

YOU should be familiar with that term by now--- especially that election season is fast approaching.

Let me shock you: I've been a huge part of this ongoing *ayuda* or *dole-outs* throughout the country for many months now, which I'm told would continue.

But there's something I believe is significant with my role. Before the government doles, usually an amount of money, with food or goods, and sometimes with livelihood equipment, to thousands of people, I give them a talk. I did that again last Tuesday at the PhilSports Complex in Pasig City, to thousands of people from different parts of the National Capital Region (NCR).

I tell them: *"I'm sure you all came for the ayuda – and they all shout, "Yes!"*

And I acknowledge their need for that. Believe me, when you don't know where to get money to buy your next meal or your much-needed medicine, the *ayuda* quickly fixes that. Yet, we know it's temporary -- and I thank government organizers who allow me to bravely and truthfully say that, too.

So, I declare to them that they need to receive more than the *ayuda*. They need knowledge, wisdom, skills, stable opportunities, and above all, strong values and godly character – starting with our leaders! And they applaud louder.

I've always believed in not giving up on our country and our people. And in the end, I boldly declare that God is raising all of them – not just to receive but also to give – to raise others too, no matter their state in life.

Today, in Talk 5 of our amazing series, *Come and See*, learning deeply from the Gospel of John, we will talk about that. Because even then, people wanted quick fixes – especially for food or physical healing. And our Lord Jesus knew that reality because He healed people and fed them – miraculously!

Yet, He openly told them that too these solutions are temporary. That's why JESUS offered the permanent and everlasting solution: *Himself* – The Bread of Life, The Living Water, The Life-Giver!

Today, we'll learn that we come to The FEAST not just for the *ayuda*. Because we don't seek just for blessings. We seek the Blesser!

Don't just seek life. Seek the Life-Giver – and His Name is Jesus.

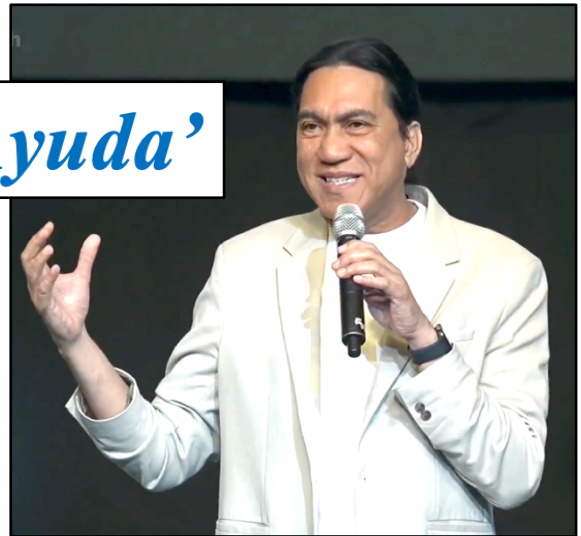
Welcome to The FEAST, where *you are loved!*

Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari Sa 'Yo!



Alvin Barcelona

'Ayuda'



**WELCOME
to our ongoing
Feast Talk Series:
COME and SEE
Talk 5:
Waters of Bethesda
and Bread in the Desert**



There Is *Forever*

YES, as we like to say it in Taglish, *May Forever*.

That's what Fr. Joel Jason affirmed in his Homily last Sunday Feast as he presented three messages on marriage and commitment based on last Sunday's Gospel, *page 3*,

There is forever when we know what to seek when we come to The Feast. Bro. Alvin Barcelona says so in his intro to our Feast

Talk series this Sunday, *page 1*.

There is forever because wherever we are, Jesus meets us there. That's the big message we learned in last Sunday's Feast Talk from preacher Bro. John Ben Rodriguez. *Flashback* starts on *page 16*.

There is forever because in our darkest moments, we have the *Light*. Bro. Jhonn Javier led us to Worship Him, *page 12*.

There is forever when we know what to give to God. That's the reminder of Bro. Nico Narvaez in our *Love Offering* section, *page 10*.

There is love forever.
There is life forever.
There is giving forever.
There is receiving forever.
There is joy forever
Thank You, Lord, forever.

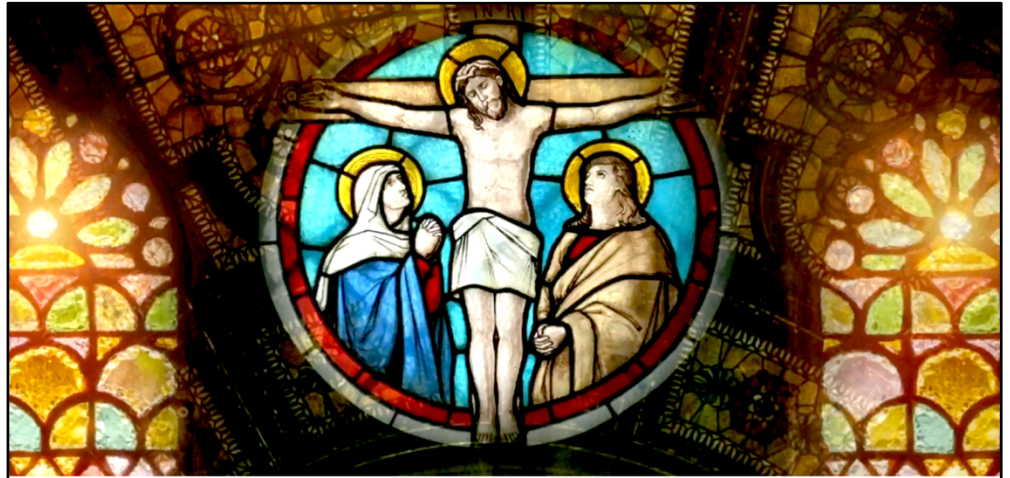
All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director



the
FEAST *FLASHBACK!*
OCTOBER 6, 2024

Holy Mass



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Homily

REV. FR. JOEL JASON
on the Gospel Mark 10:2-16

Excerpts:

Good Morning, to Everyone!

Our Gospel today reminds us of the plan of God for marriage and the family. The Pharisees came to Jesus and tested Him.

They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

Notice the premise of their question: "Is it lawful? Is it legal?"

As a response, Jesus did not take recourse to the law. He took recourse to the Word of God. Why? Because not everything legal is moral.

Many laws are evil in intent, and they are legalized. So, we cannot always take recourse to what is legal. What did Jesus do? He took recourse to the Word of God.

He said, "Moses allowed you to divorce your wife because your hearts were hard."

Moses was pressured. He was only a man, and the people were demanding. But Jesus is not simply a man-- He is God. That is why He said in the Gospel today, "But now, I say to you. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to his wife and the two of them shall become one flesh, and whatever God has put together, let no man separate."

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What Is *Forever of Marriage*?

My dear Friends, let us reflect today on this Word of God because Jesus clearly said in the Gospel that the intention of God for marriage is to be forever.

How are we going to understand this *forever of marriage*?

Let me propose three messages:

1. Forever is not only a ruling --it is a longing.

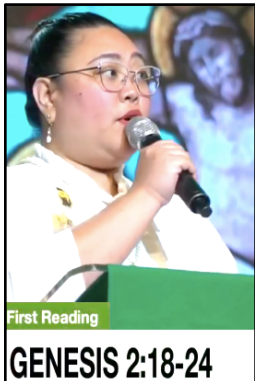
A *ruling* is a *law*. A *longing* is the natural desire of the human heart.

If we look at the *forever of marriage* simply as a ruling, what will we do?

We will rebel against it. That is our usual reaction against laws. But if we recognize that *forever* is a *longing*, we will not rebel. We will *revel* over it. We will rejoice over it. Why? Because it is not the Church imposing upon us. It is the Church articulating the natural longing of the human heart. That is the truth, right?

If I ask you, "What is the natural desire of the human heart regarding marriage?"

The answer is, "Forever."



First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

18 The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." 19 So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. 21 So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, 23 the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh.

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God's Plan for Marriage

Listen to the poems that we recite, to the movies that we watch, and to the songs that we sing. How many songs do you know with the word, *forever*?

"My Love, forever you will always be my only love. Forever, you will always be my faithful love."

"You were just a dream that I once knew."

"Forever in my heart..."

And the list goes on. I can sing songs with *forever* the whole day. But what is my point?

Forever is not a *ruling*. It is a natural longing of the human heart. Why is it that every time we attend weddings, and we see the bride walk down the aisle, we cry? The groom couldn't help crying, either-- while waiting at the altar.

Because we know that whenever a man and woman commit themselves to the *forever of marriage*, it strikes a natural chord in the human heart.

That is my point. *Forever is not a ruling, it is the longing of the human heart.*

That is why the Church, and Jesus in the Gospel, are not imposing. The Lord is simply articulating what is natural in our hearts. So, instead of rebelling against it, let us revel and rejoice in the *forever* which is the plan of God for marriage and the family.



Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6)

R: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives

1 Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways! 2 For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored. (R)

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table. (R)

4 Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.

5 The Lord bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R)

6 May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel! (R)

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2. Forever is not simply a sentiment -- it is a commitment.

Sentiment refers to the *emotion*. We know that emotions are temporary and flippant. It is there today and gone tomorrow. Forever cannot be based on that. If you want *forever* to be forever, it cannot be based on a sentiment. It must be based on a *commitment*-- not emotion but a *decision*.

I'm a basketball fan. Days ago, I was watching a documentary about the Chicago Bulls. It's called *The Last Dance*.

They were narrating one instance of the final game against Chicago and Phoenix. It was the Best of Seven. Chicago was already ahead by 3 wins and 2 losses. So, Chicago needed to win only 1 more game.

The last two games would be held in Phoenix, and so they were going to fly there.

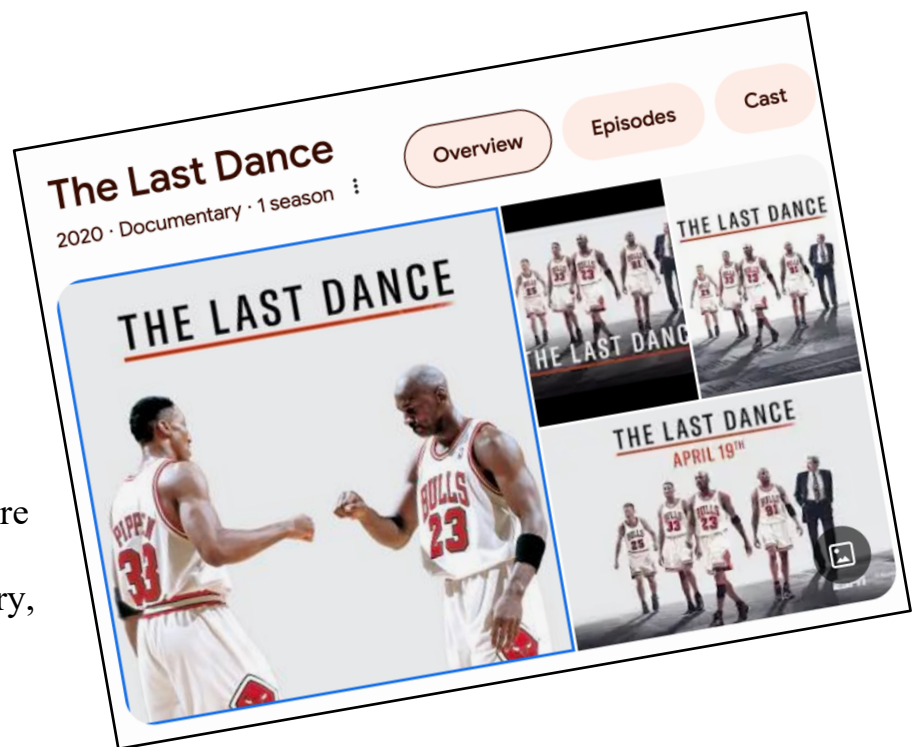
According to the documentary, when Michael Jordan came into their private jet, he said to his teammates, "I have in my bag a uniform only for one game.

Although there were still two games left, I have only one uniform. If you have two uniforms, take one out because we will not stay an extra day in Phoenix. We will win today. We will go home and celebrate the championship."

What happened?

Yes, they went to Phoenix, won the game, came back to Chicago, and celebrated their championship.

What is the point of the documentary? There is no turning back. Losing is not an option. That is what you call *commitment*.





No Turning Back

Napoleon Bonaparte, the conqueror of Europe, had the same mindset.

According to history, every time they would conquer a territory, right after they all stepped out of their ships, he would order that the ships be burned.

Why? Because they were not going back to the ships. They were going to conquer the land and settle there. That is what you call *no turning back*.

Losing is not an option. We come into marriage with the mindset that this is *forever*-- and that is our *commitment*.

We are thrilled whenever we hear the song *that goes, Ngayon at Kailanman. Sumpa ko'y iibigin ka.*" Because it means commitment. Do you think you'll feel thrilled when you hear, *Ngayon at Bukas Lang. Sumpa ko'y iibigin ka?*"

It's all a mindset. Also, losing is not an option. Going back is not an option. That is why we said *forever* is not a sentiment-- it is a commitment.



Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Brothers and sisters: He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers.



3. Forever is not impossible -- it is *Himpossible*.

Forever is not easy. It is hard but not impossible. It is not only not impossible, it is *Himpossible*.

What do I mean by that? In Him, through Him, and with Him -- the forever of marriage will be possible. When a man and a woman get married in church, they are placing their commitment in the hands of God.

If we rely simply on the power of our own commitments, we will not be able to live out the commitment of *forever*. But with God, it may not be easy. It may be demanding but it is not impossible, it is *Himpossible*.

I work in the commission of family and life. I have worked with many married couples on the brink of separation. But when they were introduced to the power of prayer and the power of the sacrament, their marriage was repaired, restored, and rejuvenated.

Every time I wed a couple, I tell them the first meal that you share as husband and wife is not the cake and the champagne. The first meal that you share as husband and wife is the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharist.

My point is that you cannot live the *forever of marriage* if God is not in the picture.

My dear Friends, it's not true that it takes a man and a woman to be in Heaven.

It's what the song says, "It takes a man and a woman. One magic moment to know they're in Heaven."

That's not true. It takes a man, a woman, and God to know that they are in Heaven. Because it takes two to get married-- but it takes three to stay married. That is why with Him, through Him, and in Him, the *forever of marriage* will be possible.

My dear Friends, as we continue this Holy Mass, we lift marriage and family to the Lord. We lift to the Lord all married couples present here and even those not with us here. We lift to the Lord all spouses who may be having difficulties in their married life. We pray that we may rediscover the beautiful plan of marriage and family.

Remember the three principles of marriage:

1. It is not a ruling-- it is a longing
2. It is not a sentiment-- it is a commitment.
3. It is not impossible it is *Himpossible*. Amen.



Welcome!



BRO. NICO NARVAEZ:

Beautiful Morning, FEAST!

Here at The Feast, we're part of only one team, and it's called Team Jesus.

I want to greet everyone here who came for the first time. Come on, Friends, let's give them a hand... Tell them "Welcome Home!"

I want to greet all our October Birthday Celebrators. Let us pray for you:



Father, we pray for this wonderful, wonderful gift of this person. This person gives us life, gives us light, gives us joy, and gives us peace.

Lord, bless this person with love, with joy, with peace, with rest. And we want to pray for this person's career, business, family, and heart. Lord, give this person many more years to come. In Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

Love Offering

Radical Generosity

I want to go to our giving. And to do that, I just want to share a quick story.

Back in the early 2000s, I used to play my Playstation 1 (home video game). Every single day, when I got home after school, I went to our living room, I turned on the television, connected the Playstation video, and clicked the night away.

One day, I came home, I went to our living room, and my Playstation video wasn't there. It was missing.

So, I panicked, and I asked my parents, "Mommy, Daddy, where is my Playstation?"

And they told me the most terrible and heartbreaking news.

They told me, "Son, our helper, she was going home, and she would no longer return to us. Sadly, she brought with her your Playstation 1. It's not going to be returned, either."

I was so confused. I was a kid. It was the first time something was stolen from me. I was so angry. But little did I know, that would be one of my best examples of radical generosity.

Because here's what my parents told me: "Son, let's shift our perspective. Let's think about it this way: Don't focus on your Playstation being stolen. Instead, let's focus on what's going to happen tonight: a little boy, just like you, will be the happiest kid in the province. Because right now, his mom is on the way home bringing him a brand-new Playstation 1."

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Prayer

I shared with you that story just to inspire you not to steal a Playstation. Okay? But to inspire you to also be radically generous-- just like what my parents taught me.

So, let's lift our Love Offering and pray:

“Father, Thank You for this blessing. This blessing came from You, and I just want to give a part of it back to You, back to Your Church. Bless me more so that I can give more radically, generously, in Jesus’ Mighty Name. Amen.”

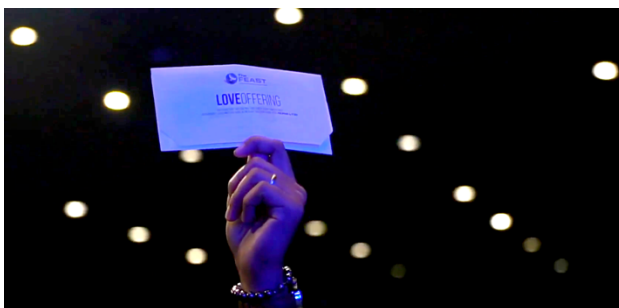


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Worship!

EXHORTATION

BRO. JHONN JAVIER:

Lord, we've heard of Your goodness. We've known about Your love. And so we come here today to Thank You, to praise You, to glorify You.

Maybe some of us here are living in the darkness. And we don't see Your goodness.

But today, God, we pray that You let Your Light shine upon us. You are the Light of the world.

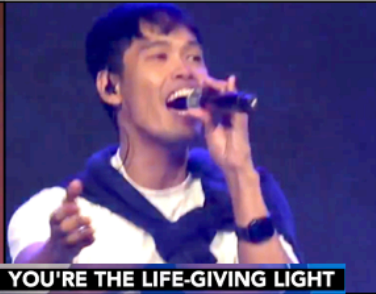
You are the Light that the world needs.

This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.





OUT OF NOTHING
YOU'RE CREATING



YOU'RE THE LIFE-GIVING LIGHT



WITH THE NEW DAY
COMES THE MERCY



LIGHT OF THE WORLD
TAKE OVER MY HEART



CONSUME EVERY PART OF ME
HELD CAPTIVE IN THE DARK



'TIL I CAN SEE YOUR HEART



DARKNESS CAN'T OVERCOME
THE RADIANCE OF YOUR LOVE



YOUR LIGHT SHINES
THROUGH ME NOW



FROM YOUR SUFFERING
TO YOUR RISING



THROUGH YOUR LIFE
I'M ALIVE



SO I'M LIVING
FOR YOU JESUS

THE WAY THE TRUTH THE LIFE
HERE I AM USE ME



TO SEEK THE LOST
AND TO BRING THEM HOME



CALL ME WHERE
YOU NEED ME

TO THE BROKEN
AND THE FARTHEST SOULS



HERE I AM SEND ME

TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT
FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP



HERE I AM USE ME



Producers
Zak Yokingco, Vernon
Lim & Feast Music

Writers
Vanya Castor, Veia &
Aio Barcelona

BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:

Father, we know that today You are in this place. So, today, we bring before You the concerns and burdens that have been sitting in in our hearts for so long. We believe that You can cause a miracle to happen in this place today. Because of Your grace and Your power. And we believe, Jesus, that You will answer our needs. You will answer our needs, oh God. And we believe that the answer to our prayers is beyond our needs. The answers to our prayers are beyond our own capacities with the gift and the plan for our lives are greater and wider than anything we can imagine. Because Your love is victorious and we know that Your love can overpower any fear, any worry, any doubt. Because you are here. And because You are God. That's why we sing and declare that You are the Light, that You are Lord and You are King. In Your Name. In Jesus' Name.



Friends, I want to give you this message today: It's not an accident that you are here. Can you look at the person beside you? That person is here today not by accident. You may be a first-timer who discovered The Feast online and you decided to come here.

You may had been invited, and you came here today. You might had been invited to join the Lux Retreat for Couples and you are now here as part of the Batch 32 graduates. Or you may be a regular attendee with your friends beside you

But the truth of the matter it it's not an accident. Because God's grace brought you here. He wants to bless you in this place.

Good morning, Everyone. My name is John Ben Rodriguez. For those of you who don't know me, I'm the Builder of Feast Binondo. So, visit us one of these days.

Today is the first Sunday of the last quarter of the year. How are you? Is your year going well? Were some of your dreams already answered? Are there some needs you're working for right now?

God is telling you: *"I will bless you in this place."*

Because the truth of the matter is some of us are still groping: "Lord, I still have tasks to accomplish by the end of the year."

But God is telling you: *"Delight in this moment first. I am here. This is your moment."*

Tell the person beside you. Tell five persons around you:

"This is your moment."



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

Let's now pray our favorite prayer:



TODAY, I RECEIVE ALL OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ME.
TODAY, I OPEN MYSELF TO THE UNBOUNDED, LIMITLESS,
OVERFLOWING ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S UNIVERSE.

TODAY, I OPEN MYSELF TO GOD'S BLESSINGS, HEALING, AND MIRACLES.
TODAY, I OPEN MYSELF TO GOD'S WORD SO THAT
I BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS EVERY DAY.

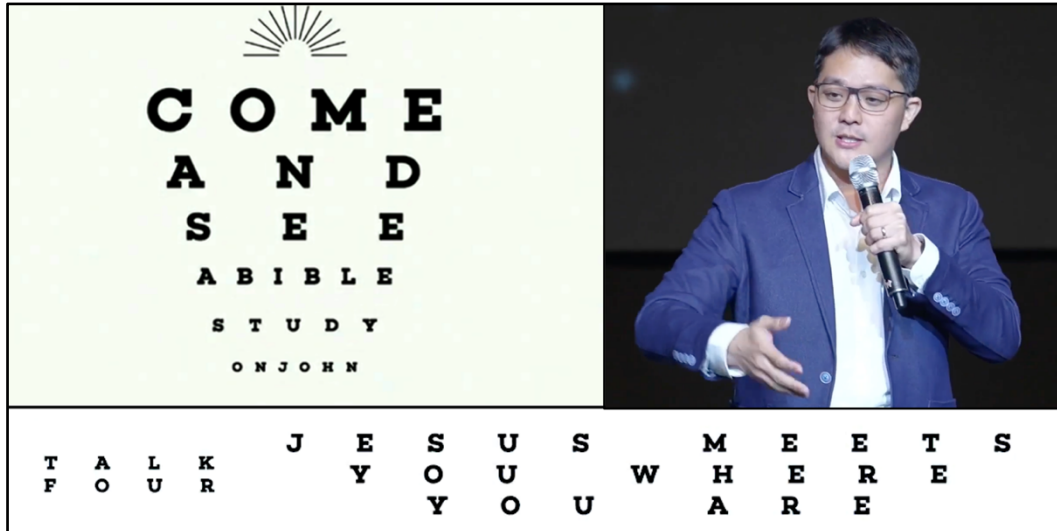
TODAY, I PROCLAIM THAT I AM GOD'S BELOVED. I AM GOD'S SERVANT.
I AM GOD'S POWERFUL CHAMPION. AND BECAUSE I AM BLESSED,
I AM BLESSING THE WORLD. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.

I now invite you
to raise your hands
to the Word of God
as we sing:
*Thy Word is a Lamp
unto my feet
and a Light unto my path*



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Talk



BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:

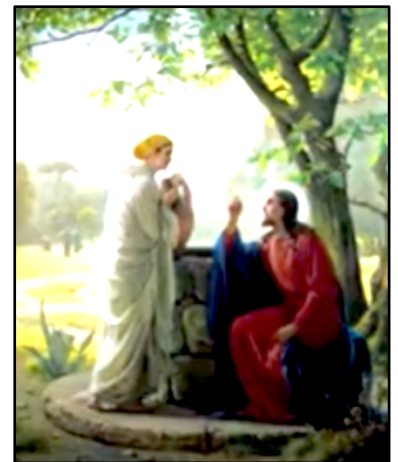
We're still on our series, *Come and See*. This series is about breaking down the Gospel of John, verse by verse.

Today, we're doing something different. I'm excited to share this with you. We will multitask in studying *The Book of John*. We're doing two chapters: John 3 and John Chapter 4.

These two stories from Chapters 3 and 4 are parallel. The author, John, intended for us to do it this way to see and compare the difference of these two persons encountering Jesus. We meet two persons with different backgrounds here. One person has power and authority. The other person was treated with shame in society. One person was a teacher of the law, and the other person was a violator of the law.

Here they are with Jesus: Nicodemus, the Pharisee (*right*) and the Samaritan Woman (*extreme right*).

Sounds familiar? It's like a drama series. There is the rich and the poor. There is the protagonist and the antagonist. That's why John wrote it as a reflective literature (a critical analysis of an experience on how it impacted the reader and what one plans to do with the new knowledge).



Let's Start with the Introductions



JN 3:1-3 NABRE

¹ NOW THERE WAS A PHARISEE NAMED NICODEMUS, A RULER OF THE JEWS. ² HE CAME TO JESUS AT NIGHT AND SAID TO HIM, "RABBI, WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE A TEACHER WHO HAS COME FROM GOD, FOR NO ONE CAN DO THESE SIGNS THAT YOU ARE DOING UNLESS GOD IS WITH HIM."

JOHN 4:4-9 NABRE

⁴ HE HAD TO PASS THROUGH SAMARIA. ⁵ SO HE CAME TO A TOWN OF SAMARIA CALLED SYCHAR, NEAR THE PLOT OF LAND THAT JACOB HAD GIVEN TO HIS SON JOSEPH. ⁶ JACOB'S WELL WAS THERE. JESUS, TIRED FROM HIS JOURNEY, SAT DOWN THERE AT THE WELL. IT WAS ABOUT NOON.

⁷ A WOMAN OF SAMARIA CAME TO DRAW WATER. JESUS SAID TO HER, "GIVE ME A DRINK." ⁸ HIS DISCIPLES HAD GONE INTO THE TOWN TO BUY FOOD. ⁹ THE SAMARITAN WOMAN SAID TO HIM, "HOW CAN YOU, A JEW, ASK ME, A SAMARITAN WOMAN, FOR A DRINK?" (FOR JEWS USE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH SAMARITANS.)

Notice that aside from differences in their backgrounds, there is a glaring difference in their encounter with the Lord.

Nicodemus went to Jesus. But as for the Samaritan Woman, Jesus was the one who went to her.

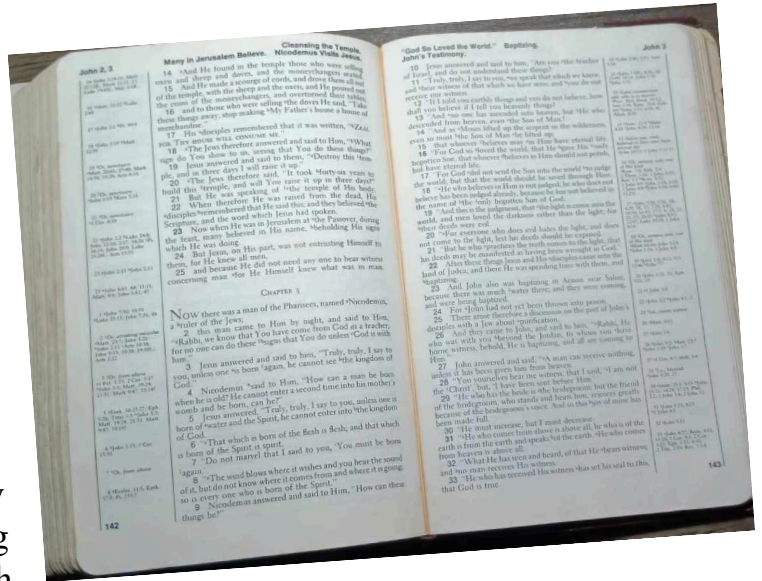
Nicodemus went to Jesus at night. Jesus met the Samaritan Woman at noon.

Although there were many differences, there was something common between the two: They both needed Jesus.

That's why they met Jesus. They encountered Jesus. I believe that we all need Jesus. I believe this because it was said that Jesus met the Samaritan Woman at noon, and He met Nicodemus at night. This means that in different seasons of our lives, we need Jesus.

I don't know about you. It may be nighttime in your life right now. Everything seems dark. You're losing hope. Bills are piling up. You don't know what to do with the problems...

Go to Jesus! He will meet you.



**THEY BOTH
NEEDED JESUS.**

The Message

Maybe, it's noon time in your life. The scorching heat of the challenges are wearing you down, causing you to sweat blood already...

Jesus will meet you where you are.

That's the big message of our talk today:

**J E S U S M E E T S
Y O U W H E R E
Y O U A R E .**

Jesus Meets You Where You Are.

We will discover why.

Jesus will meet us today as we break open His Word. With that, I invite you to pray.

Put your hands over your heart:

"Thank You, Jesus, for this good news that You are here. Thank You for setting time to be in this place right now to reveal Your Presence and Your Love.

Lord, I want to receive what You want to give me today. Make me open to receive everything You want to pour out in my life. This I ask in Your Name. Amen.

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

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



Three Truths about Jesus

Today, we will unpack three truths about Jesus by reading this Gospel in parallel.

1

JESUS LOOKS BEYOND
YOUR LABELS.



Jesus looks beyond your labels.

Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman are very different persons.

But look: Have you noticed, in what we read, it seems that they're hiding.

Nicodemus, the Pharisee, was hiding. He went to Jesus at night.

Just to give you a bit of context, the Pharisees were like the group of clerics in our modern-day Archdiocese of Manila. Nicodemus was not only a Pharisee. He was also a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin is like the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Manila.

At that time the Sanhedrin was composed of Pharisees and other elders.

Nicodemus was afraid to be associated with Jesus-- because Jesus was causing controversies around because of His miracles.

So, Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night.

If you look closer, the context of nighttime back then was very different from our modern-day nighttime. Here, at night, we have bright lights all over, there are establishments and stores open 24/7.

But during the time of Nicodemus, when it was nighttime, it was dark because there were no streetlights. You might be bringing a small lamp-- but that's it.

One interesting point: When Pharisees were mentioned in the Bible, they were just mentioned as *Pharisees*. But in John's story, for the first time, a Pharisee was named-- and his name was Nicodemus.

I think John is pointing out to us that we cannot do this: judging people by their labels so we will realize that they are individuals.

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**NICODEMUS
WAS HIDING.**

No to Labels

During election, we tend to dislike people who voted for the candidate that we do not like. Sometimes, it limits you from seeing the person for who he is.

That's why it saddens me that when you look at social media nowadays, after you see the post, you look at the comment section. It's entertaining to see the comment section. But sadly, instead of the social media platform being a venue and tool for people to communicate, to exchange ideas, and to converse well, it has become a breeding ground for haters and bashers.

It's like that when you are judging people by their label.

So, when we look at the Samaritan Woman, we notice she was also hiding. How could she hide in broad daylight? It was noon. Would you get water from a well at noontime? Most probably not.

Spoiler alert: She was ashamed because of her background. She was a mistress, so she went to the well at noon.

Here's the reality: Our labels can either limit us or leverage us.

Labels can either limit us or leverage us.

There is this story. One time, there is this new Vice President hired by a new company.

So, this new VP wanted to make an impression to the people that he has authority and that he can make things happen.

One day, in his office, the VP noticed that an employee was about to come in.

He picked the phone and pretended to be talking to someone, "Yes Sir, we'll get it done. We'll deliver it by next week."

When the employee was already in his office, the VP put down the phone and told the employee, "I just spoke with the CEO."

Then, the employee said, "I just came here to fix the phone because it was reported that it was broken."

Sometimes, our labels affect us so much that we want to put up an image.

My question to you is this: Are you hiding from something? Is your social media designed to create a front to project this image that you can go to these places, that you could wear these things. If you can, then that's fine. But try to examine your heart. I want to remind you that Jesus looks beyond the labels and you do not need to put on any face or any label to be accepted by Him.

Can you hold the hand of the person beside you and tell that person: "No more hiding."

If that's your husband, tell him, "No more hiding. Tell me how much your salary is?" 😊



**THE SAMARITAN WOMAN
WAS HIDING TOO.**

2

JESUS TELLS YOU THE TRUTH.

Jesus tells you the truth.

The truth sometimes can be painful. But Jesus will always confront you with the truth. Let's read how He confronted the Samaritan Woman:

JOHN 4:16-18 NABRE

¹⁶ JESUS SAID TO HER, "GO CALL YOUR HUSBAND AND COME BACK."

¹⁷ THE WOMAN ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "I DO NOT HAVE A HUSBAND." JESUS ANSWERED HER, "YOU ARE RIGHT IN SAYING, 'I DO NOT HAVE A HUSBAND.' ¹⁸ FOR YOU HAVE HAD FIVE HUSBANDS, AND THE ONE YOU HAVE NOW IS NOT YOUR HUSBAND. WHAT YOU HAVE SAID IS TRUE."



What an issue!

This could be a telenovela. Notice that Jesus knew her exact needs. She had five husbands and the sixth not even a husband.

What does the Samaritan woman really need? It's true, lasting love.

Now, let's go to Chapter 3. Jesus talks with Nicodemus.

JOHN 3:3 NABRE

³ JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "AMEN, AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, NO ONE CAN SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITHOUT BEING BORN FROM ABOVE."

THIS IS WHAT JESUS SAID AFTER NICODEMUS SHOWS HIM WITH AFFIRMATION

JOHN 4:10 NABRE

¹⁰ JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HER, "IF YOU KNEW THE GIFT OF GOD AND WHO IS SAYING TO YOU, 'GIVE ME A DRINK,' YOU WOULD HAVE ASKED HIM AND HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU LIVING WATER."

THIS IS WHAT JESUS SAID AFTER HE ASKED THE SAMARITAN WOMAN FOR A DRINK, AND SHE WAS RESISTANT TO GIVE HIM ANY



So, Nicodemus' reply to the Lord in John 3:4 was this:

Listen...

Instead of "born from above," some other translations say, "born again".

<p>JOHN 3:4 NABRE</p> <p>⁴ NICODEMUS SAID TO HIM, "HOW CAN A PERSON ONCE GROWN OLD BE BORN AGAIN? SURELY HE CANNOT REENTER HIS MOTHER'S WOMB AND BE BORN AGAIN, CAN HE?"</p> <p>JESUS JUST NICODEMUS THAT HE HAD TO BE "BORN AGAIN" OR "BORN FROM ABOVE," DEPENDING ON THE TRANSLATION</p>	<p>JOHN 4:11 NABRE</p> <p>¹¹ [THE WOMAN] SAID TO HIM, "SIR, YOU DO NOT EVEN HAVE A BUCKET AND THE WELL IS DEEP; WHERE THEN CAN YOU GET THIS LIVING WATER?"</p> <p>JESUS JUST REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS THE SOURCE OF LIVING WATER, EVEN THOUGH JUST A COUPLE MINUTES AGO, HE WAS THE ONE ASKING FOR A DRINK</p>
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<p>JOHN 3:9 NABRE</p> <p>⁹ NICODEMUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?"</p>	<p>JOHN 4:15 NABRE</p> <p>¹⁵ THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM, "SIR, GIVE ME THIS WATER, SO THAT I MAY NOT BE THIRSTY OR HAVE TO KEEP COMING HERE TO DRAW WATER."</p>
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What is this verse telling us?

Are Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman just being sarcastic?

Or they just do not get what Jesus is saying?

Here's the reality, Brothers and Sisters: Sometimes, we might be hearing Jesus but we're not getting what He is saying.

In Feast Binondo, I usually ask our attendees to come forward if they want to be prayed over for their specific concerns. I love doing that. It gives me so much meaning in life. I believe God blessed me to do it. I also know that silver and gold I do not have but what I have, by the power of Jesus, I give to these people.

One day a woman came to me after the Feast Binondo.

She said, "Brother, can you pray for my hearing?"

So, I asked her name and I said, "Okay Sis, let's bow down. Let's pray:

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

Lord, by Your grace and by Your power, I claim that she be healed in every cell of her body. That her hearing be restored so that she may experience the sound and the beauty of Your World. In Jesus' name. Amen."

After my prayer, I found the woman a bit confused and dumbfounded. I was wondering what happened.

I asked her, "Sis, how is your hearing now?"

The woman told me, "Bro, my hearing is scheduled on Wednesday."

Oh, my God, I thought it was *physical* hearing. I did not know that it was a *court* hearing. I prayed the wrong prayer.

Oh, my God. What would she think of me?

Sometimes it's like that. When God gives you a message, you take it literally or you don't understand it all together.

Reflect... Again and Again...

Husbands and boyfriends, are you hearing your wife or your partner's message clearly? Because sometimes, you don't. You take it literally.

That's why the book of John is designed to be a reflective, meditative literature. You will not get it after reading just one time. You must read it, reflect, read it again, and reflect again.

It's the same with our wives. Husbands, when you ask your wife if you can go somewhere else and she tells you, "Okay..." So, you went. But when you get back home, you find out she's suddenly angry at you. You wonder what you did.

Then you must reflect and meditate. You forgot that that her saying "okay" could mean a thousand things-- depending on her facial expression and body language.

Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman also misinterpreted what Jesus was saying. But the amazing thing was Jesus patiently journeyed with them.

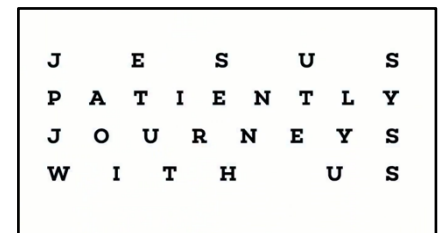
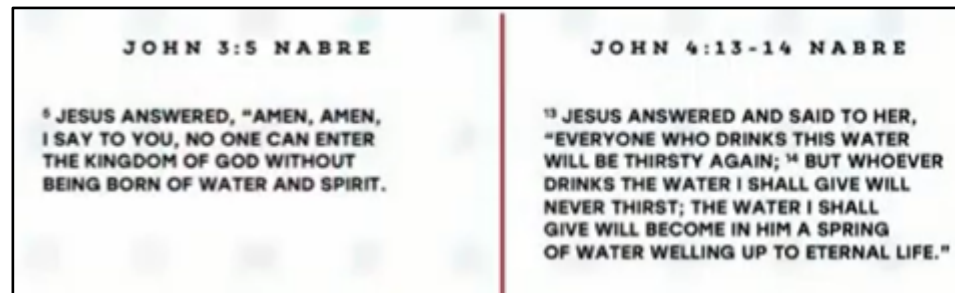
Here's what He told them>

If you got a message from the Lord and you feel that it doesn't align with what you think, come to God again and say, "Lord, bless me with clarity."

Jesus will patiently journey with you until you learn and understand what He is saying.

Between the two, are you Nicodemus or are you the Samaritan Woman? Who can relate you relate with? Are you like Nicodemus who has all that he needs.

The challenge for people like Nicodemus is to see their need and purpose for Jesus. The Nicodemus story was there for us to realize that everybody needs Jesus.



When You're In Charge...

Who are managers and parents here? You have heavy responsibilities. Sometimes, we have this authority and power, and we feel that everything rests, rises, and falls within our capability and decision. We who are in charge are expected to make things happen and it's painful when we have given everything and nothing happened.

When you're in charge and you're tempted, the danger is when you take matters into your own hands.

Who are parents here? It's difficult raising kids. The temptation of our power and authority over our kids is to force our way into them.

I have a three-year-old toddler. I cannot understand why simple things such as wearing a pajama takes her two minutes to finish. It infuriates me.

One time, we were brushing her teeth. I had to put one finger on her cheek to make sure that her mouth was open-- and she bit me so hard that flashback of my past came rushing in my mind.

I was so angry, I wanted to smack her on the face. But I suddenly remembered that I was preaching this message. It happened this week.

I must use this power responsibly. I cannot just beat her for her not to do it.

I properly explained to her that what she did was painful.

We people with power are asked by God, like He asked Nicodemus, to take matters responsibly in our hands.

Like the breadwinners. You have heavy responsibility-- especially, if you're a breadwinner for your current family and a breadwinner for your parents or even extended family. Let's clap for our breadwinners.

I'm a financial planner and sometimes it breaks my heart when I see people who cannot handle matters about their finances well.

I was guiding a single lady who had a good paying job. We started with listing her expenses in the cash flow and I noticed that her grocery was P25,000.

Every month, she consumes one sack of rice. She does not splurge on shopping.

I told her, "You must love groceries more than shopping. Your groceries are too high for a single person."

Then she told me, "Bro, I'm the breadwinner of the entire compound. My brothers and their children are there. That's why we consume one sack of rice per month."

This lady is buried in credit-card debts. Her three credit cards are all maxed out. I told her that she cannot take all the family responsibility in her hands because it is beyond her capacity.



‘Funny’ Story

If we can do something, we always tend to overdo it.

For those like Nicodemus, you can delegate upwards to Jesus. That is what God is telling you in this manner. You can delegate upwards. You may delegate the things that only rest upon you to the God above who has a bigger resource, who has a bigger perspective, and who is more powerful than you are.

Last story about this:

Recently, I received a proposal for a brand deal in my TikTok account. It was good. It was from a company that sells dashcam. The proposal stated that they would give me a dashcam. They would create a "yellow basket" in my TikTok account. They would spend for my ads. Lastly, they would share profits with me. It looked like a six-figure deal.

Then they asked, "Are you okay with the timeline?"

It was sent last August. The timeline was for September.

I told them, "I'm not good with the timeline."

I remembered that I must use this influence and power in the right way. I told them that I try to make my brand deals as authentic as possible. I told them that if it's possible, I want to use the product first for a good one month. I'm willing to buy their product so that when I give a review, it will be authentic from my experience.

They said, "We'll ask management."

That offer was given last August. It's now October. Ask me the magic question: "Did you get the brand deal?"

I did not get the brand deal. It's painful because I know I cannot sell and just promote their product without having a hold and feel of it. That's using my power and influence in a wrong way.

That is the invitation for people like Nicodemus.

But don't worry because God is telling you: *"I am here for you. It's okay if you cannot do all things and be all things. Even if it seems that way, God is with you. God is telling you to believe in His promise."*

One time, there was a brokenhearted woman. She got a random text message that said, "I am here for you."

So, she was happy. She thought: "Lord, this is it! You are encouraging me."

She replied to that message: "Thank you so much. Your message came in a good time. I'm going through something. By the way, I lost all my contacts. Who is this?"

The person replied, "I am your Grab driver. I am here for you."

It's funny...

But God is here for you.





Can You Let Go?

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 NIV

**"WHAT NO EYE HAS SEEN, WHAT NO EAR HAS HEARD,
AND WHAT NO HUMAN MIND HAS CONCEIVED"--THE THINGS
GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM"**

God is there for you. You can put your burdens upon him. You do not have to carry it alone.

Are you more like the Samaritan Woman?

You are used to being alone because you are afraid of what others might say about you. You are filled with so much shame because of your own sins.

The challenge for people like the Samaritan Woman is to see that they can be saved.

Please take note that when you are filled with shame, it can happen to both extroverts and introverts. Extroverts express it in another way. They always like to be with people because when they drown themselves in the presence of people, they forget their own thoughts and their own situation.

For introverts, they always like to stay alone.

But God is telling you in John 8:31-32 >

Remember that Jesus gave two truths to the Samaritan Woman about her situation.

First, He confronted her about her physical situation with five husbands and everything.

Second truth is when the woman was asking, "Where can I get the Living Water?" Jesus said to her in John 4:25-26: *"I am He. The one who is speaking with you."*

If you notice the pattern, it's interesting how John wrote it. Five husbands. The sixth man is not even a husband. She was a mistress. The seventh Man who approached her with true love was Jesus.

In the Bible, seven is a number of perfection. Jesus is telling you that His love is greater than your circumstances or biggest mistake. Have you failed because of your sin? God is telling you that perfection can happen in your life. Jesus can turn your imperfect past to a perfect future.

For those like the Samaritan Woman, God is asking you now: "Can you let go? Can you surrender?"

**C H A L L E N G E
F O R P E O P L E
L I K E T H E
S A M A R I T A N
W O M A N :**

**T O S E E T H A T
T H E Y C A N B E
S A V E D B Y
J E S U S .**

J O H N 8 : 3 1 - 3 2 N A B R E

**"IF YOU REMAIN IN MY WORD,
YOU WILL TRULY BE MY DISCIPLES,
³² AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."**

You Can Be the Light of God

So, what happened to the Nicodemus and to the Samaritan Woman after they encountered Jesus?

JOHN 4:28-29 NABRE

28 THE WOMAN LEFT HER WATER JAR AND WENT INTO THE TOWN AND SAID TO THE PEOPLE, 29 "COME SEE A MAN WHO TOLD ME EVERYTHING I HAVE DONE. COULD HE POSSIBLY BE THE MESSIAH?"

She left. This connotes that she left everything --her burdens.

Finally, everything feels light because she has met the source of the Living Water.

JOHN 4:39 NABRE

39 MANY OF THE SAMARITANS OF THAT TOWN BEGAN TO BELIEVE IN HIM BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF THE WOMAN WHO TESTIFIED, "HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING I HAVE DONE."

That is God's promise for you.

Whatever you're going through right now, God is telling you: *"When you rise from this, this will reveal My glory to bless other people."*

JOHN 19:39-40 NABRE

39 NICODEMUS, THE ONE WHO HAD FIRST COME TO HIM AT NIGHT, ALSO CAME BRINGING A MIXTURE OF MYRRH AND ALOES WEIGHING ABOUT ONE HUNDRED POUNDS. 40 THEY TOOK THE BODY OF JESUS AND BOUND IT WITH BURIAL CLOTHS ALONG WITH THE SPICES, ACCORDING TO THE JEWISH BURIAL CUSTOM.

But God is telling you that you can be like Nicodemus. Stay there even if the organization has a different culture and it's not godly. God is asking you stay there. Be a Nicodemus there. Renew and try to do little things that you can.

If you have met God and you're in government, and you know the red tape that's been happening in government, God is asking you stay in your position.

Try to influence doing good-- little by little. Because it's a big thing. You cannot handle it alone.

Jesus said: *"Follow me in whatever way you can because you can be the light of God wherever you are."*



When God resurrects you from your sin and brings you from your rock bottom to rise to victory, it will not just end with you. He will even use you to bless others.

Do you notice the situation? Nicodemus was already there helping when Jesus died.

I can relate to this because some people might have a difficult time saying,

"Lord, I cannot abandon all. I am responsible for so many people."

3

JESUS BRINGS YOU TO WHERE YOU MUST BE.

Jesus brings you to where you must be.
An encounter with God will change
your life.

Do you want that encounter with Jesus
today?

Do you want Him to be with you today in your needs
and in your troubles?



JOHN 3:16 - 17 NABRE

**16 FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON,
SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MIGHT NOT PERISH
BUT MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. 17 FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON
INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD
MIGHT BE SAVED THROUGH HIM.**

In my younger days in faith, whenever I would read this,
I always thought about how Heaven would happen-- if I would do good here
on Earth and that when I die, I would go to Heaven.

But in what we have read today, God is telling you that you need not die
to experience Heaven. Heaven can happen now amidst the situation, labels,
challenges, and shame that you have in your life.

This is what salvation means: experiencing Jesus here and now wherever you
may be.

God is asking you today: *"Will you come to me regardless of your background,
capability, and burdens? Because I'm here and ready."*

Let's pray:

*"Almighty Father, we Thank You because you have spoken your Word here.
We want to delight in Your Presence Lord. Embrace us. Fill us. Empower us.
Make Your Presence known in our lives as we worship You."*



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.

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Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Mercy Ministries. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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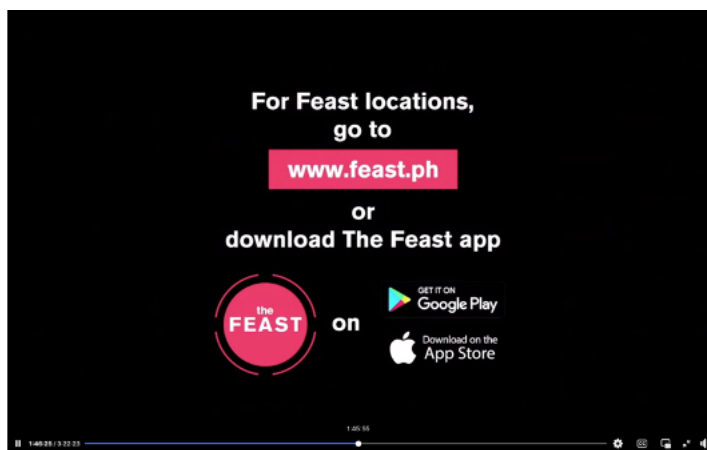
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

