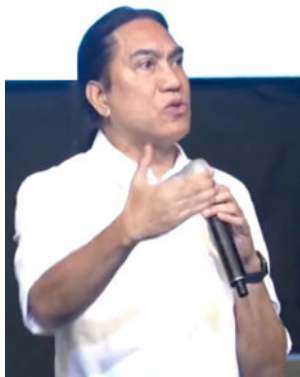


## *Crowned and Crucified*

HAVE you ever been praised and exalted -- only to be put down and humiliated? Crazy, right?

Yet, Jesus our Lord was hailed King -- and then was crucified.

But here's what's crazier: He allowed it to happen, when He could have easily stopped it all!



Yet, we know that embracing suffering and dying on the Cross was *The Greatest Act of Divine Love*.

He said it Himself: "*There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" -- John 15: 13

But do we really understand and realize what this was all about – what this truly means?

In the climactic Talk 9 of our series *COME and SEE*, we truly dive deeper into what the Gospel of John is showing and telling us. In this talk, we won't just know and learn.

*Together, we stand at the foot of the Cross.*

Prepare to go through the four main movements in the Passion story: (1) the Arrest; (2) the Trial; (3) the Crucifixion, and (4) the Burial. You'll meet familiar characters: Peter; Pilate; the Roman Soldier; Joseph of Arimathea; and Nicodemus – and ask "*Who am I among them?*"

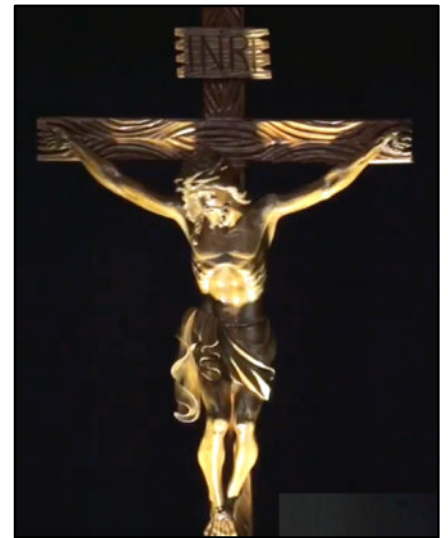
You'll also rediscover that following Jesus means gaining a new family—God as Father, Mary as Mother, having many brothers and sisters, with the Church as your home.

Get ready for another full packed FEAST!

Welcome to The FEAST, where *You are Loved!*

*Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari Sa 'Yo!*

**Alvin Barcelona**



**WELCOME**  
to our ongoing  
**Feast Talk Series:**  
***COME and SEE***  
**Talk 9:**  
***The Greatest Act***  
***of Divine Love***



## *Who Is the Winner?*

WE were working on this issue of *The FEAST FAMILY* the week that the Americans were choosing the next occupant of the White House. And they chose Donald Trump.

Who was your choice? Did you win or did you lose?

Ooops, this issue is not about politics. But yes, it's about winning or losing.

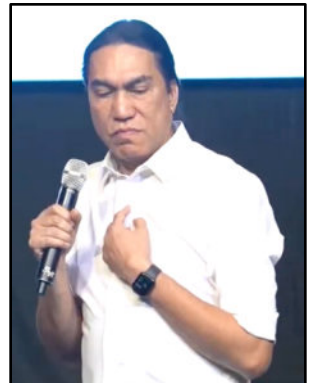
The first week of November was also about All Saints Day and All Souls Day-- Halloween, or the better term, Holyween.

So, in his homily last Feast Sunday, Fr. Bob McConaghy presented winning or losing in our journey in this life and thereafter. Yes, not *who* wins, but *what* to win, *page 3*.

We do know the Winner: Our Lord Jesus Christ! Even as He was betrayed by the person whose feet He washed. We reflect on why Jesus did what He did in Talk 9 of our ongoing Feast Talk Series, *COME and SEE*. Intro by Bro. Alvin Barcelona who seems to be pointing to who is winner, *page 1*.



Oh, well, we win when we believe, we have faith, that we already are winners when we're with the Winner who wants us to be sure *what* to win!



Can you imagine if Jesus did not want to share, to give His life for us? Bro. Audee Villaraza asked that on *page 11*.

If you attended The Feast last Sunday and listened to the Talk, you already know the answer.

Bro. John Ben Rodriguez shared, gave us the *Flashback*, starting on *page 17*.

So, did your candidate win or lose?



All for God's Glory,

**Randy Borromeo**  
Media Ministry  
Executive Director



## Holy Mass



**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### Homily

**REV. FR. BOB  
McCONAGHY**

on the Gospel Mark 12:28-34

Excerpts:

I'd like to take a moment to express my gratitude for your prayers when I was in the hospital. I was in a van accident. After six nights in the hospital, I had a heart episode. I'll talk about that at the Feast Con (Feast Conference). But thank you for your prayers. I'm getting along a bit better.

*Undas*. \* Death.

On Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2, most of you went to the cemetery. Unlike Americans, you stay there for a while.

We go to the cemetery on May 31st because it's a lot warmer outside. We bring wreath or flowers. We say a prayer. We're there for about 10 minutes and then we go home.

You have a healthy attitude towards death. Because you go there as a family to be with a member of the family who is gone but that family member is not *in* the grave but in what they left behind.

The truth of the matter is they're more alive than we are. More alive than I am.

Let me share with you a moment of *undás* -- or a moment of death.

---

\*Derived from the Spanish phrase *Día de los Santos*, which means *All Saints Day*, the word *undás* can also be an acronym for **Unos *D*ías de los *A*lmas y de los *S*antos** which means *Days of the Souls and the Saints*.



## A Peaceful Moment

In 2019, I had what they called transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). My valve went bad. They put in a pig's valve that they told me would last for 15 years. Well, if that's the truth, I'll be 100 and it'll still be there.

After the surgery, I was in the Intensive Care Unit. Then they let me sit up, and a priest came and gave me Communion. After taking time for prayer, we started talking to one another.

That night, the priest came to visit me and said, "Don't ever do that to me again."

I said, "What?"

He said, "I've been a hospital chaplain for a long time, and I've never seen something like that before. You were right in the middle of a sentence and your eyes went back in your head."

My heart stopped-- for two minutes.

I never remember my dreams. I couldn't tell you what I dreamt last night.

But I can tell you that at the moment of death-- and that was almost five years ago-- I saw the most beautiful horizon: a light color purple.

Suddenly, I heard a loud sound, and I was brought back to where I was. I wasn't allowed to go forward.

When they brought me back, I heard the doctor saying, "The external pacemaker is not working. We have to get him right up to Surgery!"

Normally, I would panic at something like that. But I was absolutely peaceful.

They took me up to Surgery, the anesthesiologist said, "Hey, you were here just a few days ago."

I said, "It's good to see you again. How are you?"

Meanwhile, the doctors were saying, "He might die! Let's get this done!"



### First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

*<sup>2</sup> Moses spoke to the people, saying: "Fear the Lord, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! <sup>5</sup> Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today.*



## Moment of Judgment

The first thing I want to share with you today is that no matter what the pain leading up to death is-- I experienced it-- the moment of death, your graduation day, is absolutely peaceful.

What happens at the moment of death? What does the Church teach?

Well, we have what is called our *particular judgment* which is really our final judgment.

Because at that moment, all eternity will be decided-- but not in the way that we think it will.

We think of a judgment as *us* coming before Jesus and *Him* pointing out all the sins of our life and then sending us somewhere that we don't want to go. That's not what the Church teaches.

When we come before Jesus, we will never feel more loved than we will at that moment of judgment.

There are three choices.

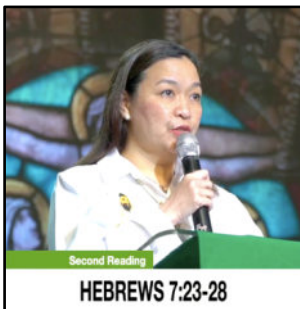
The first choice: If we lived an evil life, never repented, and didn't know how to love, Jesus still gives that soul a chance to repent.

How do we define Hell?

Well, in the Catholic Catechism, Hell is defined this way: A definitive state-- that means forever-- A definitive state of self-separation from God and His love.

God is love. And if God is love, He can do nothing but love us even if we're evil at that very moment. He'll respect our choice.

Hell is not somewhere we are sent. Self-separation. Hell is a reality that we choose.



## Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

<sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters: The Levitical priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office, <sup>24</sup> but Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup> It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever.

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## Definitions

St. Faustina, in her Diary, the basis of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy recording, said for the soul on way to perdition, Jesus comes and enters into a dialogue with that soul. If that soul shows the slightest movement towards sorrow and repentance, God's mercy takes care of the rest.

You might say that it's unfair. But mercy is always given when it's not deserved.

You might say, "Well, I might as well eat, drink, and be merry, have all the fun we want since Jesus is going to try and talk me out of going to Hell."

He might. We might choose to go through what the Church defines as the final stage of our purification before we enter into Heaven--and we call that *Purgatory*.

Now, there are artists who have drawn descriptions of Hell. They are artists' descriptions. The Church has never defined the nature of the sufferings in Hell.

Though the Church has proclaimed many as saints in Heaven, not even one time in the whole history of the Church-- as evil as some are-- has the Church said that it believes that Hitler is in Hell or that Kim Jong Un will be going to Hell, that Mussolini is there. No. Because there's always that spark of the possibility of mercy.

To understand Purgatory, we have to go to Heaven.

St. Catherine of Genoa, who is called as the Mystic of Purgatory, said something very surprising.

She said as for Heaven, there are no gates there.

What about St. Peter? Is he like a bouncer at a discotheque who decides who can get in and out? If you think about it, that doesn't make sense. Why would Peter want to be outside Heaven to begin with?

St. Catherine said this: "As for paradise, God has placed no doors there. Whoever wishes to enter, does so." God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with arms open, are waiting for you to come in. But she also said, "The soul that has but the slightest sin would rather throw itself into a thousand hells than appear before the Divine Presence." Tongue cannot express nor can the heart understand purgatory which the soul willingly accepts as a mercy. -- *Treatise on Purgatory* by St. Catherine of Genoa.



## All About Love

The *Book of Wisdom* (Wisdom 3: 1-9) says: The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them... In the view of the foolish, they may appear to be dead and they're going forth from utter affliction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope filled with immortality.

Everyone in Purgatory has had the beatific vision. Everyone in Purgatory knows they are going to go to Heaven. They've been assured of that.

And that's why St. Faustina said the only thing that exceeds the joy of the souls in Purgatory is the joy of the souls of the saints in Heaven.

We hope that all saints are those from our family. That's what we pray for. We also pray for the souls in Purgatory because they cannot pray for themselves.

So, when you say the Rosary, for example, that's an opportunity to pray for 55 persons by name that you have known during your life and who have died. When you pray for them-- we have been told-- they know it is you who prayed for them. And because they cannot pray for themselves, guess who they pray for? They pray for you.

So, death is not to be feared. The moment is peaceful. That's the first.

God, who is love, can do nothing at that moment but love you. You can reject that love entirely because He has given you freedom or you can accept that mercy and go through a healing in which you detach from all those things that you substituted for God's love.

So, it's all about love-- not about punishment. Jesus took that punishment on Himself.

And so as we prepare to go into the excitement of Feast Con and Christmas, we stop, and we take a look at that.



### Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51)

**R: I love you, O Lord, my strength**

*<sup>2</sup> I love you, O Lord, my strength, <sup>3</sup> O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer. (R)*

*My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold! <sup>4</sup> Praised be the Lord, I exclaim, and I am safe from my enemies. (R)*

*<sup>47</sup> The Lord lives! And blessed be my rock! Extolled be God my savior, <sup>51</sup> you who gave great victories to your king and showed kindness to your anointed (R)*



## Be Not Afraid

Now, this is private revelation. And so you can accept it or reject it.

Eileen George, who is a great mystic of the Church, is being put up for sainthood. She came to my parish two times. When she would go to Korea, she would fill up an Olympic Stadium because she had the genuine gift of healing. She would not ask you what you had because she already knew.

She said, "You're being healed of..."

And they would be healed. I asked her about Heaven because the books written about her are called *Conversations in Heaven*.

Every time that she would receive Holy Communion, she would be taken mystically to Heaven. When she would give priests retreats-- high school graduates only-- she would talk about Heaven.

We would ask her, "Do those who go to Heaven miss us?"

She said, "No, they don't. Because there's no time in eternity. They don't have time to miss us so that when you and I show up, it will seem to them as though they just left."

We asked her, "Would they want to come back?"

She said, "Fr. Bob, you loved your mother, right? But as much as you love her, would you want to go back in her womb?"

I said, "Of course, not."

She said, "As much as they love us, no more would they want to come back than you would want to go back into your mother's womb."

Finally, I asked, "Do they see us?"

She said, "Yes, they do. You went to the cemetery on Friday or Saturday, they saw you because not only did you remember and mourn a bit, but you were together with the family where you probably told stories and laughed together."

She added, "The Heavenly Father draws back the curtain and allows our loved ones to see us-- but only when we're laughing and smiling."

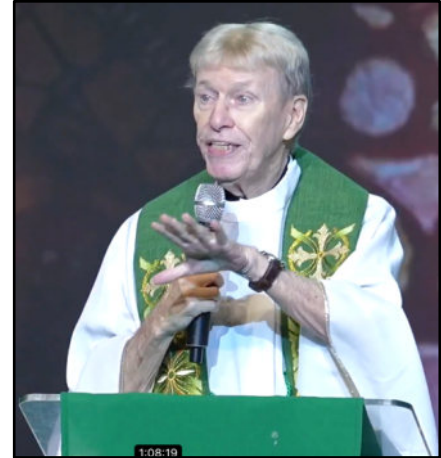
I said, "Why?"

She said, "There is no sadness in Heaven."

So, when we pray that those who are going through this final stage of their coming through to Heaven, we'll do it peacefully that this place of healing called Purgatory, not punishment, is a place where they will grow day by day toward Jesus who is bent on nothing but drawing them to Himself.

So, when it comes to death, my Friends, be not afraid.

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# Welcome!

**BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:**



Good Morning, Everybody! Isn't it a good morning?

They say that there are two kinds of people who wake up in the morning:

The first says out loud: "Good Morning, Lord!"

The other person says, "Good Lord, it's morning!"

Which one are you?

If you're the first kind, can you Hi-5 10,000 persons around you and say, "Good Morning!"

If you're online, put on the Chat box, "Good Morning!"

It's a beautiful day to be here in the Presence of God.

We want to thank Fr. Bob for that beautiful Homily, for celebrating the Holy Eucharist here.





## Welcome, Birthday Celebrators!

Because it is the first Sunday of the month of November, we'd like to call the VIPs here today. All those celebrating their birthday in November, please stand up. We'd like to pray for you. We'd like to look at you. We'd like to know who's giving us a treat today 😊

Friends, quickly, just lay your hands on them. Let's pray:

*Lord, we join our hearts for these persons. Thank You for the magnificent life You have given them, oh God. May You continue to teach them how to persevere in their faith walk, so that they will never ever give up. Teach them how to believe, even trusting You all the more. And we pray, oh, God, that You enlarge their territories this year-- that they will experience an increase in their life-- physical, mental, financial, spiritual. We claim the very best that Heaven has to offer for all of them. This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Everybody, say, "Happy Birthday!"

## Welcome, First-Timers!

We'd like, of course, to welcome those who are joining us for the first time.



Welcome to The Feast! You could not have come to The Feast at a better time than today. Because you only have *today*. Did God promise you tomorrow? Did God give you a

letter of guarantee that you are going to be alive next week?

We don't have that. We have only today. So, every day that you wake up, every day that you breathe, you praise God because He gave you *life*.

So, welcome to our Family! After the session, please do not leave. I'd love to personally meet you and welcome you to the Family.

## Welcome, LOJ Pioneer!

We'd like to acknowledge somebody special. He's also a first-timer in PICC. But he's not a first-timer in the Light of Jesus Family. Welcome, Bro. Jun Fontecha!

Friends, Bro. Jun joined the Light of Jesus on September 9, 1980. Back then, he was walking on Chicago Street (Cubao, Quezon City), and happened to pass by a house where there's a sign that said: *Prayer Meeting Every Tuesday*.

The following Tuesday, Bro. Jun, you showed up, right?

On that day, our leader, Bro. Bo Sanchez, announced that they' going to establish a prayer Community. He asked for a raise of hands of those who would like to join and Bro. Jun was one of them. He went on serving the Lord in this Community-- until 1999 when he and his family migrated to the United States.

It's such an honor and privilege for me to see the people who started this Community.

Now, Bro. Jun, look around you. This is how big the Community is right now-- because we stand on the shoulders of people like you who said *Yes!* to God.

And now we are enjoying the blessings of the Lord. Thank you so much. We honor you here today.



## Welcome, Everyone!

There are many events that are happening in our Community, my dear Friends.

As your leader, and as your shepherd, I want to thank you for supporting and sustaining our Ministry.





## Love Offering

Quick sharing:

Parents know this. Our children have a difficulty sharing -- it's like a crime for them to share. We have two kids-- one 7 years old, and the other 3 years old. And 90% of their fights are always about the thing that they' like to share with one another. Like it's a sin for them to share.

Every time I am absent in the house-- because I am at The Feast or at work-- the moment I arrive at our doorsteps, one of them would shout, "My Daddy, my Daddy!" Then the other one also comes and shouts, "My Daddy, My Daddy!"

And next thing I know, they're clinging around my legs, and I cannot move. But it gives me joy.

At one point, I imagined, what if Jesus was not somebody who shared. What if Jesus was the kind of person who said, "No, don't pray *our* Father, because He's *my* Father. Look for your own father."

Imagine if Jesus never shared bread, and told you, "Go, get your own bread. This is *my* bread."

But Jesus said to all of us: "Take this Bread. Take this Cup. Take my Life. My Peace, I give to you."

Because Jesus shared with us what it's like to share with other people.

And then Jesus said this: "If you want to have a life that has meaning, a life that has joy, follow me. Do what I do. Take the template of my Life and copy exactly what I do."

So, Jesus has given us the secret to live a life of meaning-- and this is what? To share, to give. So, every time you put an amount in the Offering basket, you partake in the life of Jesus. You follow in His footsteps. You are copying His secret to joy, and love, and purpose.

You want to experience the Life of Jesus?

Jesus tells you today: "Follow me. Do what I do and let people experience my life."

Learn how to trust in God. And learn how to go beyond your needs by sharing what you have.





## Thank You for the Blessings

We still have these envelopes for petition for prayers for the faithful departed. Get one, fill it up, and drop it in our Offering basket. We are praying for your petitions.

Now, Everybody, lift your Love Offering envelope and together, with me, I'd like you to say this:

*Dear Jesus, Thank You for blessing me. Thank You for loving me. And Thank You for forgiving me. The amount that is here is mine to give-- but it's yours to use. So, I pray and I claim that in Your Name You will multiply this and You will use this to reach each person who is far from You. Thank You, Jesus. Amen and Amen.*



**Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.**



 Apostle Lay Ministries Foundation, Inc.	 Grace to be Born Maternity Home and Nursery	 The Care Foundation Street Children Caring Center	 Jeremiah 33:3 Foundation	 Papa and Family Scholarship Foundation
 LOJ Prison Ministry	 LOJ Pastoral Care Center	 H&M, Mary of Alina	 Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer	 Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation, Inc.

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## Worship!

### SIS. LUAN FEDERIGAN:

Come on, FEAST. Are you ready to receive God's blessing today? So, if you are hungry, if you are so willing to receive God's blessings, open your heart right now to His Word.

As he said in Jeremiah 17:7: *Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.*

So, let me invite everyone now to be in the position of Worship, and with faith and confidence, let's put all our trust in Him, as we sing this song:

Our God is always faithful and trustworthy. But sometimes, it's so hard to receive God's blessings-- just because we feel so unworthy to receive those blessings.



But you know what, Brothers and Sisters, the truth is, God has already defined our worth. Because He died on that Cross. And he gave His life for us. And all of those things He had conquered them for all of us.

So, in gratitude for God's faithfulness, we give Him all our hearts, all our minds. We give Him everything as we worship today...

Come on, Brothers and Sisters, I invite you now to just surrender everything to our God.

Yes, Lord, empty us right now of all our doubts, all our despair, and fill us with Your love as you us send out. Send us out, oh, Lord-- so we may spread Your Word and Your love.









**BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:**

*God, our Father, we believe that You are here in this place today. You came to meet us. You came to dwell with us. You came so that we can experience Your embrace. And we know, Father, that because You are here, Your provision is here. Your joy is here. Your peace is here. Your mercy is here. Your eternal love is here.*

*That's why today the desire of our hearts is that Your will be done oh, God. Let Your work continue in our lives. Let Your powerful work happen in our lives. We surrender to You. May Your Perfect Will happen in our lives. In Jesus' Name. Amen*





## NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE **DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE**

### **BRO. JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:**

We Praise You Jesus! You are good.  
You are King. Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus.  
Amen.

As early as today, Brothers and Sisters,  
I want to declare this truth to you: That God  
has a wonderful plan for your life.

Maybe you're thinking, "I cannot feel it  
because my life is in ruins. My life is messy.  
There are problems left and right."

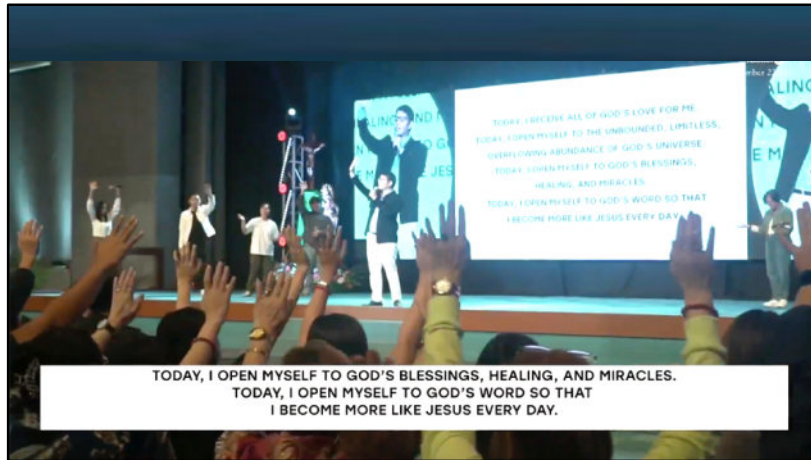
You know what that tells me? That just  
means that God is not yet finished with  
the beautiful plan that will happen in your life.  
If your life is not yet beautiful now, trust that God is still at work.

While we're waiting for that to happen, we must continue coming here  
every Sunday. We continue worshipping God. We continue seeking Him  
because I know that our God will stop at nothing until that beautiful plan happens  
in your life.

Do you believe? If you believe that truth, I want you to tap as many persons  
around you and tell them: "God has a plan for you."



If you're ready let's all  
pray our favorite prayer.  
*In the Name of the  
Father, the Son, the Holy  
Spirit. Amen.*  
Let's lift our hands:

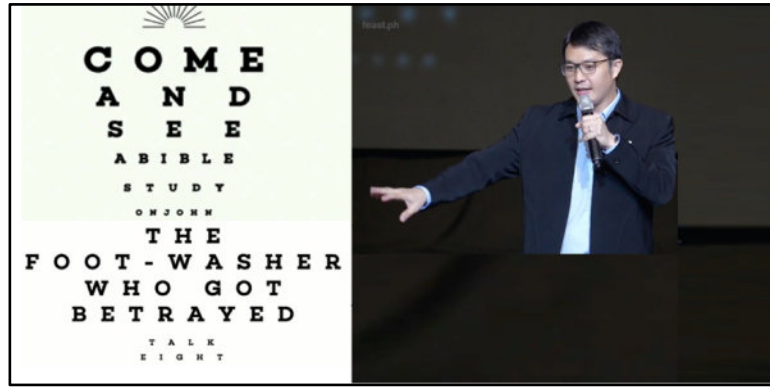


Let's raise our hands  
to the Word of God:



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

## Talk



We're still in our Feast Talk series, *COME and SEE*. We have been really chewing on the Gospel of John.

Talk 8, *The Foot-Washer Who Got Betrayed*, we go a bit fast because we'll be discussing Chapters 13 to 17 of John. There are three main events that happened in those chapters.>

These three events start with these words: "Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his **hour** had come to pass from this world to the Father. (John 13:1a NABre)

In the entire Gospel of John, Jesus was talking about *the hour*. If you remember the miracle of the Wedding in Cana, here, Jesus was telling Mother Mary, "The hour has not yet come for me to do this." In some other accounts in John, you will see Jesus telling people, "The hour is yet to come." But in this verse, we're reading, *the hour* has come.

The six *signs* (the miracles of our Lord Jesus) that we are talking about in this series, are pointing to *the hour*. This is *that hour*: The seventh *sign*.

I love what is said in John 13:1B: Jesus loves you *until death*.>

Imagine that Jesus was telling that to Himself: "It's my time."

He knew the implications of that. He deliberately chose to go and do that because of His great love for you. Jesus loves you to the very end.

Why? Because to Him, you are worth saving.

You might say, "Bro, I am unworthy because I'm sinful. My life is not good."

But God deems you worthy of His sacrifice. If there's still this question in your heart right now: "Does the Lord really love?"

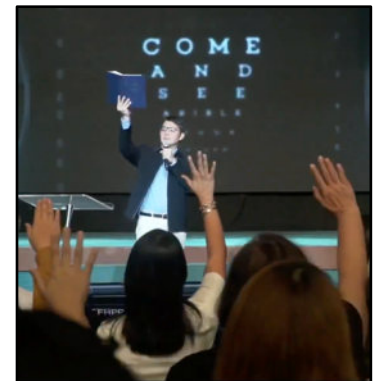
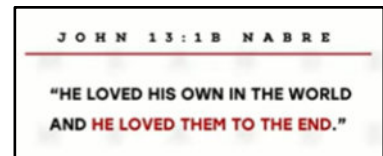
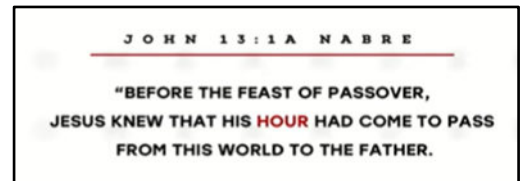
I think this answers it: The Lord loves you until death, *to the very end*.

Let's pray:

*Lord, I know that You love me. Teach me to appreciate Your sacrifice for me. I am valuable. I am forgiven. I am loved. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Let's raise our hands to the Word of God.

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





FIRST EVENT

---

WASHING DIRTY,  
MUDDY, SMELLY FEET



*JESUS LOVES YOU.* That is the big message of the talk today, from Chapters 13-17.

You might notice that in the past, we were discussing the talks by chapter-- usually, one to two chapters per talk.

This time, in Talk 8, we're taking five chapters-- but when you read them, you feel how John slows down time, retelling— blow by blow—what happened in the last 24 hours of the earthly life of Jesus.

*The hour* begins with a common tradition-- washing the dirty, muddy, and smelly feet of the disciples.

The washing of the feet was a common practice back then-- done by servants.

For example, if you're in a rich household, you would have four kinds of servants:

Servant No.1: The *mayordoma* or head servant who commands everyone.

Servant No.2 : The PA or personal assistant of the boss.

Servant No. 3: A group of skilled workers-- such as the cooks or gardeners.

Servant No.4 :The slave who was usually assigned to do the most undesirable tasks, such as the foot washing.

So, imagine Jesus doing this task for His disciples.

You would imagine their initial reaction: "Why would He do this to us?"

Nowadays, modern foot washing happens on a Holy Thursday.

Your parish priest would invite us, "Brother/Sister, may we invite you for the honor of having your feet be washed on a Holy Thursday?"

If you said yes, what would you do next? You would go to the mall and have a pedicure and a foot spa to remove the little dirt on your toes so that when Father sees it, it would look beautiful, and it would smell like vanilla or an essential oil.

But back then, nothing like that. There were no paved roads but just muddy roads. People didn't wear shoes, just open-toe sandals. So, they had something like what we call *athlete's foot*-- hairy, long toe nails riddled with fungus, bacteria (often growing between toes).



## How Jesus Loves You

Let's read what happened:

JOHN 13:2-5 NABRE

"SO, DURING SUPPER, FULLY AWARE THAT THE FATHER HAD PUT EVERYTHING INTO HIS POWER AND THAT HE HAD COME FROM GOD AND WAS RETURNING TO GOD, HE ROSE FROM SUPPER AND **TOOK OFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS**. HE TOOK A TOWEL AND TIED IT AROUND HIS WAIST. THEN HE Poured WATER INTO A BASIN AND BEGAN TO WASH THE DISCIPLES' FEET AND DRY THEM WITH THE TOWEL AROUND HIS WAIST."



Can you imagine your boss or your leader suddenly taking off his clothes, putting a towel around his waist and starting to wash your feet?

I bet the disciples were quite awkward.

Imagine that you're a factory worker. Your Chief Executive Officer (CEO) suddenly comes in. So, along with your co-factory workers, you line up because you want to please the CEO.

Suddenly, the CEO comes to you and says, "There's dirt on your shoe. Let me wipe it."

I bet you will shrink in embarrassment. Probably, that's what the disciples felt at that time.

But I believe that Jesus washed His disciples' feet because it's concrete example of His love.

Initially, Peter was kind of saying, "No, Lord, do not do it. I cannot accept that you're doing this to me."

But in John 13:7, Jesus tells Peter: *"What I am doing to you, you do not understand now. But you will understand it later."*

What is this telling us? Jesus loves you to the very end, even becoming Servant No.4, the servant that does the undesirable tasks, to show His love for you.

What are the two greatest Commandments? It's to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. When God tells you that you must love your neighbor as yourself, this is the *self* that He is talking about.

Are you ready to love your neighbor?

JOHN 13:7 NABRE

"WHAT I AM DOING, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND NOW, BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND LATER."

**JESUS LOVES YOU TO THE VERY END—  
EVEN BECOMING SERVANT NUMBER 4—  
TO SHOW HIS LOVE FOR YOU.**



Aside from demonstrating His love for His disciples, Jesus has another point on why He washed His disciples' feet. Jesus wants a reversal of social structure.

One day, three godchildren boasted to each other:

Grandchild No.1 says, "In our ancestral property, my grandfather did an excavation to know our history. We dug 100 feet. You know what he found? He found copper wires-- which means that our ancestors had telephone years back before it existed.

Grandchild No.2: "My grandfather did an excavation in our ancestral property. We dug 150 feet. We found not only copper wires but also aluminum antennas-- which means that our ancestors had telephone and television broadcast signals already many years back before they existed.

Grandchild No. 3: "My grandfather did 200 feet of digging but found nothing. So, we dug deeper-- 250 feet. But still, we found nothing. We dug again-- down to 300 feet. We found nothing at all. No copper wires and no aluminum antennas. Do you know what that means? Our ancestors already had Wi-Fi!"

It's the way that we look at the world. Whoever has the most power, the most riches, the most followers on social media, or the most number of Labubus\* -- are on the top of the food chain.

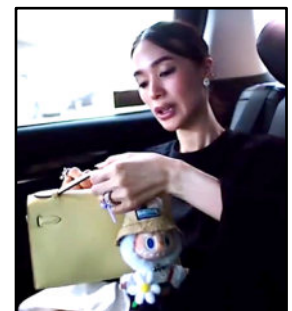
What is this telling us? Jesus wants a reversal. The things that we think are valuable are not bad per se but he's trying to teach us another focus.

TO JESUS,  
SENIORITY DOESN'T MEAN  
SUPERIORITY BUT SERVANTHOOD.

IN A COMMUNITY  
OF JESUS  
FOLLOWERS,  
THE POWERFUL  
MUST SERVE  
THE POWERLESS.

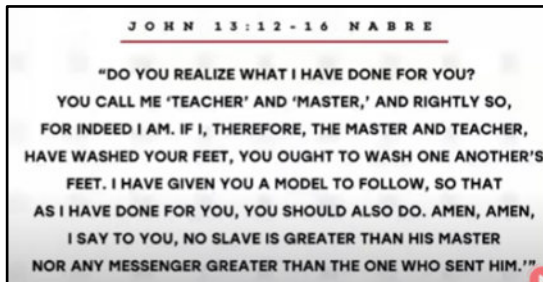
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\*Labubu is an elf known for her mischievous personality introduced by Kasing Lung, a Hong Kong-born artist based in Belgium. The character is part of *The Monster* television and online series about European fairy tales. Endorsed by celebrities, collecting Labubu dolls is now a craze worldwide, including the Philippines. *Here*, a Tiktok video shows actress and fashion icon Heart Evangelista with her Labubu.



## Jesus' Invitation

Are you using your power, your resources, your time, and your authority to serve people? That is the invitation of Jesus in this Gospel:



You might be wondering:

"Do we really have to go to work now and ask our officemates to remove their socks and their shoes so we will wash their feet? Do we do it literally?"

Of course, not. But the invitation of God is for you to apply and use what you have to serve others.

I'm part of an exclusive membership club which is called Life Begins at 40 Club. I recently became a member so, I'm a newbie. For the past five years, my wife Athena and I were already very deliberate on having medical checkups-- Annual Physical Exam or APE. Aside from the usual blood work, we go with the SGPT, SGOT, LDL, HDL, HBA1C, and fasting from sugar. For the young people who don't understand, a time will come that it will make sense.

We hired a house help, and we thought of shouldering her APE. We brought her to where we were having it. My wife and I had HMOs (Health Maintenance Organization health insurance) so we don't pay anything.

But we were shocked when our house help's bill came out. It was so expensive. So, we decided to bring her to a public hospital-- but it was still expensive. It was around P3,000.00 for everything.

We were thinking if we should still continue with it-- but we remembered this call from God. Yes, it may mean spending a little more but how many can have access to something like this? How many have the means to allocate for this?

Maybe this is our way of serving. I may just have let go of buying a pair of shoes for that. Maybe that's a simple invitation from God.

If you're a business owner and your profits are good this year, maybe you can share a little more. If you're a boss in your company, maybe you can make it a little more conducive for your employees to have a balanced family life. I'm not saying that you to abuse yourself. Let me be clear on that-- because Jesus did not let Himself be abused. He decided to do this deliberately.

For some, it may be different. If some people are so dependent on you to the point that it's already toxic dependency, the servanthood that you might need to give them is tough love at this moment. Are you ready to give that tough love?

It's always easy to just give in. Discern well.



SECOND EVENT

---

JESUS LOVED JUDAS  
TO THE END

The second event that happened after the washing of the feet is Jesus loving Judas to the end.

Remember that Judas was also at the Last Supper and that would mean that Jesus also washed Judas's feet.

If I were Jesus, this is what I would do: I would not start washing Judas' feet until I'd washed the feet of the other disciples-- and so, I'd used up the water and soap.

Once I arrived to Judas, I would tell him, "Bro, sorry. We ran out of water. It's nighttime already. God bless you."

But Jesus did not do that. Even if he knew that Judas would betray Him. What did Jesus do? Jesus honored Judas. Check out what He did in John 13:26>

Back then, if your master or Rabbi handed you a piece of food, that was a gesture of honor.

Do we have Koreanovela fans here? When the CEO of the company pours out soju (alcoholic drink typically from rice or sweet potatoes) to your shot glass, that is a gesture of honor. That is also free because he pays for it.

That's what it means when Jesus served Judas>

This shows us that to the very end, Jesus saw goodness in Judas.

There is an unspoken message in this gesture: Jesus at the very end was trying to compel Judas: *"Hey, Judas, I know what's in your mind. I know what you're plotting. I know what you're planning to do but I'm still serving you. I'm still loving you and telling you that this is not you. You are created better. You can decide to do otherwise."*

Are you like Judas?

You'll probably say, "Of course not, Brother!"

Most of us can relate with the other disciples:

*"I'm like Peter. I want to be bold in declaring my faith."*

*"I feel I'm like John. I'm so loving with teaching people."*

But you might not hear anyone saying, "Sometimes, I feel like I'm Judas."

Because we use *Judas* for cursing. We tell people we hate, "Hudas ka!"

Even in the jeepney, a sign says: "God knows HUDAS not pay."

But I think we are like Judas at the brink of temptation-- and we decide to give in to that temptation.



JOHN 13:26 NABRE

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"SO HE DIPPED THE MORSEL AND [TOOK IT AND] HANDED IT TO JUDAS, SON OF SIMON THE ISCARIOT."

WHAT JESUS DID  
FOR JUDAS

---

- 1 JESUS WASHES JUDAS' FEET.
- 2 JESUS MADE HIM SIT BESIDE HIM.
- 3 JESUS GAVE HIM BREAD.

## Like Judas Did:

What a waste.

Judas was given a chance to change his mind, but he still gave in to the temptation.

I believe Jesus' gesture is very powerful also because it shows us that God respects our "free will" -- so much that He does not intervene with what we do. But this gives us a warning.

The word *nighttime* in the verse is symbolic. It could mean a time of great crisis or difficulty. Judas entered the night or the darkness.

But let us not lose hope. Because note that *the hour* of Jesus-- which will be His greatest act of love-- begins with darkness.

I want you to hold on to this. If you're struggling with sin and temptation, God is telling you: sin may seem big. Sin may seem powerful. But it's just the trick of the enemy trying to make you think that the temptation is bigger

than the grace and the power of God. If you're faced with temptation and it's right in front of you, here's a practical tip:

Realize the pockets of grace that God is giving you like what He gave Judas. I have learned this *pockets of grace* concept around 2009 from Feast servant leader Bro. Migz Ramirez who is now Fr. Migs. We were in an all-male Light Group. We were all campus missionaries.

Realize the pockets of grace that God is giving you like what He gave Judas. I have learned this *pockets of grace* concept around 2009 from Feast servant leader Bro. Migz Ramirez who is now Fr. Migs. We were in an all-male Light Group. We were all campus missionaries.

Back then, I really wanted to overcome pornography. One time, I was sharing to the group that sometimes, when the Internet signal is good, I browse on a website, I type the porn site's name, and click, what displays next is: "The page cannot be displayed."

Because I'm really tempted, I would just refresh the page, and the porn site appears. Bro. Migz Ramirez interrupted me. He said, "No, do not refresh because that is actually a *pocket of grace*. It's like Jesus telling you at the last minute, "You can still decide otherwise but I respect your free will."

So, my reminder for you is this. Whenever temptation is right in front of you, try to discern what are the *pockets of grace* in front of you. When you're driving and you're so hot-headed and you want to cut the driver that has cut you, you inhale and say, "There's a *pocket of grace*."

Remember that even if you are in deep darkness right now, I want you to get ready for God's light to shine His brightest. Always remember that no sin would be bigger than the grace and the light of God. No temptation can overcome that. You have God's power with you.

JOHN 13:26 NABRE  
"SO HE TOOK THE MORSEL AND LEFT AT ONCE.  
AND IT WAS NIGHT."



WARNING:  
BY OUR DECISIONS,  
WE HAVE THE POWER  
TO DESTROY OUR LIVES.

JOHN 1:5 ESV  
"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,  
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT."

PRACTICAL TIP  
REALIZE THE  
POCKETS OF GRACE  
GOD IS GIVING YOU.

THIRD EVENT

---

**JESUS GIVES  
HIS FINAL SPEECH**

The third event happens in Chapters 14 to 17.

To summarize, Jesus gives His final speech because it was Passover, the Last Supper was about to happen. Jesus is already sitting at the table with His disciples and He begins His speech with an encouragement. And then He gives a call or an invitation. The next one is a prayer.



**JESUS' LAST SPEECH**

---

**1 AN ENCOURAGEMENT**  
**2 A CALL**  
**3 A PRAYER**

Jesus is saying His final reminders. By this time, the disciples are already overloaded with information from Jesus.

He is telling His disciples:

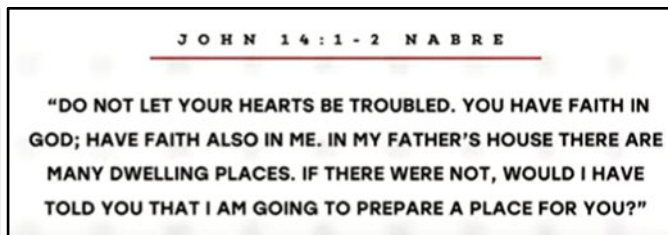
*"People will persecute you because of me.*

*If you ask anything from my Father, it'll be given to you. I am going away to a place you do not know, but I will come back. I will send an advocate.*

Jesus is like telling them, *"My hour is about to come. I need to tell you everything. You may not understand now-- but one day, you will realize that I told you this."*

Sometimes, I believe that the Word of God is like that. You come here. You absorb it. You feel that nothing is happening-- but I tell you that one day, it will all make sense. You can apply it because you've been absorbing it.

**There are three lessons we can learn from this:**

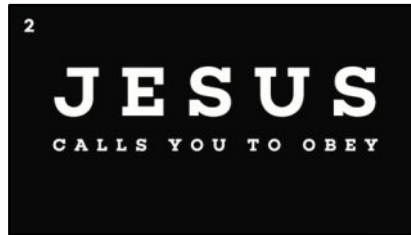


Jesus tells them: "If you keep following me, there is a place that is meant for you."

Jesus is talking about Heaven.

So, today, I believe Jesus is telling you: "Trust me. I live within you."





When you trust the Lord, the second step that you must take is to follow Him. That's why Jesus reminds the disciples that even if they fall, even if they stumble, and if they sin again, they must come back to Him:

**JOHN 15:9-10 NABRE**

**"AS THE FATHER LOVES ME, SO I ALSO LOVE YOU. REMAIN IN MY LOVE. IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YOU WILL REMAIN IN MY LOVE, JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS AND REMAIN IN HIS LOVE."**



Hands of God and Adam from the painting of Michelangelo Buonarroti



**JOHN 17:20-21 NABRE**

**"I PRAY NOT ONLY FOR THEM (THE APOSTLES), BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD, SO THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE, AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME AND I IN YOU, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE IN US, THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU SENT ME."**

Even before you were born, Jesus already prayed for you. Isn't that amazing? Isn't that comforting? Let me just go back a bit. Who among you have visited the cemetery to pay respects to your departed loved ones?

We Filipinos have a common joke when we are in the cemetery.

We would tell each other, "Look at our neighbors, they're so quiet."

I believe that interpretation came from John 14: 1-2>

That's why we have interpretations that we are going to Heaven and St. Peter would be there. Or, if you are good on Earth, you have a bigger mansion in Heaven -- and that's partially true

**JOHN 14:1-2 NABRE**

**"DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED. YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD; HAVE FAITH ALSO IN ME. IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE THERE ARE MANY DWELLING PLACES. IF THERE WERE NOT, WOULD I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT I AM GOING TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU?"**

## Commitment

But this is the truth: The phrase *dwelling places* in the Gospel of John-- if we look at the proper translation in Latin and in Greek -- means *family and home*.

When Jesus says that you have a *dwelling place in God*, this means that you can be one with God. He has prepared a place for you. He has prepared Heaven for you not only when you die. But He has prepared Heaven already for you here on Earth-- as you are living your life, as the problems are there existing, as the challenges and misunderstanding in your family are happening.

At this very moment, Jesus is offering you a promise of Heaven in the midst of those challenges-- despite your sin.

Maybe you're deep in sin. God is telling you now, "Just remain in my love. Get back again. I have a dwelling place for you."

Because Jesus has already bridged the gap for you to be one with God so that you could experience Heaven at any point in time in your life.

Heaven does not just happen when we are dead. Heaven happens today when we believe and choose to follow Jesus. Because Jesus loves you to the very end and He will not stop until you realize that.

Put your hands over your heart, and let's pray:

*"Almighty Father, Thank You that You reminded me today that Your plan, Your love, Your grace, Your mercy are beyond what I can comprehend.*

*Today, I know Jesus that Your love is bigger than my fears. It's bigger than my worries. It's bigger than my problems and my challenges.*

*It's bigger than my failures and my sin.*

*It's bigger than my financial difficulties. It's bigger than my debt.*

*So, today, I choose to dwell with You with Jesus because I trust You.*

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Jesus, we know, that by Your Resurrection, Authority, and Power that what You did 2,000 years ago is still here for us to receive and appreciate. Jesus, today, we decide to make You the Lord and the King of our lives again. And if ever we will fall again, if we will stumble again, we will still choose to get up to follow You, to dwell with You, Oh, Jesus. Because we believe that where you are is where is Life. Where You are is Grace. Where You are is Healing. Where You are is Provision. Where You are is Peace.

That's why we trust You. And we surrender our lives to You.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

26 The FEAST FAMILY November 10, 2024





## **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.

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# **FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE**

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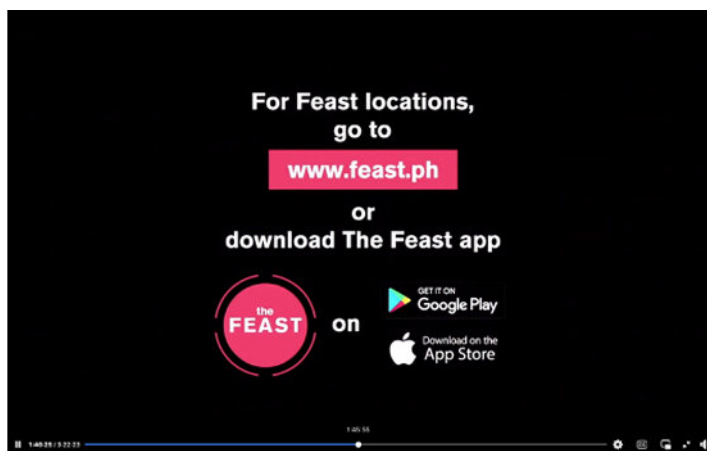




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***Go and make disciples of all men.***  
— Matthew 28:19

