast-- it affects everyone.



I remember I had a study buddy in college.

I already met God in a youth group back then. I noticed that my friend was not practicing any religion. In one of our conversations, I asked him what his religion was.

He said, “I believe in God, but I don’t like religion. They are full of imperfect people. In my elementary years, I was in a Catholic school. There was a big bully who would always punch and kick us every day. That bully would justify what he did by saying, ‘Don’t worry. We will have a Mass on Friday and there will be a confession. I will just confess, and my sins will be forgiven.’”

That experience shattered my friend. He lost interest in church.



I believe that was stressed by Paul-- that the pressing matters should be addressed because people would be affected.



We are connected spiritually. Our actions, good or bad, affect other people.

For example, what happens if I commit adultery? You'll never see me again onstage because the leaders have to remove me from this position. I will perfectly understand that. But it doesn't end there.

Of course, they will forgive me, love me, and help me. They will probably help me to get counseling and psycho-spiritual help. They will set up objectives to see if I'm already healed from this predicament.

But it will shatter my wife and my daughter. That brokenness will ripple. By the time my daughter is of age to get married, her vision of marriage is already scarred because she witnessed what happened.

Our actions affect everyone so it's important to be vigilant.



3. This is about how your physical body is a borrowed temple.
Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:12-13:

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-13 NIV
'I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything'—but I will not be mastered by anything.
You say, 'Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.' The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Back then, most of the members of the Corinthian church were not Jews-- which means they were not part of the journey in the desert. Most of them were into Gnostic teaching. For Greeks, another level of success is higher wisdom. Gnostic teaching taught them that salvation is not from repentance. They believed that since our body will rot away, our spirit is elevated with God, it must mean that we can do anything with our body.

SOME EXTREME GNOSTICS BELIEVED THAT THE SOUL IS ALL GOOD, THE BODY ALL BAD, AND BECAUSE THE BODY WILL ONE DAY BE DESTROYED ANYWAY, A TRULY SPIRITUAL PERSON CAN DO ANYTHING, EVEN IMMORAL THINGS.



Back then, some Greeks were converted from paganism. A common pagan practice was temple prostitution. (Fertility rite or sacred sexual rite).

Part of their religion was that you must make love to a temple prostitute. Some of them who had already converted to Christianity thought that since the soul was already elevated in Christ, one could do anything with one's body.

The FEAST FAMILY March 17, 2024 25



1 ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES

1. Establish Boundaries
Boundaries are important.
They keep you safe.

For example, if you know that you are prone to overdrinking liquor, set a boundary to limit your drinking, or better yet, do not drink liquor at all.

For unmarried couples, premarital sex is a temptation. Do away with out-of-town trips together. Reserve it for marriage so you'll have something to look forward to.

If you still want to travel together, do it with your friends. In that way, all girls will stay in one room and all boys will stay in a separate room.

For husbands, if you have an out-of-town business trip, bring your wife. Treat it like a free honeymoon, especially if your room is being paid for by your company.

If you're in a committed relationship, tell people about your wife, partner, or children.

2 ENCOURAGE BELIEVERS

2. Encourage Believers

Seek the support of other people.

Sin multiplies in the dark. But if you bring it to the light – to a few people you trust, sin dries up and dies.

I grew up in a broken family. Pornography was normal to me. But when I met God in my college years, I realized that pornography is not good.

The next challenge was how do I remove it from my life. But God sent a beautiful thing. I became part of a youth group. We always met every week and we set strategies on how to create boundaries.

We identified patterns that would make us prone to sin. We tried Bible verses as wallpapers. We messaged each other for prayer whenever we felt tempted. By God's grace, in my six years in college, I was able to overcome pornography.

You cannot do it alone. You need community. You need the encouragement of other believers.



Hope for the Broken

Lastly, I want to address the people here in this congregation who have probably experienced the pain of being in sexual sin.

Some people feel broken today because they were forced into this lifestyle. Some people are more prone to being in the cycle of sexual sin than others.

One study says that when a person is abused or molested at a young age, the person will lose the boundaries to properly protect herself or himself in future encounters. For some of you, that may be your past. You've been struggling for so long in the past.

Today, God is giving you hope that He owns the temple of your body. He is the owner of this house. He can clean it.



MATTHEW 8:1-3 NLT

'Large crowds followed Jesus as He came down the mountainside. Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached Him and knelt before Him. 'Lord,' the man said, 'if You are willing, You can heal me and make me clean...'

'...Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' He said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared.'

God is reminding you today that He is always *willing*. My question is: Are you willing to let His power bring forth healing in your life?

Call out to Him today and declare, "Lord, You are the owner of my house. You are the owner of this life. Lord, clean Your house today."

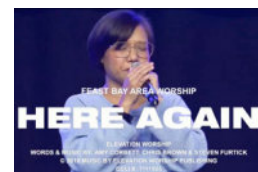
Let's pray:

"Almighty Father, Thank You because, in Your eyes, we are valuable. Today, with much humility, we come to You, at the foot of Your Cross. We want to say: I wish to be made clean. Father, I wish to be restored, renewed, set free, to be in Your love and in Your Presence. Amen."

COMMITMENT

Father today, we renew our relationship with You. Though we may have fallen so many times, today, we are making a decision to commit our lives again to You. Father, grant us the grace so that every time we fall, we can stand up again, in repentance. May You bless us with genuine change of heart so that we will always come home to You every single time. We will do this not through our own strength, not through our own abilities-- but we will do this because You can change us. You can renew us. You can transform us. You can strengthen us. You can heal us. And forever, we will sing about how good You are. Because You are our Savior. You are our King. And You are the Lord of our lives. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

And we sing...





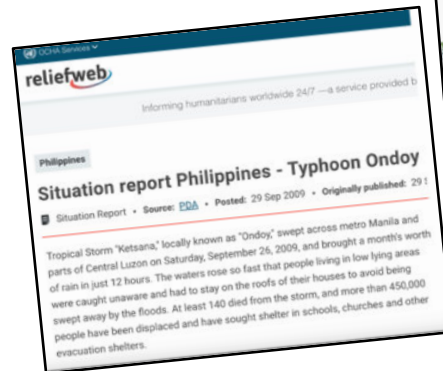
MERCY MINISTRIES

*God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

--Matthew 5:7

ON September 23, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana hit Palau, an island country in Micronesia, in Oceania, western Pacific. The next day, the storm intensified, upgraded to a tropical storm, and struck the Philippines as Typhoon Ondoy on September 26, 2009.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared a state of calamity over Luzon, as landslides caused by Ondoy killed 86 persons. By October 24, 2013, records showed a total 464 died in the storm.



We remember Typhoon Ondoy very well as it was during the onslaught of the calamity that our Light of Jesus Family established the Light of Jesus Family Disaster Recovery Ministry (LOJFDRM).

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, encouraged our Community leaders to form the group to help members in times of calamities.

At left, Bro. Bo with Bro. Marvin Tan, Ministry executive director, with supportive wife Sis. Liza Tan.

Organization



Early on, Bro. Bo assigned Bro. Roy Pasimio (*extreme left*) as the first head of the Ministry.

Bro. Roy formed its organization, objectives, and policies. In time, Bro. Roy handled the LOJ International branches of The Feast, our faith gathering.

So, Bro. Jorge Diomampo next handled the Ministry. Soon, Bro. Jorge retired, and so, Bro. Marvin took over.

The Light of Jesus Feast is a loving community where all members can feel safe, experience support, love, and care especially in times of crises and calamities.

With an unending cycle of generosity--giving, sharing, saving lives—we have called our Ministry “The Feast Little Acts of Love”.

A Board of Trustees leads our Ministry with Bro. Hermie Morelos (*above left*) as chairman.



Other Board members are, *from extreme left*: Carl E. Fontanilla, Cesar Campos Cagalawan, Judd B. Balayan, Ervine J. Pangwi, with Marvin as executive director, and Jhun Que (*below left*) as operations director.



Yes, with little acts of love, the Ministry has promptly provided relief for villagers affected by calamities-- typhoons, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, fires, armed conflicts. From the time of Bro. Roy and Bro. Jorge, and up to the present time, the Ministry has given millions of financial assistance and relief goods to countless members of our Light of Jesus Family, The Feasts, and even non-Feasters affected by the calamities.

Reaching Out to More in Need

Today, Bro. Marvin is discussing with our leaders about making LOJFDRM an official ministry in every district of our Feast worldwide which will be called "Feast Little Acts of Love Ministry".

The Feast in a community or village is the first to see the impact of a disaster around its location. So, with a branch of our Disaster Recovery Ministry in a Feast, the Feast can promptly respond to the needs of the victims-- evacuation process, meals, clothes, treatment and medicines for the injured, and rehabilitation program for them.

As envisioned, the Ministry in every Feast will be managed mainly by volunteer servants.

Is the Lord calling you to serve in this Ministry?

Kindly respond through Bro. Marvin Tan:

marvintan 27@yahoo.com.ph phone... 0949 402 2250

To those affected by recent calamities, we echo the message of Bro. Bo we earlier put out in *The Feast Family*: "We reach out to all those affected by the recent calamities. From my family to yours, our entire Light of Jesus Feast Community, we want you to know that we are fervently praying for you. We embrace you with God's comforting healing and love."



Hands of God and Adam
from the painting
of Michelangelo Buonarroti

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

— Jeremiah 29:11



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 to 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>

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation
is a shelter for minor girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



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



He Cares Mission
provides shelter and pastoral care for street children.



Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation
grants scholarships to indigent 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 Inc. 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 Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's 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 Inc.

BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch

Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 003970019804 General Araneta, Cubao Branch Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 000160506123 SM Cubao Branch

PNB - Current Account no. 108410089566 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

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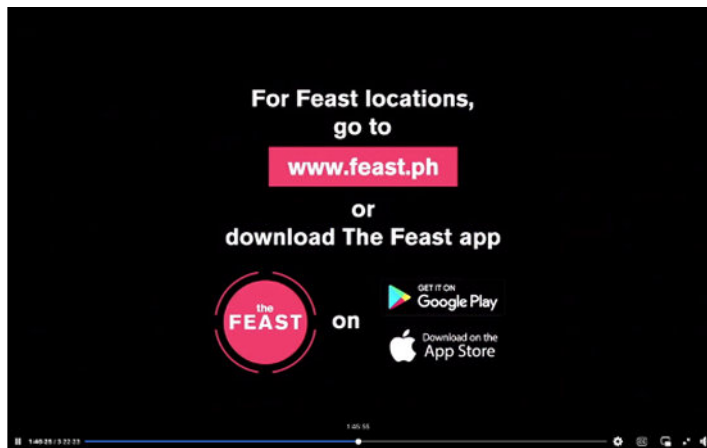
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

