



FAMILY

APRIL 7, 2024



WELCOME to our Special Mini-series:

Raised to L.I.F.E!

BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

For the next four Sundays, we will study and explore what it truly means to be resurrected through Jesus.

What does it look like to be raised to *life* with Jesus?

You experience a profound increase in terms of *Love, Identity, Fulfillment*, and an understanding of *Eternity*.

Become Love

Today, we'll talk about *Love*.
And we'll look at this through
the lens of Peter.

Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, "You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But Peter denied it in front of everyone. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

⁷¹ Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said.

⁷³ A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent." ⁷⁴ Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed.

⁷⁵ Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly. (Matthew 26:69-75 NLT)

I want to preach to you this message: "*Become Love.*"

Be very blessed,



Audee Villaraza





What Is Resurrection?

“WHAT does it really mean when we say that *Christ is risen?*” His Eminence Cardinal Jose Advincula asked in his homily during our Grand Easter Feast last Sunday, March 31, 2024. Be inspired by his answer, *page 3*.

Bro. Bo Sanchez also explored the meaning of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in his Grand Easter Feast special talk which centered on the theme *Walk Back to Jerusalem*. What is Jerusalem? Learn from Bro. Bo’s answer, *page 20*.

Today at The Feast, Bro. Audee Villaraza gives another meaning of the Resurrection in the new Feast Talk series this April: *Raised to L.I. F.E.* He introduces what those four letters mean, *page 1*.

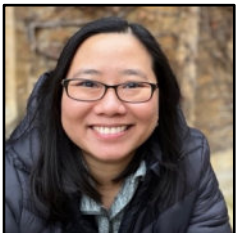
What we know is the Resurrection is *grand*-- the reason we had our Grand Easter Feast! And we thank Bro. Didoy Lubaton for helping us express our grand gratitude to all those who made it happen, *page 8*.

And speaking of gratitude, Elah Czarina Perez is thankful because: “In my trying times during the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, someone listened to me.” Her story starts on *page 43*.

What is your definition of Resurrection?

All for God’s Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director



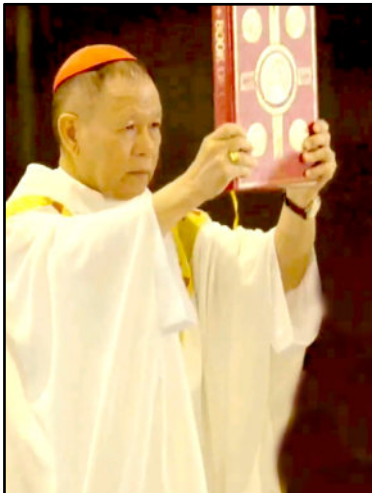


FLASHBACK!

GRAND EASTER FEAST

MARCH 31, 2024

Holy Mass



**EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

Homily

CARDINAL JOSE ADVINCULA

on the Gospel John 20:1-9

Excerpts:

IN the words of St. Augustine, "We are an Easter people and *Hallelujah* is our song. But what does it really mean when we say that Christ is risen? Is this the heart of our faith?"

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul said, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and so is our faith."

The FEAST FAMILY April 7, 2024 **3**

All Rest on the Resurrection

Everything we hold to be true as Christians and everything we profess to follow-- all rest on the Resurrection of Jesus.

What does it mean when we say, 'We believe in Jesus Christ who suffered death and was buried and rose again from the dead.'?

For the scholars of the Scriptures, there is a distinction between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith. We do not know Jesus as a historical figure because we are not eyewitnesses to His life and ministry in Galilee and Judea. What we encounter is the Christ of faith. The Christ who conquered death. The Christ proclaimed by the Apostles.



The important question is this: What is the Resurrection of the Lord? What does the Resurrection of the Lord mean to us today?

We go back to our Gospel and find some pathways to understand what happened three days after the death of Jesus. We ask the help of Mary Magdalene, of Peter, and of John. Let us put ourselves in their situation. What do we gather from them? Not much. Because these three key witnesses of the Resurrection did not understand at first, either.

Mary Magdalene ran when she saw the stone removed from the tomb.

She went to Peter and John right away and created her version of what happened: "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they put Him."

In modern parlance, this is classic *Marites*-- from the gossip's question: "**Mare** (Co-Godparent), what's the latest?"

Mary Magdalene saw the stone removed and her conclusion was that somebody stole the body of Jesus.

Many times, we are like Mary Magdalene. We run from the things that are difficult to understand-- the more we make our conclusions and believe in the stories we have created in our minds.

In her confusion, Mary ran to the apostles. This gave her a sense of balance, a reality check, and support from the community-- which we all need too. We need a community that we can turn to. In moments of doubt and anxiety, we do not run from our problems. We run to our communities of faith and love.



Peter's Role

Peter and John also ran. They could not wait further or delay their response. They needed to validate what Mary Magdalene was saying.

How we wish we could all be like this. We cannot wait to look for the Lord. We want to know where Jesus is. We want to see Him.

John ran faster because he was younger than Peter and perhaps, more excited than Peter. As we know, he was the beloved of the Lord. But he let Peter go in first as a sign of respect. It is a humble gesture of John.

We already have a glimpse of the role of Peter among the apostles and in the Church. Peter did not see Jesus in the tomb, but he saw the burial clothes and the cloth that covered the head of Jesus. Like Mary Magdalene, he could not make sense of what was happening.

He could also be asking, "Where are you, Lord? What happened to You? We see Your clothes, but we do not see You."



First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

34 Peter proceeded to speak and said: 37 "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. 40 This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, 41 not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."



John Saw and Believed

As he was still processing his thoughts, John entered the tomb and saw the same scene. John was not only faster in running, but he was also faster in processing the situation. He connected the dots. The body of Jesus was not stolen. No thief would leave evidence of his crime. If you were a thief, would you still roll the clothes that you have ripped off from the Man?

Or even more logical: Why would you remove the clothes of a dead Man if you're smuggling Him out of the cave? Besides, there were some soldiers guarding outside. The thief would have no more time to separate the burial cloth and the head covering.

John saw and believed. What did he see? Not Jesus. He saw His clothes fixed and tied it up. John knew that his Master was alive. He said so several times-- but they could not understand. But now, the eyes of John were opened.

Brothers and sisters, Easter is the time to open our eyes to Jesus who is alive. Easter is the time to renew our faith in Him. He is not a figure or a character from the past. He is with us as He was with the apostles and His early followers. He lives and walks with us. He calls us to follow Him. He invites us to turn away from our sinful life and walk the path to life and eternity.

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4 (or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

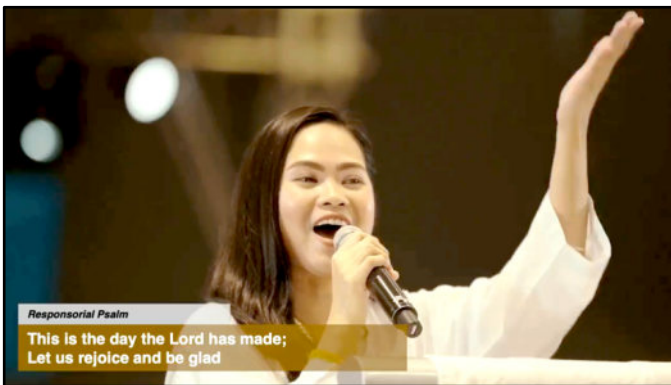
1 Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.



Beacon of Hope

Easter is a moment to accept the new life that Jesus is giving to everyone. He conquered sin and death and He is assuring us that we can do the same. He is offering us a chance to live again and rise from our afflictions and failures.

He tells you today: "You are loved. I have done everything for you. I embraced the Cross for you. I went to the place of the dead for you. I have risen for you. Rise with me. Live in me. Follow me."



My dear Brothers and Sisters, to be Easter people is to reach out and give the light of Jesus to many of our brothers and sisters who wish to see and discover the Lord. May you continue to grow in faith and in love and be a beacon of hope for all.

Happy Easter to all of you!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.

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Thanksgiving

BRO. ALVIN BARCELONA:

ON behalf of The Feast Bay Area and the entire Light of Jesus Family founded by our dear Bro. Bo Sanchez, we express our deepest gratitude to His Eminence Cardinal Jose Advincula for blessing us immensely by your presence and by being Jesus to us on this glorious Easter Sunday. Maraming Salamat, po.

And to our dear priests, who have blessed us:



Concelebrants, above, from left:

Fr. Domie Guzman, Jr., SSP, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows, Pasay City; where Light of Jesus Family and our events are under this diocese; Fr. Mark Demanuele, MSSP, Light of Jesus Family Spiritual Adviser; Fr Kim Nam-woong; Fr. Albert Garong, Fr. Angelo Paolo Asprer, SSP, LOJ Mass Celebrants, and Fr, Bob McConaghy,

Above: Fr Mico Delleria; Fr. Edward Jayson San Diego, presenting the Gospel.



To all of you who journeyed with us for the past amazing three days of our Holy Week Retreat, thank you so much. And to the close 5,000 who are here right now for our Grand Easter Feast...

Thank you very much to our servants. By God's grace, you made this Holy Week Retreat and Grand Easter Feast happen.



And again, to his Eminence Cardinal Jose Advincula who also celebrated his birthday yesterday (March 30, 2024). Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Life to our beloved Cardinal... And to you we sing Happy Birthday!

Once again, Happy Birthday, Cardinal!
And a glorious Easter Sunday to all of us!



Worship!

EXHORTATIONS

He walks. He walks with us. The sins caused by believers and non-believers, even the sinners those who have lost their faith, I believe, yeah, yeah, Jesus walks with them... So, we all receive the Presence of Him

So, we lift the praise...He will never fail us... We will shout "Lord!" Amen!

The only thing I pray is that we let Jesus take over now. Yeah, cause when He takes charge everything is under control. Amen!



BRO. JUAN 'JAP' CAOILE

BRO. AIO BARCELONA:

Happy Easter Church! The long wait is over! Jesus, our King, is here. He who robbed the grave is here. The One who turns graves into gardens. The One who turns dry bones into armies. The One who died for your sins is here.

And I don't know about you, but that calls for some praise and some celebration!

So, if I were you, I'd start getting up now. We're standing in His promise today. We're standing in a promise fulfilled by the Father... That He has overcome!

So, let every corner of this room, 5000 strong, lift His Name. We say Hallelujah! He has overcome! Let all the Easter people make some noise for Jesus!



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Happy, Easter, Everyone! So good to come together here in the House of God.

The message of Easter is this, my friends: To me, the message is that Jesus is for all. Jesus is for everyone.

So that means that Christ did not just come for those who are saints. But He came even for the sinners. If you're a sinner, Christ is for you.

Christ did not come only for the young ones. He also came for the ones who were young once upon a time. Christ did not come for only those who are married. He came for those who are single too. Christ is not only for those with money in their pockets...but also for those with debts.

Easter is for everyone. Everybody, say that. Christ did not just come for people who are here in this hall but He came even for those in the overflow. He didn't come just for those who like wearing coats. He came for those who like to wear little flowers on their shirts too. Because Jesus is for all.

And so, we're going to declare this today one more time: That Jesus is for everybody. Jesus is for Alabang. Jesus is for Parañaque. Jesus is for Pasig. Jesus is for Quezon City. Jesus is for Rizal. Jesus is for Luzon. Jesus is for the Visayas. Jesus is for Mindanao. He is for every nation, under the banner of His leadership. And we celebrate that today.





FOR THE ONE WHO WAS,
AND IS, TO COME SING HOLY

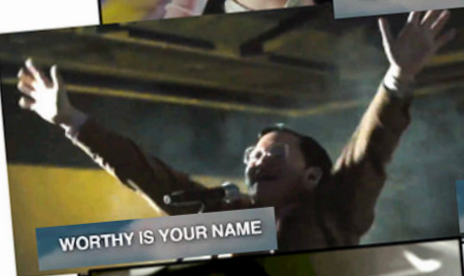
FOR THE FIRST AND LAST
THE LIVING ONE, SING HOLY

FOR THE LAMB WAS SLAIN
NOW ON THE THRONE SING HOLY



FOR HOLY IS YOUR NAME
HOLY IS YOUR NAME

GOD ONLY YOU
DESERVE ALL PRAISE



WORTHY IS YOUR NAME

WORTHY IS YOUR NAME

WORTHY IS YOUR NAME



JESUS CHRIST OUR GOD

*Come on, sing... Come on, put your hands together
for our mighty King Jesus. Praise Him today. Amen!*

Welcome!

Welcome to Church, my friends. Touch your neighbor and say This is *church*. It's loud, it's crazy, it's happy-- but this is church. And we want to welcome you to our Easter celebration. Thank you so much for coming out, bearing the traffic, and waiting for your spot in this beautiful place.

But I want you to believe that even though you're not in this big hall, God is where you are. And the same grace that flows in this place, flows through your place as well. If you're listening online, welcome to this beautiful place, to this celebration. I've heard the message that Bro. Bo is giving you and it's going to be amazing.

I would like to welcome those who have come to The Feast for the very first time today. Welcome home! Starting today, you're now part of our Family. You are no longer guests but you are now family. And after The Feast, we'd love to do something special with you. If you can remain after this session and come here forward, we'd love to welcome you and pray for you and we'd love to give you a special gift.

Everybody say to them, "Welcome to The Feast!"
Clap your hands for our first-timers.

One more announcement: Just to have an Easter feel, look, there are Easter eggs under some chairs. If you found one lift it. Congratulations!


The egg represents a message from the Lord. If you open the egg, you'll find a message from the Lord. This is for all the children here. After this session, proceed at the back and we will give you a loot bag!









We'd like to thank our sponsors who enabled this event to happen.

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Love Offering

I want to read a passage from the Old Testament that I find so applicable to our situation today. It comes from the *Book of Kings* -- from 2 Kings 4:



	One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, "My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the LORD. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves."	2 Kings 4:1-7 NLT
	"What can I do to help you?" Elisha asked. "Tell me, what do you have in the house?" "Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil," she replied.	2 Kings 4:1-7 NLT
	And Elisha said, "Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled."	2 Kings 4:1-7 NLT
	So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim!"Bring me another jar," she said to one of her sons."There aren't any more!" he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.	2 Kings 4:1-7 NLT

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What We Have in Common

You know the Bible doesn't mention the name of this woman. But I believe we all have something in common with her: We've all experienced scarcity.

Raise your hand if you've experienced scarcity in your life-- you lack money for your kid's school tuition, payment for hospital bills, amortization, car, date... Have you experienced any of those?

But did you also experience that once you experienced scarcity but you trusted God, you prayed and you received what you needed? Not excessive-- just enough.

I love this story because it speaks about how God supplies us when we've got a need. But you know, sometimes, my friends, let me speak this to you, sometimes, we get so overwhelmed with our scarcity that we tend to overlook God's supply.

What did Elisha tell that woman? He said, "What do you have in your house?" God can ask you the same thing today. What do you have in your house?

And the woman said, nothing, just this itty-bitty flask of oil.

You know what's the most common tactic of the enemy? He will try to convince you that what you have in your hand is small. That it's nothing. That it's meaningless.

So, you're going to end up thinking, "I don't have anything."

And so, you're going to not spend what you have because what you have in your hand, you're so afraid it's so small, it's so useless.



When We Think We're Poor, We Won't Pour

Here's my good news today, my friend: The enemy likes to make you think that you're poor. Because when you think that you're poor, you know what you'll do?

You won't pour.

You're like, "This is all I have. I don't want to give it away. Bro. Audee, I have only P500.00 in my wallet, do I have to give it to the Lord?"

That's what happens when we think we're poor. We won't pour.

But I've got good news for you today: You're not poor. You are blessed.

Maybe, sometimes the reason you think you're poor is you've stopped pouring.

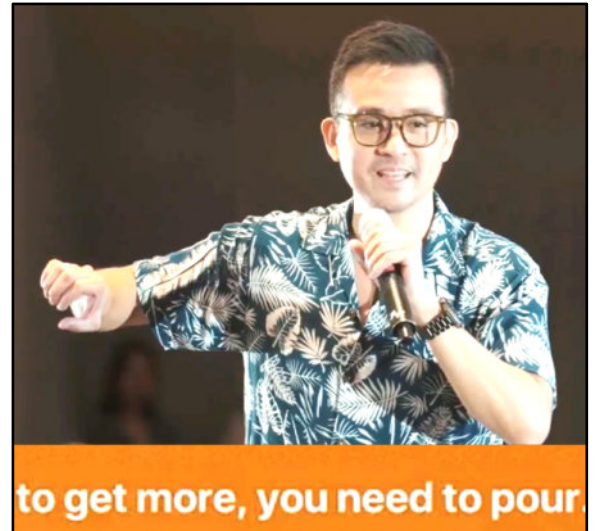
You used to pour into relationships but then got hurt one day because somebody broke your heart. Now, you won't pour yourself into another relationship because you got discouraged. You used to pour encouragement on people but then one day, someone discouraged you and so now, you think that all your encouragement is just for you.

Maybe the reason you think you're poor is you've stopped pouring.

But here's the good news that Jesus wants to tell us today: Just like in the story, when the woman brought out the jars, the oil kept on flowing and flowing, and flowing-- until the jars stopped coming. That's when the oil stopped flowing.

So, here's my message today: For you to get more, you need to pour; for you to experience more, you've got to pour, my friends. That's the very nature of God. God will replenish when you release. God can't fill a cup that's already full.

For God to fill up your cup, you've got to empty it first. I believe that as you pour, you will realize that there is more in store-- because we've got a God who blesses us above and beyond our needs.





Raise your Love Offering, Everyone, all across this place. This represents your offering to the Lord. God knows what you put in here-- not the amount but the heart that you poured into this envelope.

And today, we're going to declare that it's His. And we're going to ask Him to multiply this.

God in Heaven, we Thank You for Your bountiful blessings. For everything that we have is Yours. Who we are, that's all because of You. And we Thank You that we have this opportunity to give to Your Kingdom today. We believe, O, God, that this, it's small, compared to what you've already given to us

-- Your Son Jesus. But we pray You accept this as a sweet offering for You to multiply this so that more and more people can get to know You, can be blessed by You, can be ministered to, can be fed, and can know that they too are Your children. Use this Offering, Jesus.

Everybody, say this: *Lord, I give this to You with a cheerful heart. This is mine to give. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

A graphic titled "Ways to Give" showing three methods of giving: ONLINE, BANK DEPOSIT, and GCASH. The graphic features a silhouette of two hands exchanging a coin. The text "See what God can do through your generosity." is at the top left. The "ONLINE" section includes the URL theFeastPICCAM.com/commit. The "BANK DEPOSIT" section includes the UnionBank logo and account information: Account Name: Feast Bay Area, Account No: 000-4000-24846. The "GCASH" section includes the GCash logo and a QR code for the Feast Bay Area.

NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless,
overflowing abundance of God's universe.

Today, I open myself to God's blessings,
healing, and miracles.

Today, I open myself to God's Word
so that I become more like Jesus every day.

Today, I proclaim 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.



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

Give the Lord a big hand.
God is in our midst.

Talk




PART 1: *The Two Disciples*

The disciples were in Jerusalem. They were broken-hearted and devastated because their hero was crucified and was no more. There were two disciples. One of them was named Cleofas. The other one didn't have a name.

The Gospel writer, Luke, didn't tell his name. We don't know if the person was a guy or a girl. These two disciples were leaving Jerusalem... I repeat: they were discouraged, they were forlorn, they were giving up.

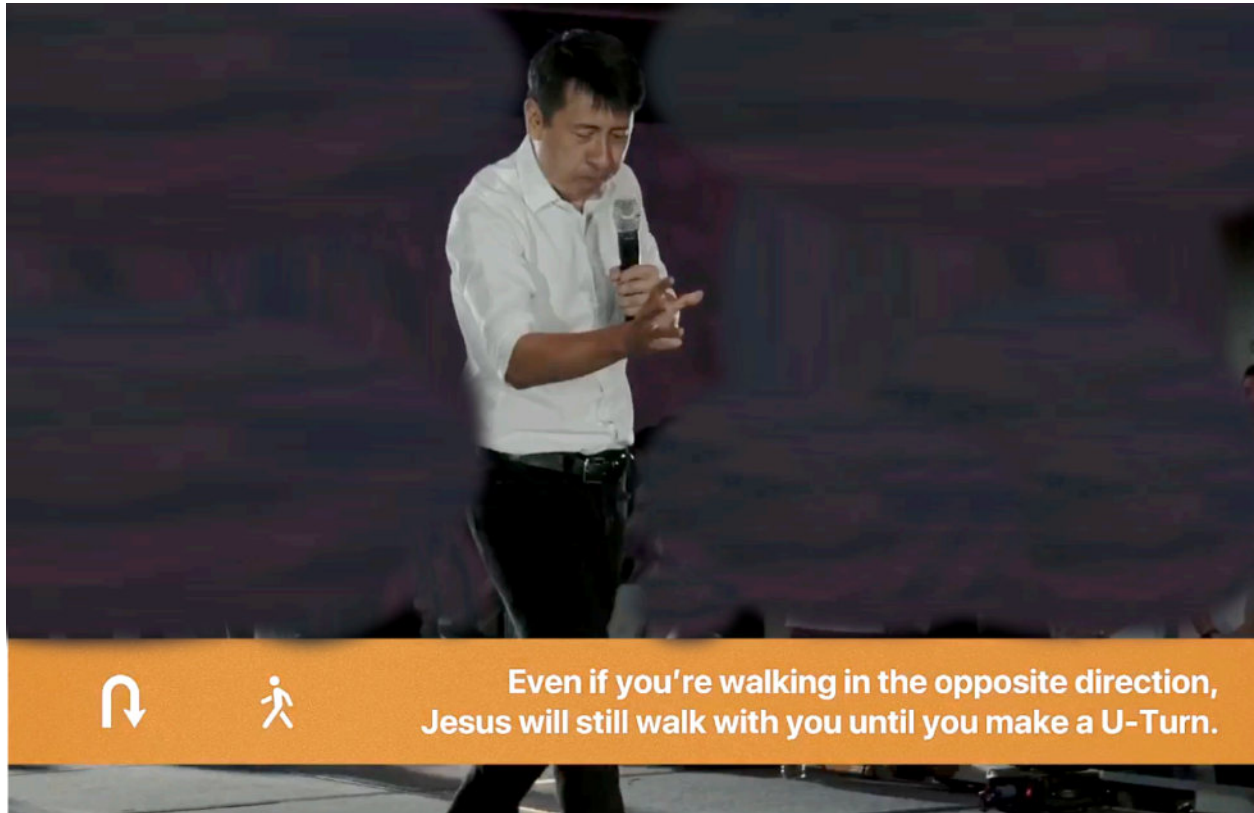
They were walking to Emmaus (their hometown) which was seven miles away. That walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus symbolizes a person who is walking away from God, away from his spiritual community.

 The Walk to Emmaus is a symbol of someone walking away from God and their spiritual family. 

At that moment, they were so devastated that their hero and their master is dead. They were leaving their community, they were leaving their friends, they were leaving their commitment.

As they were walking, Jesus appeared but they didn't recognize Him. And Jesus, every step of the way as they were walking-- supposed to be away from God-- He was giving them a "Bible Study"-- He was revealing to them how the Old Testament was all about Him.

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Friends, please understand this. This is powerful. This message is intense: Even if you, you, you are walking in the opposite direction, your Jesus, He's going to hang out with you. And He's going to be walking with you. And He will not let you go. And He will chase after you and He will run after you.

This is the Jesus that you have and that you worship. And so, He walked with them. Until the "Bible Study" was concluded in Emmaus.

Then He broke bread. (Liturgy of the Word / Liturgy of the Eucharist). At the breaking of the bread, all of a sudden, their eyes were opened and they discovered Jesus.

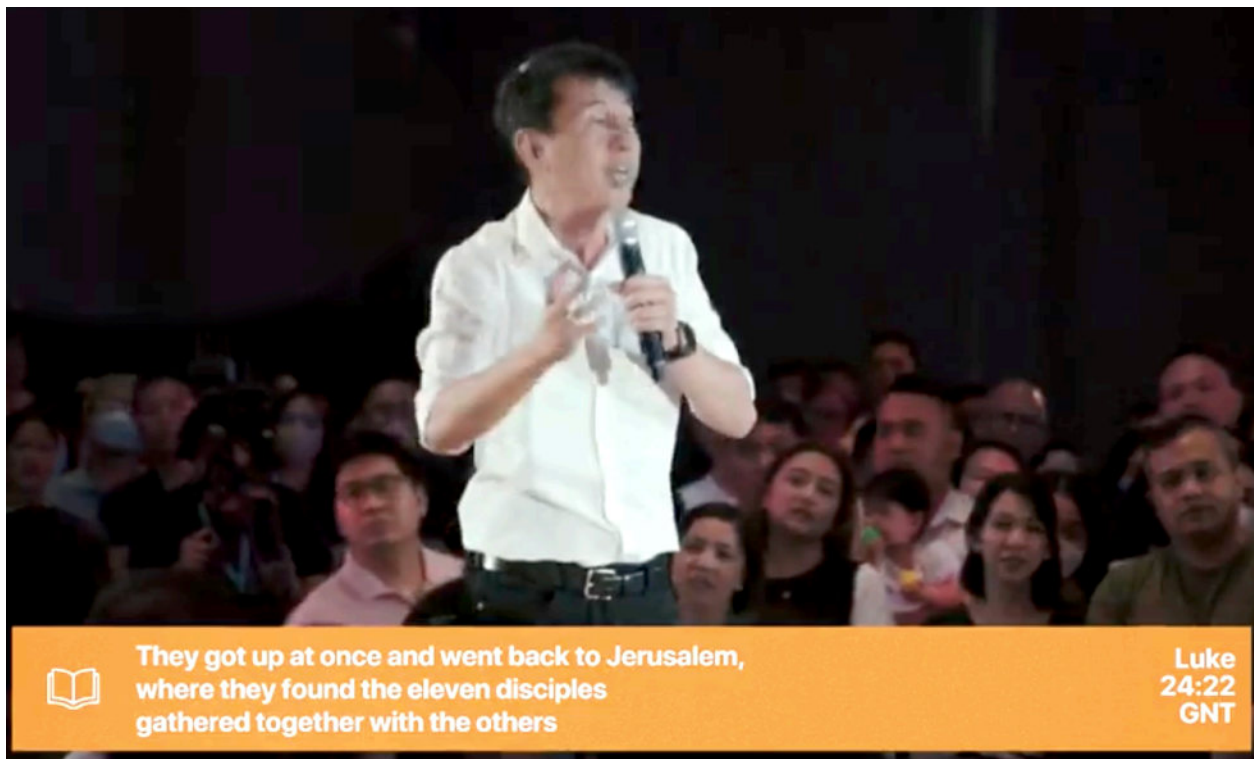
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Then Jesus disappeared. Where did He go? Where else-- to Jerusalem – with His spiritual community.

So, what did the two disciples do?

“Oh, my gosh, it was Jesus! He was the one giving the Bible Study. Oh, He was the one breaking bread...”

Where did they go? Let’s read:



They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others

Luke
24:22
GNT



They Went Back to Jerusalem

Luke named only one of those two disciples: Cleofas, and the other one unnamed.

I have a suspicion that Luke says, “You’re that other disciple.”

Luke didn’t name the other disciple because he wanted that to be you.

Put your name, write your name: You are the one who is discouraged. You are the one who wants to give up. You are the one leaving your spiritual community-- and leaving your God.

You cannot get rid of Jesus. He’ll court you back.

But you cannot get rid of Jesus. He sticks to you.

He says, “I will never leave you until you make a U-turn.”

Until you say, “I belong there... This is the Jesus...”

Shake the person beside you and tell that person: “Walk back to Jerusalem.”

🚶 WALK BACK TO JERUSALEM 🚶

You need to go back to Jerusalem. You’ve been gone too long. God misses you.

Let’s walk back to Jerusalem.

Put your hand over your chest. Everybody say: *Jesus, continue to move in my life. You are alive! Be alive in my life. Remove what is dead. Cut away what is not growing.*

Let me flourish. Let me be alive with You. Amen. Hallelujah!

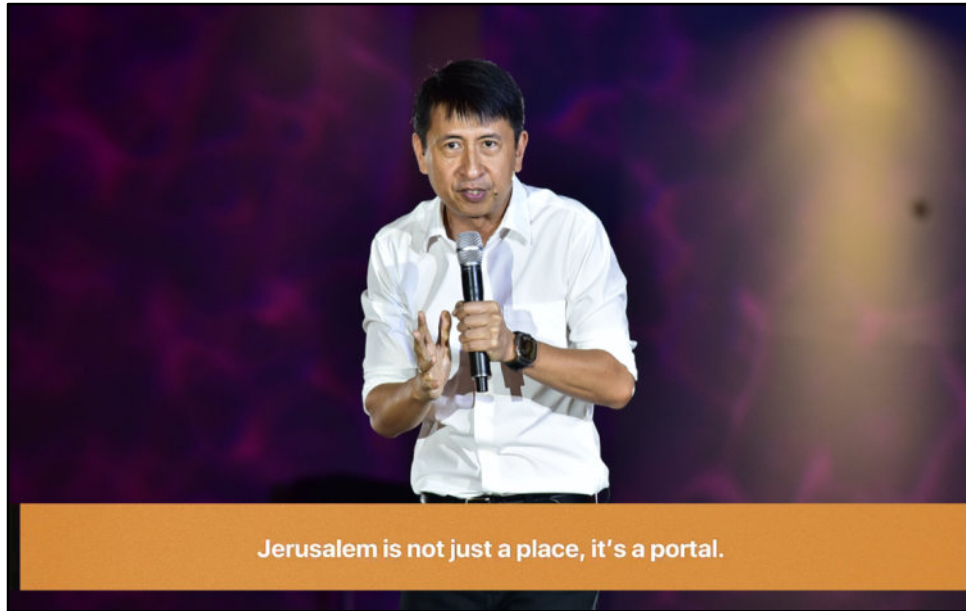


*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path.*



There is something funny about the game, Trip to Jerusalem. Why do we call it as such? My research says that the name probably came from Germany. It's highly possible-- but never confirmed--that it was derived from how the Israelites came from Egypt all the way to Israel:

1. The trip lasted for 40 years. It was too long. It just seemed like they were going around in a circle.
2. Food and water resources are limited. In this game, chairs will become limited because they will be eliminated one by one.
3. People are eliminated. Among the Israelites leaving Egypt, one by one, people were dying. In the Trip to Jerusalem game people are eliminated one by one.



What Is Jerusalem?

In the Bible, Jerusalem is not just a place. It is a *portal*.

According to Genesis 1:1, “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*”

Heaven and Earth were one. In the middle of Heaven and Earth was a *portal*.

Are portals familiar to you? Yes. The most popular one is in the movie, *Harry Potter*. The portal was $9 \frac{3}{4}$ -- between the ordinary world and Hogwarts-- witches and wizards. In the movie *Alice in Wonderland*, the portal is called the *rabbit hole*. Another portal is in the movie, *Chronicles of Narnia*--its portal, between the ordinary world and the magical world is called *wardrobe*. In *Avengers: Doctor Strange*, his rings. My favorite, in *Monsters Inc.*, the portal between the ordinary world and the world of Monsters: *closet*-- the door of the childhood of the child’s bedroom closet.

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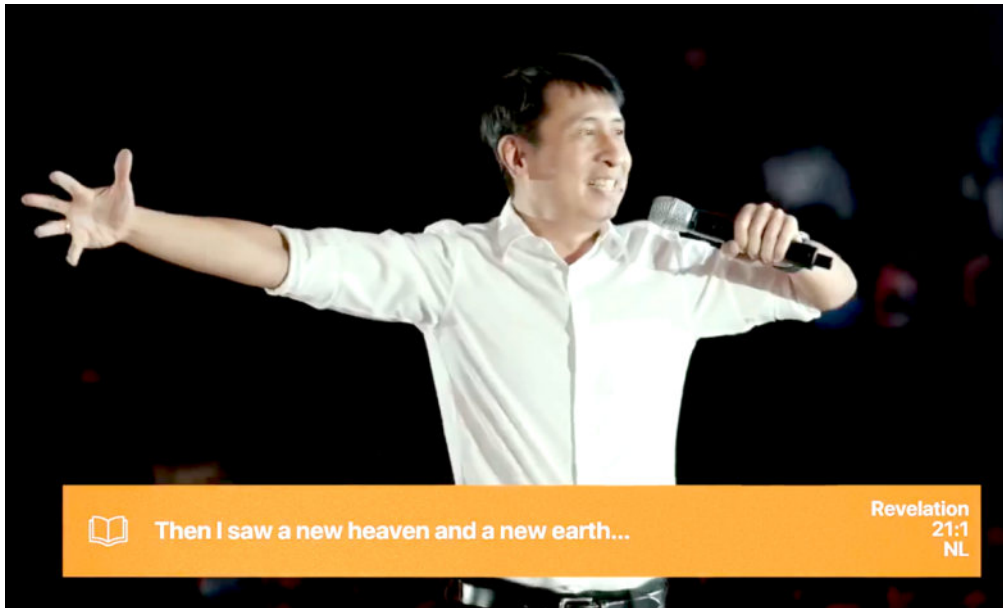
🌿 The Garden of Eden was where Heaven touched Earth. 🌿

In the Bible-- this one is no longer fiction-- there *is* a portal between Heaven and Earth, and it's called *The Garden of Eden*.

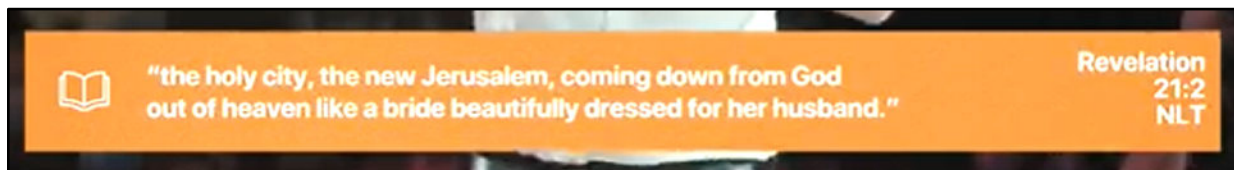
In the beginning, this was where Heaven touched Earth. There was a pattern: The Temple of Jerusalem was the Garden of Eden.

Later on in the Bible, the portal became the Temple in Jerusalem, which followed the template of the Garden of Eden.

Then, fast forward to the *Book of Revelation*:

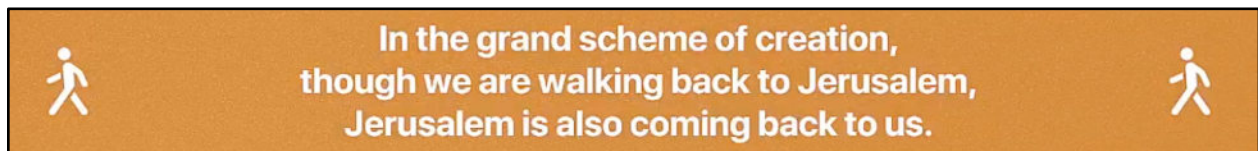


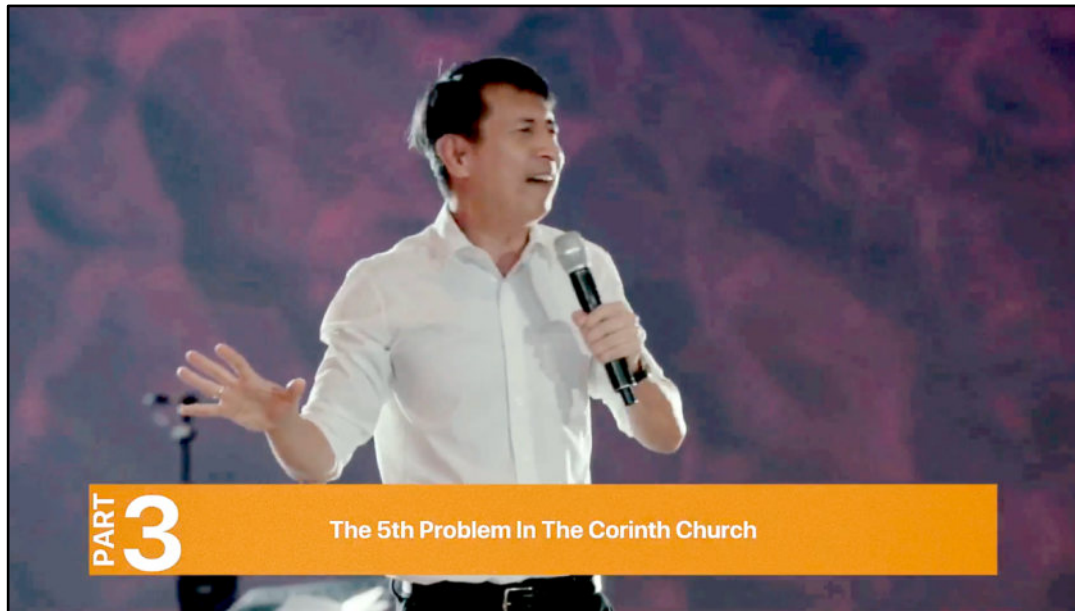
Heaven and Earth become one-- again:



And so, Jerusalem, the portal, is recovered.

Here's what it means: The two disciples going back to Jerusalem means that as you go back to Jerusalem, Jerusalem is coming down towards you.





If you're a Feaster, you know that for the past five weeks, we have been unpacking 1 Corinthians. We were sharing that 1 Corinthians is a letter of Paul to the church of Corinth who had five big problems:

1. Division -- Dissention. They had conflicts.
2. Sexual misconduct-- They were proud of their sexual sins.
3. Confusion about idol food
4. Gifted yet divisive
5. Controversy about Jesus' Resurrection.

The church of Corinth doubted The Resurrection of Jesus-- not the fact that Jesus rose from the dead but the fact that there was bodily resurrection. Why?

These were Greeks, especially the upper crust of Greek society-- were immersed in popular philosophies. One of them was Gnosticism which connotes that the body was very bad, and the soul was very good. Anything material is horrible and anything spiritual is righteous.

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The *Kerygma*

The Christians in the Corinth church, when they started hearing these preachers and their pastors, and their teachers saying Jesus rose *physically* from the tomb-- and that you also will one day rise *physically* from death-- I can imagine the Corinthians raising their eyebrows and saying, “Huh? Yuck. Tacky.”

You see, they were so absorbed in their philosophy that anything material was bad-- And so, “Please discard that body of mine. I want to be a pure soul.

To capture what they were feeling, one writer said it’s almost like you and I were watching low-budget, low quality Zombie movie -- so ugly, badly made. The zombie is overacting,..

That’s what the Christian Corinthians felt.



Paul addressed their doubt, and he said, “Guys, please, that is in the *Kerygma*.

What is *Kerygma*? It’s a magazine (now called *The Feast*) founded by this good-looking guy... Just kidding ☺...

Kerygma is a Greek word that means the *Gospel*.

So, if you’re talking to somebody who’s not a believer... You know-- who says, “Who’s this Jesus guy? Why do you believe in him so much? Can you just summarize to me what you believe in? -- You tell him the *Kerygma*.

So, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4:

 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures	1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NRSVUE
 and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures...	1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NRSVUE

The word *buried* is important.



Paul was saying that the body that was buried is the same body that will rise again.

That's why in the Nicene Creed, we say that: Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate. He was crucified. He died. He was *buried*.

Paul was basically saying to the Corinthians and all those who were doubting, "Hey, I didn't make this up. You cannot choose. If you ditch Easter, you ditch Jesus."



To Paul, Easter, Jesus rising from the dead, was no metaphor. It was a historical event. And he explains in 1 Corinthians 15: 5-7:

 ...and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive,	1 Corinthians 15:5-7 NRSVUE
 though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.	1 Corinthians 15:5-7 NRSVUE

1 Corinthians was written 20 years after the Resurrection. Peter and some of the apostles were still alive.

Wouldn't it be so amazing to go to Peter, sit beside him, have coffee with *The Apostle*, and ask him, "Peter, how did Jesus 2.0 look like?"

What's the difference between the old Jesus and the new Jesus? Peter, did you really see Him eat? How was that? Peter, did you touch Him?

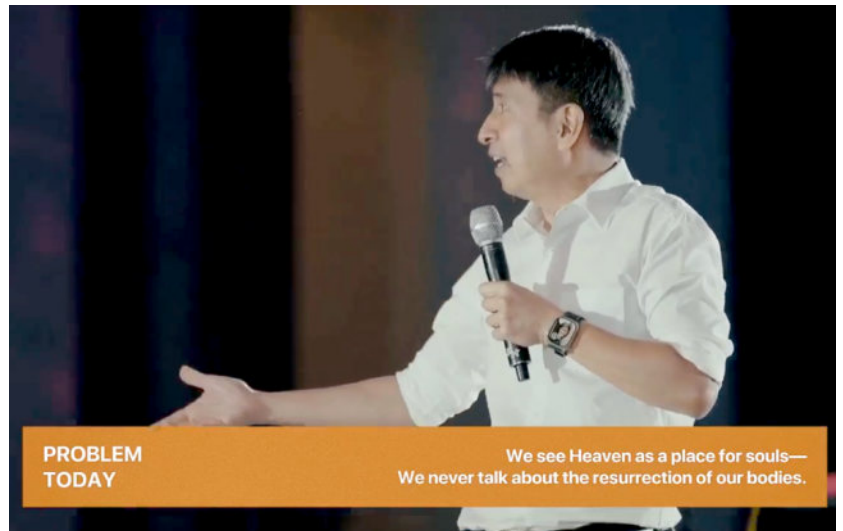
So, many of the apostles were still alive during the 1 Corinthians letter.

My Friends, now, you may be asking, "What is the relevance of this Letter to the Corinthians with us today? You're talking of the problems of the Corinth church 2,000 years ago..."

Well, we are much like the Corinthians. We believe in a *Heaven*, and we see it as a place for souls. We never talk about the resurrection of the body-- even if we believe in it.

We say it every Sunday when we recite the Nicene Creed: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the *resurrection of the body*..."

We say this, but we do not understand it...Most of the people I asked believe that when they reach Heaven, they will be like Casper, the Friendly Ghost. We imagine ourselves to be a happy ghost-- translucent, transparent soul, wearing shimmering nightgown, flowing in the wind, floating in the air from one fluffy cloud to another with Spa music playing in the background. That's what we imagine Heaven to be. But the Bible speaks so differently about *that*.



The reason this belief about “Heaven” is concerning, it is possible that this belief affects and impacts how we live life here on Earth.

There are three ways we can apply this misunderstanding in the wrong way:



1. Why care for my body?
It’s just a shell.

Why care for my body? It’s just a shell.



So, I meet Christians-- followers of Jesus-- who eat crappy food, who don’t take care of their sleep, who do not exercise, who treat their body like garbage. But they are followers of Jesus.

If you ask Paul, in 1 Corinthians, he will say this to you:

	But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant	1 Corinthians 15:35-36, 42 NIV
	unless it dies first. It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever.”	1 Corinthians 15:35-36, 42 NIV

So, your body is a seed and it will be planted in the ground and then it will be raised from the grave-- with upgrades. Amazing. A seed affects the fruit -- somehow. And my explanation is this: If you respect your body and care for your body and treat it-- as what Paul said: a Temple of the Holy Spirit...

You know many think that when Paul said Temple of the Holy Spirit, he was referring only to the soul. But you see to the Jewish mind, there is no division between the soul and the body. And so, he was looking at all of you:

Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones. So, please, take care of your body. It *is* the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

2. Why help the poor? It's the soul that matters.

I was inviting people to my Stock Market seminar and I posted on social media a story about how I helped our staff at home -- our helpers-- to become millionaires. It took a while, but I taught them how to invest in the stock market.

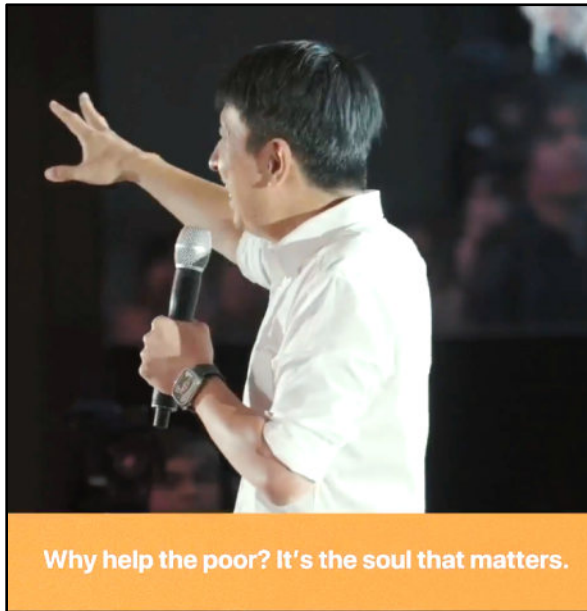
I shared that and then I received a comment-- well-meaning-- probably from a very religious woman:


“Bro. Bo, *why*? Shouldn't you be more preoccupied with saving their souls?”

Of course, I told her, yes, yes. I bring them to The Feast. Yes, I bring them into a relationship with the Lord. But I'm concerned with their physical existence. It is very, very important.

This was the problem in the Corinthian church. Some affluent members did not care for the poor. They celebrated the Lord's Supper. At that time, they did not have Communion with just wafers. They actually had real meals.

Paul received this report that the richer members, they came early and ate all the food. So, when the poorer members arrived, no more food. And Paul said this:



 Do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor?" 1 Corinthians
6:22
NLT

But some people would say, “That's only temporary. You're going to go to Heaven anyway.”

That was their attitude.

No Division

Paul would tell them there should be no division in the body. The parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.



There should be no division in the body,
but the parts should have equal concern for each other.
If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.

1 Corinthians
12:25-26
NIV



I am very, very happy that here at The Feast we take seriously this call:
That if somebody is suffering, we suffer with that person.

Today, I want you to know, that all our Ministries for the poor -- whether it be Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly, or our Pastoral Care, or our Ministry for cancer patients who are poor, or our scholarship program, our Prison Ministry-- these are not side projects. This is the core of who we are.

We are the followers of Jesus. And we care for the poor.

3. Why excel in earthly matters?

They will all vanish.

I was a perfect example of this for 18 years. When I came to know Jesus, when I was 12 -13 years old, I was so in love with God, so passionate to serve Him.

I remember, as a teenager-- I was still in high school-- one day, I went home and I announced to the family, to my mom who was in the kitchen, “Mom, I’m going to quit school.”

My Mom said, “Why?”

I said, “What will I do with Trigonometry if I go to Heaven? What will I do if Jesus comes again-- and I believe that He’s coming imminently-- what’s the use of knowing the Periodic Table-- there are 118 elements and that 200 hydrogen atoms plus 1 oxygen atom equals water? I would rather prepare myself for Heaven...”

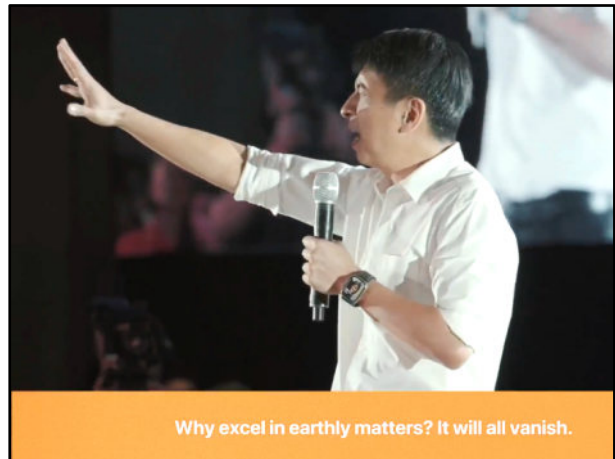
That was me for 18 long years. And then God woke me up. I want to thank God for that. God woke me up through pain...

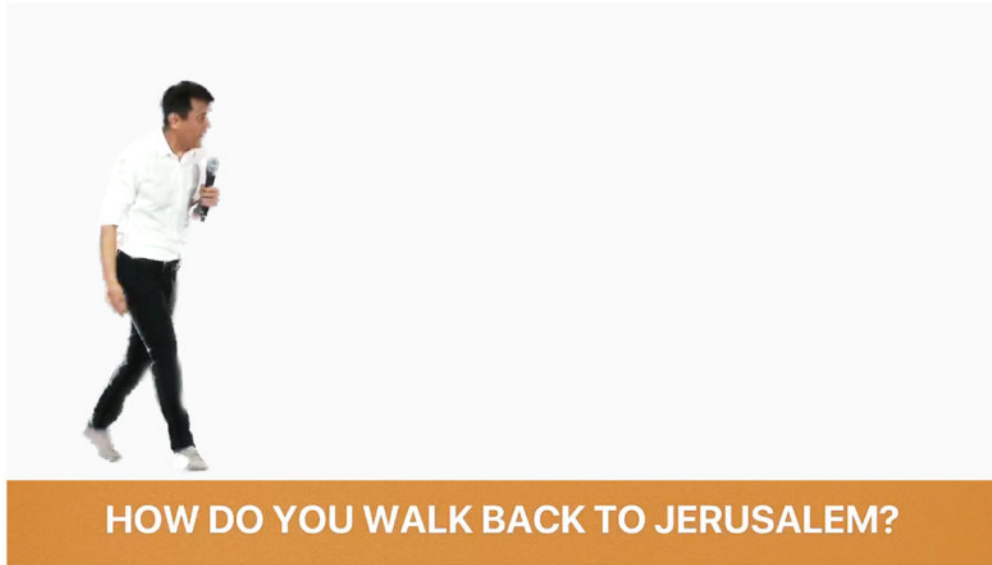
I was with some fellow missionaries-- a couple-- we were serving God together. I was single and they were married and they had kids. They were serving God but they did not have money. They were serving God full time but they could not put food on the table, and they could not send their kids to school. I felt their pain.

In my mind, I was saying, “Lord, here’s something wrong. Is this really Your plan? “

Maybe for single people like me, it’s all right. But for couples who are married and have kids... for crying out loud...

And so, little by little, my mindset began to change-- and I really felt, after a while, God telling me, “Set up a business, earn money, serve your customers with love, care for your employees, earn as much as you can, and then multiply your wealth and then give it away-- and serve, and be a blessing to other people.





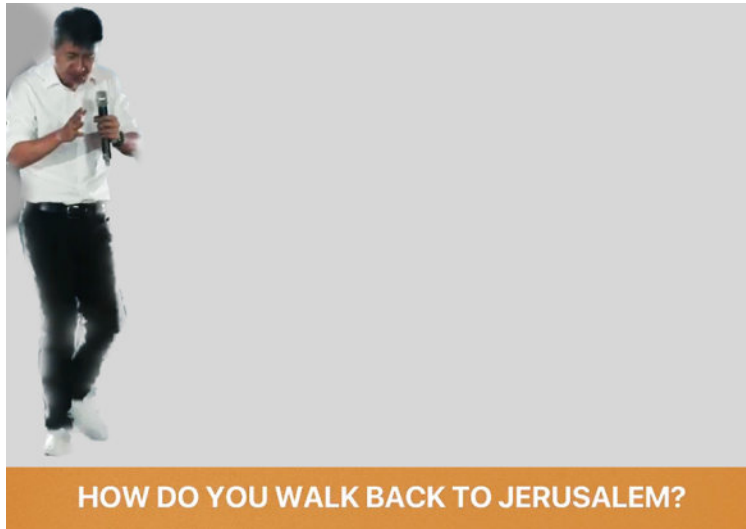
How do we walk back to Jerusalem? How do you take those steps?
If you hear someone say, “Bro. Bo, my goal in life is to go to Heaven...”
Question: What will your reaction be?
Isn’t it beautiful? “My dream is to go to Heaven!”
Wow. I agree. That person could be very holy. But I think his goal is incomplete.
Because if you go to the Bible, Jesus taught us to pray the Lord's Prayer:

“Our Father in heaven, Holy be Your name, Your kingdom come...”

You don't go to the Kingdom. You let the Kingdom *come*. Yes, you do your work and make an effort to walk towards Jerusalem. But that Jerusalem has to come down. And my Friends, how do you do that?

Well, just continue the Lord’s Prayer:

“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done...”



HOW DO YOU WALK BACK TO JERUSALEM?

How do you walk back to Jerusalem? Every single step, *you do the will of the Father* -- in whatever you do.

Every step, you do what the Father wants you to do-- in your family-- here on Earth. In your job-- here on Earth. Be the best engineer, be the best accountant, be the best cashier, be the best farmer, be the best BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) agent.

When you do the will of God, what are you doing? You're building the Kingdom of God with Jesus. You're bringing Heaven down on Earth.

You're doing that every time you serve at The Feast.

May we give a big hand to all our servants once again? -- I will never stop saying *Thank you* to all our servants. Without you-- 400 of you serving us here-- there would have been no Easter gathering. None, none, none. But because you said yes, we're all here now. I already said this yesterday, I will say it again: like every attendee, the servants paid for tickets for the four days of our Holy Week Retreat.

They did not say, "I'm serving. Can you give me a free ticket?"

Yes, we gave free tickets to those who could not afford the entrance fee.

But generally, they said, "Yes, I want to pay. Because serving is a privilege."

When you serve in a faith community, what are you doing?

You are letting the Kingdom of God come on Earth.



The New Portal

My Friends, that was a long talk. But I want to wrap the three talks into one.

Here's the good news: Didn't I say that the Garden of Eden is a portal between Heaven and Earth? Didn't I say that the Temple of Jerusalem is a portal between Heaven and Earth? Do you want to know that there is a new portal right now?

There is a new portal now and His Name is Jesus.

But that's not all. What else?

Don't take it lightly-- the name St. Paul gave us.

Paul said, "We are the body of Christ."

You're a part of that portal. When you love your neighbor, and when you serve the poor, and when you love your parents, and when you love your kids, and when you serve at The Feast-- guess what? You are giving people that glimpse of the Kingdom that is to come, of a New Jerusalem that is descending from above.

You are giving people a portal where they can touch Heaven.

Kilig

I did not tell my wife Marowe I'm going to do this... This is how I want to close...

My wife loves Korean drama Because of her, I also watch K-drama. We're watching on television... *Heart of Tears?*

Sis. MAROWE: *Queen of Tears.*

See, that's how much I love K-drama ☺

She loves it because it's *kilig*, thrilling, drama--romantic drama. And she knows that. She knows it's fake. It's not important, but it makes her smile.



You know when the actor does this, there's *kilig*.>



When they're walking and the girl accidentally falls, and the guy is able to catch her-- like this>

Slow motion...they look at each other ☺

She would ask me. "Love, are you still thrilled with me?"

My answer is "*Not anymore.*"

We have been married for 25 years.

This marriage is strong not because of *kilig*.

We have something far better:

Commitment, Character, and Christ.



I love you.

What Is Real

I was talking to a man in a restaurant. It was pretty awkward. You know, there were a lot of people...

He came up to me and said, "Bro. Bo, pray for me. Pray for my family. Pray for my kids..."

I already sensed there was a problem.

And he starts saying, "I have this other girl..."

Here was a 13-year-old marriage about to break apart. He was planning on leaving his wife.

I asked him, "Why?"

You know what he said?

He said, "I'm in love."

Oh, my gosh, he's no longer in love with his wife. He's in love with his new girl.

You know, I'm a gentle guy... I had to stop myself from strangling the guy.

Single people, if you're listening to me, please, please stop looking for *kilig*.

What a horrible foundation for any relationship. Relationship is not about *kilig*.

This guy was leaving his wife because of *kilig*-- for another girl.

I'm telling you, my wife and I, for 25 years, we don't have *kilig*. We have something so much better that I will never replace for *kilig*.

I love our marriage. I love you, Marowe.

It's not emotions. It's something
so real -- friendship.

You know *friend zone*-- isn't it a bad term?

I love this best friend of mine.

And we journey together...



Here's an announcement:
Jerusalem is coming into
your life. You're walking
back to Jerusalem, every
step, every time you do the
will of God.

Single people, choose
someone who walks with you
to Jerusalem. Don't look for *kilig*. Married
people, walk together towards Jerusalem.
As a whole family, parents and children,
walk together towards Jerusalem.

I'll end with this: Jesus lived for you,
Jesus died for you and rose from the grave
for you.

This is where the Trip to Jerusalem fails. In the game, the number of players
dwindles. You eliminate a chair; you eliminate a contestant.

In the real trip back to Jerusalem, we should increase in number. We should bring
people with us to Jerusalem.

Will you bring your children to the Lord? Will you bring your friends to the Lord?
Will you bring your officemates to the Lord?

How?

Be part of the portal where people can have a glimpse of Heaven coming down
on Earth.

*"Father in Heaven, we Thank You that today You are here. You have spoken to
us and You have blessed us. In the mighty Name of Jesus, we pray that the
Resurrection power of Jesus comes alive in us. The same power when You said, "Let
there be light..." And there was light..."*



Commitment

Friends, the same power that made the heavens and the earth, and the mountains and the hills and the valleys and the trees, and the galaxies and the stars and the constellation. The same

power that made the blind see and the lame walk and the lepers be cleansed. The same power that multiplied loaves and fishes to feed the multitudes. The same power that made this cadaver in a borrowed grave spark life... And the one and only King of all Kings, Lord of all Lords, walk out of that grave. The same power that made Jesus rise from the dead. That same power is now in you.

Put your hands on your chest and say, “The same Resurrection power is in me and I will walk every day back to Jerusalem.”

There are some of you, who are not experiencing everything that I talked about. Now, you’re really going through a lot of suffering... and pain. Maybe you lost a loved one. Maybe you’re buried in debt. Or there’s a relationship problem...

If that’s your situation, please know that you may just be like those two disciples walking away from Jerusalem. When Jesus is right there beside you, He will never leave you in your discouragement. He will never leave you in your points of giving up. And he’s going to be walking with you all the way until such a time when He will reveal Himself to you and then you will find yourself going back to Him.

Maybe for some of you, this will be the first time you will commit to Jesus. For most of you, it’s a renewal of your commitment. May I lead you in that renewal? Whether, again, it’s your first time or your thousandth time, mean every word, say this with all your heart:

Jesus, Thank You for not letting go of me. Tha even when I was walking in the opposite direction, You were always with me. And right now, I choose to follow You. I choose to love You. I choose to decide You are mine, I am Yours forever. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

LIGHT OF JESUS PASTORAL CARE

Someone Listened to Me

By ELAH CZARINA A. PEREZ

THE Light of Jesus Pastoral Care is a 24/7 Ministry that provides psycho-spiritual support to the emotionally burdened. As described in an earlier article in *The FEAST FAMILY* on the Ministry, you may tap its online website and someone is there to attend to you any time of the day, and to provide emotional support amid your difficulties.

I am truly blessed to support this Ministry as a donor. But the truth is that LOJ Pastoral Care supported me first. In my trying times during the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, someone listened to me.

God Pursued Me

Just to backtrack a little, I would say my life was pretty normal. I'm fortunate to be born into a complete family of five, be educated in good schools, and be given an opportunity to build a career in accounting, auditing, and human resources. I was the youngest in the family and would say I was "trained to follow" what my parents, Andy and Polly, and my siblings, Leah and Ely, would ask me to do. The FEAST FAMILY April 7, 2024 43



Someone Cares

My Nanay Polly is quite a disciplinarian, and when I was growing up, Sunday Mass has always been a part of our “obligation” to follow. She also reads inspirational publications, including the *Kerygma* magazine founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez, now called *The Feast*. She used to sell copies to her officemates (she’s now retired) and would also hand us her copy when she was done. My favorite portion was *The BOss*, the editorial column of Bro. Bo.



In time, I started working and became busy with my career.

But we all know how relentless God is when He pursues us.

He would not let you go astray from Him. By His grace, a friend at my workplace was a servant of The Feast Bay Area being held at the Philippine International Convention Center. Around 2012, she invited me, and some others as well, to attend The Feast. When I learned that Bo Sanchez was preaching, I was happy to join. In 2013, I attended my first Jesus Encounter Seminar—which provided more insights about the Light of Jesus (LOJ) Community and its mission to make disciples.

When I joined the LOJ Community, the good news became more and more clear to me: Christianity is having a close relationship with Jesus and being Jesus to others. Sunday Mass is not an obligation but a great sacrament where I can receive Jesus. Reading the Bible is not necessarily boring. There are actually exciting stories in the Old Testament! And a lot more.

Journeying with this Community was re-awakening and refreshing. But we all know that the faith journey will almost always include burdens and challenges that would make you seek and long for *pastoral care*.

You see, I met the love of my life during this journey. We got married, but issues surfaced during the COVID Pandemic, causing both of us emotional stress leading to separation. I planned to go abroad...

There was one day in March 2021 when I just needed someone to talk to – someone who would not have any bias about my situation and someone who could pray for me. I sent a message to the Ministry through Facebook Messenger-- and as promised, a “duty carer” responded to me, listened to my woes, prayed, and cared for me.

Who Takes Care of the Carers?

The problems did not really go away, but I felt the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit. Having experienced this pastoral care, I realized this Ministry is a blessing to people needing relief from their emotional wounds. In one of my prayer times, there was a prompting to support the Ministry. I guess this was because, at the back of my mind, I have been asking – who cares for the duty carers?

So, in October 2021, I did an online fundraising for my birthday which I called #100Kin20days – with LOJ Pastoral Care as one of the two beneficiaries, each to receive P50,000 or more (depending on the amount raised). My tagline was, “Facebook said I have more than 2,000 friends. If each would donate at least P50, I could pull this off.”

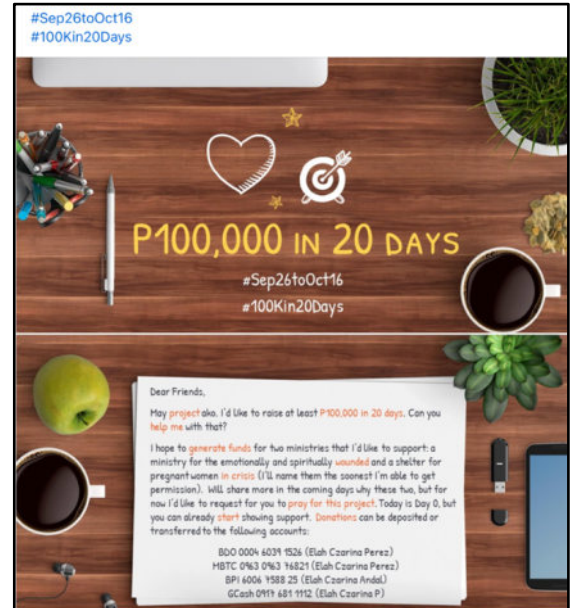
Miraculously, the funds raised were greater than P100,000!

Time passed by. Faith journey continued. New work opportunities came. And the plan to go abroad materialized. I moved to the United Kingdom. But the call to do regular financial support for this Ministry still popped into my prayer time. And so, beginning May 2023, I pledged to make monthly financial support to the LOJ Pastoral Care.

Around this time, I learned that, Sis. Michele Alignay would be leading this Ministry. It was like a confirmation from Jesus that I was doing the right thing.

Ichel, as I fondly call her, happens to be my sister’s friend who became my doctor-counselor (she turns into a harsh friend as necessary, ha-ha!). Ichel and I would make time to chat about our life updates, and she would provide me counsel, encouragement and suggestions on how I can overcome my situation.

Don’t be blown away with the “monthly” pledge-- it’s not really a lot. But it comes from a willing heart that responded to a call and a heart that seeks to be pure.



Jesus Got My Back

Throughout my faith journey, I learned that while there are big challenges that come my way, there are bigger blessings alongside them. And that these blessings aren't something we keep to ourselves--rather they are meant to be shared.

And somehow, the blessings keep on coming back. Proverbs 11:25 is so true, after all. It says: *"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."*



Bro. Aga and Sis. Vina Estrada planted The Feast Light Basingstoke years ago, so I can belong to a spiritual family. If you're in the UK, feel free to come and join us. We meet on Saturdays at St. Bede's School, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

As I write this, I am still away from home and from my family. Problems still come my way. Difficult situations still arise. I still struggle and will still likely struggle. But one thing's for sure: Jesus got my back.

And for that, I am truly grateful. To God be the glory!

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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
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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 support services from the Light of Jesus Editorial and Multimedia Assistance Ministry.**

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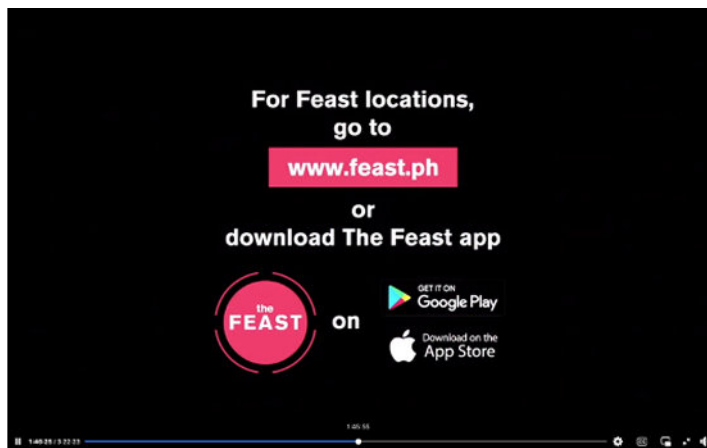
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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

