



NEWSLETTER
December 4, 2022

Filipinos and Hebrews Are So Alike



TODAY, we close this riveting *Exodus* series with a bold prayer:

“Show me Your glory!”

Those were the exact words Moses prayed to God.

I hope it becomes your prayer too.

Here’s the question: *Is your relationship with God so close, you can pray like this?* This is the intimacy God desires from you.

I also had a blast researching Talk 10 because it contains Filipino words like *Naglambing* and *Nagpakipot* to describe the Biblical story. Perhaps Filipinos and Hebrews are really alike.

Have a beautiful Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

PS. We’ll have a few very special messages to close the year this December. Next year, we start our brand new series on *Leviticus*. It will blow your mind



LETTERS

Merry Christmas!

AS soon as the *ber* months start, Christmas begins in the Philippines. So, since September, people have already been greeting each other *Merry Christmas!*

But why are we greeting you only now? Well, among us Christ followers, Christmas feels *real* at the start of our Church Liturgical Year of Advent.

Fr. Bob McConaghy reminded us of the meaning of Advent: the *Lord's Coming*. And he tells us how we would be preparing for this great event. Read on, *starting on page 4*.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, says we will be excited about the Lord's Coming, especially if we have an intimate relationship with Him, right? And how does that happen? We'll know more in Talk 10 — the last of our Feast series on *Exodus*, which he introduces today, *page 1*.

Yes, no problem if we *Let God Be God*— as Bro. Audee Villaraza brings us back to Talk 9, *pages 11-24*.

No problem if we always remember the theme of our recent Feast Conference, *Greater Than*— we have and we will be having greater blessings than we can ever expect. Read all about it on *The Feast Family Special Report on Feast Conference 2022*—

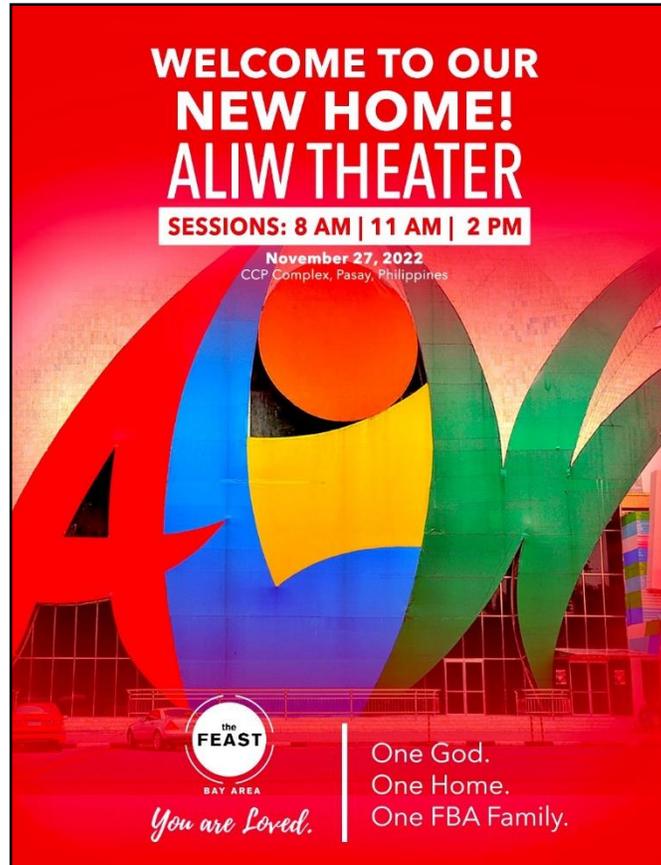
which comes with this issue in a separate package— our early Christmas gift to you!





And speaking of gifts, our Good God has also given us an early Christmas present: our New Feast Home, Aliw Theater, which is just a few meters from the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Last Sunday, Bro. Didoy Lubaton welcomed everyone to Feast Bay Area in Aliw and acquainted us with this, our New Home, *page 10*.



Yes, Welcome Home, and *Merry Christmas!*

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Holy Mass

FR. BOB McCONAGHY

On the Blessing of the Advent Wreath

TODAY, we open a new Liturgical Year: *Advent* — which means *Coming*.

At the time of preparation for the *Lord's Coming*, may we have the disposition as we start this stage of our pilgrimage.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Let us pray:

Lord our God, we praise You for Your Son Jesus. He is Emmanuel, the Hope of the People. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of God's Promise to bring us Salvation.

May He come quickly and do not delay. We ask this through Christ Our Lord Amen.





FR. BOB McCONAGHY

on the Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Excerpts...

WHAT a magnificent venue! Are your seats comfortable, yes? I can't see any of you. These are Broadway lights here, but the sound system is really terrific. I don't see anyone but I'm delighted to be the first one to preach here in Aliw Theater.

This is kind of an odd Gospel to begin preparation for Christmas, isn't it? But what Advent is doing is preparing us to celebrate when Jesus first came, but also it's a time to prepare ourselves when He comes again.

Now, the Gospel here is making it very clear—you know, not the day nor the hour that you will die. But supposing you did. Supposing your guardian angel was able to appear in human form—and they are able to do that, by the way — and say to you, “The Heavenly Father has some news for you. He wants you to know the month of the year that you're going to die.”

Would you want to know that?

Most people would say, “Maybe.”

And supposing the next night your guardian angel went to you and say, “You're going to die on a Tuesday.”

Now, you know that you're going to die on a Tuesday, but then the angel says to you, “Oh, by the way, the third Tuesday in November.”

Imagine what that day would be like because the angel would say to you, “Oh, by the way, the Heavenly Father is not going to tell you the year that you're going to die. Just that you're going to die on the third Tuesday in November.”

What do you think that day would be like? Something tells me that you would wake up earlier than usual and you would earnestly pray, maybe to Mama Mary—“Please protect me. I'm hoping, I'm praying that this is not my last day on earth.”

It could be—you know, because they say a third of us will die after a long illness. A third of us will die after an illness of about four days, and the rest of us will die suddenly and without warning.



On the Third Tuesday in November...

So that day, you would ask very powerfully in your prayer, “Lord, please protect me so that this is not my last day.”

Something tells me that no matter if you have to go to school or to work. You would go to Mass that day. And when the priest says to “prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries let us call to mind our sins,” you would really call all of them to mind on the third Tuesday in November.

And you would resolve to see Father immediately after Mass.

And you would say the most beautiful confession you’ve ever said—not holding anything back.

And then you would get to the Our Father of the Mass. And at the Our Father at the Mass, it says, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive...”

And you would probably think to yourself, “I’m asking for forgiveness, but maybe all those folks that I’m angry at, that I haven’t forgiven, I’m going to give them a call after Confession, express my sorrow.”

You would do that on the third Tuesday of November.

And then when you receive Communion, you would ask our Lord, of course, to protect you. But then you realize that He challenges you. That the way in which you’re going to be judged—according to Him—is: “When I was hungry, He gave me to eat, thirsty and He gave me to drink...”

And you would probably, after Mass, go look for all the thirsty, hungry people that you could find and you would compassionately help them, with great sincerity.

You would do that on the third Tuesday of November.

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.² In days to come, the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it;³ many peoples shall come and say: “Come, let us climb the LORD’s mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.” For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!



What Would Jesus Do...

And then, maybe you're going to school and to the office and maybe you would see the same people that you see every day, but you would look at them differently.

It's so easy to bring out the worst in them— it takes no talent at all. But I think maybe on that third Tuesday in November, you would seek to do what Jesus do to His apostles. He always saw the worst in them, but He always dug deeper and brought out the best in them.

So, if you would go out to lunch or you'd just be working with them, you would see them differently—you would bless them, pray for them— oh yes!

You would do that on a third Tuesday in November.

Even though it's Christmas season shopping and you got your 13th month, chances are you wouldn't go shopping that day because you wouldn't have known if you're going to have any presents to give— whether you'll even be there on Christmas.

And so, I think you would maybe go to an Adoration Chapel and just sit in silence and say, "Lord, I trust You. The Readings this morning at Mass, they didn't give me any hint and so, I just want to be with You for a while and allow You to cast out my fear.

I think you would want to make it clear with your family that you want them all there for dinner tonight. And when they all gather around and you finish your dinner. It's now 6:30. You might die by 7.

And then you would say to them things that you don't say often enough— how happy and blessed you are that they have been woven into the fabric of your life. Oh yes, you would do that readily and you wouldn't hold anything back.

No, not on the third Tuesday in November.



Reading II: Romans 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters:¹¹ You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;¹² the night is advanced; the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;¹³ let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy.¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

The Promise of Christmas

And then it would be one minute to seven, and you would go to your room, and your heart would be pounding—10... 9... 8... 7... 6... 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...

“Haaa... I’m still alive. I have another year.”

And I think on the last day of the year, you would think back on that third Tuesday in November, and you know what you would discover? You would discover that that was the meaningful day of the year. You were radically different. At first, out of fear — but then after Mass, out of love.

And you would live that day in love for others, and by the end of the day you would breathe and say, “Oh my, another year...”

You would recognize what you’re really called to do every day of the year.

So, live each day, especially during this Advent season, as if it were the last day of your life—a little bit like that.

And I think what you will discover is what is promised at Christmas—JOY, joy to the world, and joy to you.

Have a great Advent. God bless.



Worship!

EXHORTATIONS

AIO BARCELONA: Good morning, One Feast Bay Area! It feels good to sing. Come on, give a clap offering to God for that!

Last week, we were at Feast Conference in Manila. Yesterday, our friends over in Cebu also had their Feast Conference. It was amazing!

And today, at this moment, we are standing on God's great good news saying, "You're home."

And so, today we just want to invite you not to miss out on God's good news for you today. We're going to sing, we're going to celebrate, we're going to dance a bit. You up for that? So again, let's all come, if you're ready, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



ISSA RODRIGUEZ: Father, we come before You together in this new place, all coming from different circumstances.

Not all of us here are standing on some good news—not yet. Some of us here are still doubting, some of us here still stuck in uncertainty. But all of us know the truth that You are God, that You are a Father, You are a Provider, that You are good—and that truth is not dependent on our feelings or circumstances. Father, that doesn't change... Your character doesn't change. You are still good. You are still faithful.

So, today, help us to trust in You more.

This is our prayer. Amen.



WELCOME HOME!

DIDOY LUBATON: Good Morning! Palakpakan natin si Lord. On behalf of Bro. Bo Sanchez, our founder, Bro. Alvin Barcelona, our District builder, and all the builders, leaders, servants, I'm so happy to say this: Welcome to our new home. This is our new place.



This is us rebuilding our Feast Bay Area Family...

When you go outside, our lobby, you will see our different tables Anawim, Feast Light, and we also have a Red Cross table for any medical concern. Special Thanks to Red Cross.

And then, you will smell brewed coffee. Coffee for everybody. We also have pandesal, for everybody. And taho — until supply lasts.

We are trying our best as a Family that we get to feel that it's a Feast — spiritually, emotionally, mentally, even physically, and literally. I want us all to look forward to this Feast experience. Every single Sunday we'll be here. We will announce some particular Sundays that we are not here because of earlier reservations by some other groups. But most of the time, if not 95% of the time, we'll be in this place. We have three sessions: 8:00 a.m.: 11 a.m.; and 2:00 p.m.

I want to give special welcome to our first-timers. Hey, welcome, welcome home! And welcome to those watching online as well. We have a good number watching online. We don't forget you, we love you, and we thank you also for showing up. This is it. This is our home. This is our Family. And I really do hope that we build this one week at a time, one person at a time.

There was a dream before— I want to do it a bit personal— this is the place ... we were here before when PICC renovated. So, four years ago, we stayed here for a while, and this is the particular space where I was first asked to preach the Word of the Lord. So, I'm so happy, it's God moving us in a new direction. You know, God is a God of all things new. And even if we feel like we're empty, God always nourishes us. God always supplies what we need — even surpasses what we ask of Him.

So, I want us to have that mindset— an abundance mindset that we have a God who is a God of Abundance. So, I want you to look forward that in every Feast, mabubusog tayo— we will be satisfied.

Welcome to The Feast! I'm really so happy and I hope you are also, and I look forward to doing this every single week.

Talk



Talk 9



AUDEE VILLARAZA: The luxuries of life vary from season to season. Whatever season you are in will dictate what kind of luxury you enjoy.

We have two kids at home and I've noticed that the luxury of a mom, especially a new mom, is very different from a mom who has kids all grown up already.

What do I mean by that?

If you're a new mom, you can probably relate to this. The luxury of my wife is not being able to shop for whatever it is that she needs; it's not being able to travel to any destination that she dreams of. No. That's not her luxury.

Would you like to know the luxury of new moms? It's being able to pee in peace—that precious 20 seconds that your son and your daughter are not looking for you. That's the luxury for the new mom.

I remember our five-year-old was so clingy that when my wife would disappear, for a while, he would start behaving as if the world would crumble.

But you know that's a pattern that happens in life—not just when you have kids.

Pattern of Lost Identity

Let's paint the picture so you can understand it better.

Let's call this person Princess. She's two years old, she's clingy to Mommy. When Mommy disappears, she starts crying and acting out. You know, that's understandable. Kids feel like their parents are part of them. So, when the parents disappear, the kids feel like they're nothing—their identity is gone.

But you know what? One day will come when Princess will grow up. And eventually, she will also outgrow Mommy. But in reality, she's not outgrowing Mommy. You know what's happening? She's replacing Mommy with something else—whether it's a barkada at the age of 15, whether it's a job at the age of 21, whether it's a boyfriend at the age of 25, whether it's a spouse at the age of 32.

But here's one thing: I'll show you the pattern. Eventually, Princess grows up. She replaces Mommy. She takes control of her life. And for Princess, 15 years old, the same pattern happens. How? Through her barkada.

One day, her barkada forgets to invite her to their special party. So, she starts crying, "They are not really my friend."

So, she starts looking for other friends. Eventually, life becomes good because they text her again.

But at the age of 21, eventually, she outgrows her barkada because of her job—she now has a career.

But one day will come and the company will downsize and then she gets retrenched and now she's asking, "Who am I without my job?"

So, she tries to look for another job to control things.

But then eventually, her job is replaced by a boyfriend or a girlfriend. And then one day, that boyfriend dumps her, or that girlfriend breaks up with her.

Now, she doesn't know her identity.

And then a day will come, at the age of 32, when she will see all of her friends now married, each with two babies.

Now she's struggling, "Why does it seem I'm invisible to guys?"

And she's trying to take control of things.

Then, at the age of maybe, what, 45. She doesn't have a single property under her name, she doesn't have a single Hermes or Louie Vuitton bag and she sees all her friends successful. Now she feels like she's a failure.





Now, what is happening here? In moments of uncertainty, you know what we do? We create false gods that we think we can control. But one day will come when you realize these are all false gods and you cannot control anything.

And then you realize that there's only one God that you cannot control. But *He* is in control.

Right now, we are at the part of *Exodus* where Moses is now up on the mountain— Mt. Sinai— while the Israelites were down the mountain. And then something happened...

Let's read together Exodus 32:1:

So, what was happening was there was a little delay. Moses was up on the mountain, they were waiting for him.

And you know what? I can certainly understand what the Israelites were going through. Why? Because— how many of you would agree with me when I say that every issue in every relationship comes up when someone disappears on you? Yes? Have you ever been ghosted by someone? That sucks, right? I hate that. That's often the start of an issue.

Moses was not gone overnight. He was gone for 40 days. No tweet. No message. No email. No smoke signal to tell them he was okay. Nothing.

So, you can imagine the restlessness of the Israelites.

You know, one thing I find annoying the most — and I'm guilty of this, by the way— is when people message me, and I would reply, and they would disappear. And then for about a week, they resurface and I'm like, "What happened? Did you get kidnapped, or something? Did you get abducted by aliens? Did you fall into a quicksand? And now you're just back?"

Exodus 32:1 NIV

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."



How To Deal with Delays

I can understand where the Israelites were coming from. But I can also understand where Moses was coming from.

Moses was with his Lord.

How many of you know this: That sometimes, you spend so much time with God that there are moments you lose track of time. Yes? You get lost in His Presence. Time just stops when you're with the Lord, time is gone by.

So, that's what Moses must have felt like.

He spent so much time with the Lord, he forgot.

But here's my theory: It's not that he actually forgot — but it's that he understood the delay because God had a purpose.

My dear friend, when you know, when you believe, that God has a purpose—even through the delays of life—you know what's going to happen? You're not going to mind waiting. It's going to be okay for you to wait. Why? Because you know that God is working. If you know that God is cooking something good in the kitchen, you're going to take your time and wait for that beautiful thing.

So now, here's my question: If you know that there will always be delays in life, that sometimes you have to wait in life, how do you deal with the delays of life?

I'll share with you a story.

Three years ago, right about the same time this year, I was traveling to Cebu because it was KCON (Kerygma Conference, now called Feast Conference) week. Traveling, by the way, with the Feast Worship team...

You know some of the delays in life — if you can agree with me— they usually happen in airports. Like there would be flights delayed. And sure enough, our flight was delayed. Not just for ten minutes, not just for 15 minutes. But for *hours*.

And every time there's a delay at the airport, what happens? There are disgruntled passengers. Sure enough, people started fighting with the front desk. No, not the Feast Worship team. They're good.



**God is more interested with
your attitude at the departure
more than your disposition
at the destination.**

In the middle of what was happening— I vividly remember this— there was this one elderly gentleman sitting in the Departure lounge — nothing could affect him. He knew what was going on. But he was just calmly reading his book, smiling, there was a look of contentment in his eyes.

And you know, at that moment, I had a reflection: In life, there will always be delays. Sometimes, you’ve got to wait. Why? Because it is in the waiting where God will reveal to you your true character. It’s in the delays of life that God will tell you how you are behaving.

So, here’s my point— I truly believe this: I believe that God is more concerned about your attitude in the Departure than your disposition at the Destination. I believe that God is more concerned about how you behave when you’re in the Departure area than how you celebrate when you’re already at the Arrival.

Because think about it: It’s easy to celebrate when you’ve already got the breakthrough, the answered prayer, the boyfriend, or the job promotion that you’ve been praying for. It’s easy to celebrate when you’ve already got your answered prayer. But it’s a completely different thing when you’re still waiting at the Departure area and then there are delays.

My question is: How do you behave? Do you behave just like that elderly gentleman who just calmly accepted that there is a purpose— “Maybe God is protecting me through this delay.”

Or are you going to be like that toddler Princess who will go into a tantrum because Mommy is not there?

How will you behave when you experience delays in life?



I'm going to share with you three practical messages based on the passage. The first message is this: *You cannot tame God.*

I want you to check out how the Israelites respond to the delay of Moses. They told Aaron to make idols.

This is how Aaron answered them:

And the Israelites said:

Exodus 32:2-8 NIV

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool.

Exodus 32:2-8 NIV

Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord."⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Exodus 32:2-8 NIV

⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

The story is very simple. In the absence of Moses, they become restless. And in their restlessness, they take matters into their own hands. They come before Aaron and they say, "Aaron, can we make other gods who will go before us?"

You know the problem? It seems to us, when you read this, the problem starts when they said, "Let's make other gods before us."

But to me, personally? This is my opinion: The problem started when Aaron listened. I believe it's so dangerous if you are the kind of leader who will listen only to popular opinion. If you're the kind of person who will listen only to the voice of the majority.

How many of you know that the popular opinion will not always be the best opinion? Yes? In the same way that the will of the people will not always be the will of God.



What or Who Are You Worshipping?

I want you to be the kind of Christ-centered follower that— Yes, you listen to the popular opinion but you're more leaning in, and dependent on the leading of the Spirit. Because if you're listening only to the voice of the majority, you know what's going to happen? You're going to make the same mistake as Pontius Pilate made. Pilate listened to the public.

What was the public saying? "Crucify Him!"

So sometimes, we make mistakes because we listen to popular opinion. And that's what happened to Aaron.

A point will come in your leadership when, sometimes, you'll need to call out what is idolatry and tell people, "This is not who we are. This is not God. I did not raise you up this way."

That's the kind of leader that we need.

So, what did Aaron do? He listened and they fabricated this golden calf and they worshipped this deity.

Question: How will you know if *what* or *who* you are worshipping right now is actually God or a false god?

Two ways: 1. Take a look at your calendar.
2. Take a look at your budget.

Why? When you look at those two variables, they will ask you two questions: Where do you give your time? Where do you give your treasure?

And your answers to those questions will reveal to you who your God is.

Do you give your time generously to your job? Yes, you love your job, right? But there is a point in which sometimes you give so much time to your job that your job becomes your god.

Do you give your time so much to your hobbies? It's good to be healthy, to be active. But there comes a point in your life when you give generously to your hobby that the hobby becomes your god.

The second question is: Where do you give your treasure?

Do you give it to organizations, never give to your church? Then maybe the organizations are your gods.



Ask Yourself These Questions:

Where do I give my time? Where do I give my treasure?

Where do I give my time?
Where do I give my treasure?

Because by nature, my dear friends, wherever you give your time and treasure generously, that will become your god.

Take a look at the Israelites. What did they do?

Aaron said, “*Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing and bring them to me.*” (Exodus 32:2)

They gave their treasure. They gave their time. Because those are what they worship.

By the way, I have another valid interpretation of the story.

Bible scholars believe that the Israelites believed they were actually worshipping God. This was a common practice in ancient times— where they used to believe that God would inhabit a particular idol.

I’m not talking about just a person— I’m talking about an artifact. For instance, an amulet. They would believe that God would inhabit a pendant.

You know what? There is a danger when you believe something like that. Number one: Because if you believe that God would inhabit— like this handkerchief— if you need God, what. Do you do? You take it out of your pocket. When you don’t need God, you put the handkerchief back into your pocket.



So what’s happening is that God is turning into this very convenient commodity. If you need Him, *poof*, He’s there. If you don’t need Him, you tuck Him in. God becomes a Genie.

But God is not a genie, my friend. He’s not somebody in a lamp, that you rub, he comes out, and you get your three wishes.

This is the way that they tried to control and tame God. And that’s what we do. When we need God, it’s convenient He’s there. When we don’t need Him, we forget about Him.

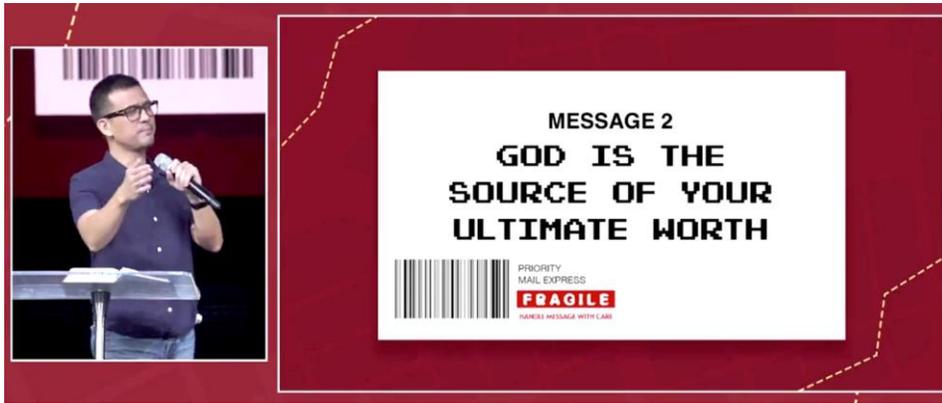
But how many of you know that you cannot tame God? If you control God, you know what that makes you? It makes you God. You cannot control God. *Let God be God.*

Sometimes you pray like God is a genie. You rub the lamp and say, “Lord, here’s what I want.”

God is not a genie. You don’t pray to get what you want. You pray to know what God wants for you.

God can never be tamed.

- You don’t pray to get what you want.
- You pray to know what God wants for you.



Here's the second message: God is the source of your ultimate worth.

I'm sure some of you might be thinking: "What was Aaron doing? Shouldn't he have been the representative of Moses? He was the trusted spokesperson. He was left in charge. Why was he doing this? Why was he making a false idol?"

You want to know why?

Simple answer: Because Aaron preferred to please men more than pleasing God.

Aaron preferred pleasing people instead of pleasing God.

That's a lesson for somebody here.

I want you to read this funny conversation between these two brothers. Moses said to Aaron:

Exodus 32:21-24 NIV

He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

Check out what Aaron was doing. He's like to Moses: "Bro., I took some gold, I threw them into the fire, and then *poof*, how come, this golden calf."

Come on. I know fake news when I hear it. That's not real. That's disinformation.

But what was happening? Aaron was playing the game we all like to play. The blame game: "It's not me. It's you."

And mind you, this is a hyperlink all the way to the book of *Genesis*. The time when Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.

Because in life, my friends, it's never really your fault, right? It's always going to be somebody else's fault. A time will come, my dear friends, when you will need to start owning up to the things that you've been doing. And just start coming before God, saying, "Lord, I'm sorry for all the things that I'd done."

You know, we offer Confession here at The Feast every time. Make use of it. Come before the Lord and confess your sins. Make Him wash your sins away. Own up to the sins that you have committed.

Looking for Your Identity?

Aaron was playing the blame game. Why? Because he was very insecure. He was such an insecure leader. And for me, the reason he did what he did was he let flattery get the better of him.

Did you know that flattery is another form of idolatry? Let me explain:

People please you. People appreciate you. People confirm you. People commend you.

And then you get this feeling of identity: “Uy, I’m worthy. Because people appreciate me. They’re complimenting me.”

So now these people become your idol because whenever you approach them, you feel like a plant that’s fully watered. But the problem there is that when these persons walk away from you, they walk away with your identity.

You’ve been going to people and places to look for your identity not realizing that the places and people you go to are also broken.

Go to God. Jesus’ mission is to turn you from woundedness to completeness. It’s Jesus— He alone can complete you.

And I came to announce this to somebody here today because you’ve been running from relationship to relationship, from church to church, from organization to organization, looking for who you are.

I’m telling you, you don’t have to run to people or places to know who you are.

Why? Because God has already approved of you. God already made you worthy.

You don’t have to go to that person anymore because you think that person will give you your worth to please people.

God already approves of you. That’s the Good News today.





Here's the third message: *God wants a close relationship with you.*
Exodus 32:9-14 says:

Exodus 32:9-14 NIV
 "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.
¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

Exodus 32:9-14 NIV
¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?
¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people."

Exodus 32:9-14 NIV
¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'
¹⁴ Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened."

You know this is a very controversial passage. Let me explain:

If you're reading this with an oversimplified lens, you know what's going to happen? You're going to end up asking three questions:

1. Why does it seem that God had a temper problem? Like God was this wrathful God.

2. Why does it look like Moses was more merciful than God? Did you feel that? He's pleading for the people and God was so angry.

3. Is this how God works?
 That if I persist enough with my prayer God is going to change His mind, and He's going to listen to my prayer?



Understanding God

Is that how it works?

Just like that single lady who at the age of 25 prayed to the Lord: “Lord, I want a good man.”

And then at the age of 30, she saw nothing and she prayed: “Lord, I want the best man.”

Still nothing. So, at the age of 35 she said, “Lord, I want any man.”

By the age of 40, still nothing, and she said, “Lord, please naman!”

Is that how it works? You persist enough with your prayer and God will listen to you?

Okay. Quick, quick lesson:

Whenever you are reading, especially the Old Testament, I want you to remember that this is an ancient text coming from an ancient time. You’re not going to understand this when you’re reading with modern lenses. So, what you need to do is to look at the context.

And the context is this: The time when the author wrote this, he was using a language that they used to refer to as *anthropomorphic*.

Anthropomorphism is when you apply human attributes to things that you do not understand. For instance, non-human entities, concepts, or insights. And in this case, when you apply anthropomorphic language about God, you’re applying human attributes to comprehend the incomprehensible God.

That’s why, if you notice, in this passage, the author was sort of giving a personality to God: God had a temper—God had this unique temperament. Because there was one simple point: the author was saying that God is somebody that you could talk to, you could negotiate with, you could plead with, you could argue with.

Simply because God is somebody who cares enough to listen to you.

Now, why is that important?

Anthropomorphism, when applied to God, means giving human attributes to comprehend the incomprehensible God.



God Cares

Think about it: If God is somebody who could get mad, or angry, because of what you do, it simply means one thing: that God cares about you, that God loves you.

If God can get angry or hurt because of what we do, that means He cares for us. That means we matter to Him.

Doesn't it make you happy to know that there is a God who loves you?

It's a hard message to preach. I want to close this way:

In reality, my friends, God did not want to destroy Israel—in as much as He did not want to destroy Egypt. He loved Egypt. He loved the Egyptians. He loved the Israelites.

But sometimes, God's justice takes over, and thus, the consequences for the things that we do. But I am glad God's mercy is also there. And God will often use intercessors to intercede on your behalf. Just like He used Joseph to intercede for Egypt—to save the land of Egypt. God used somebody like Moses to intercede for the Israelites. Moses returned to the Lord

Let me fast forward to Exodus 32:31:

31 So Moses went back to the Lord and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

What was Moses doing here? He was sacrificing his life for the sake of the Israelites.

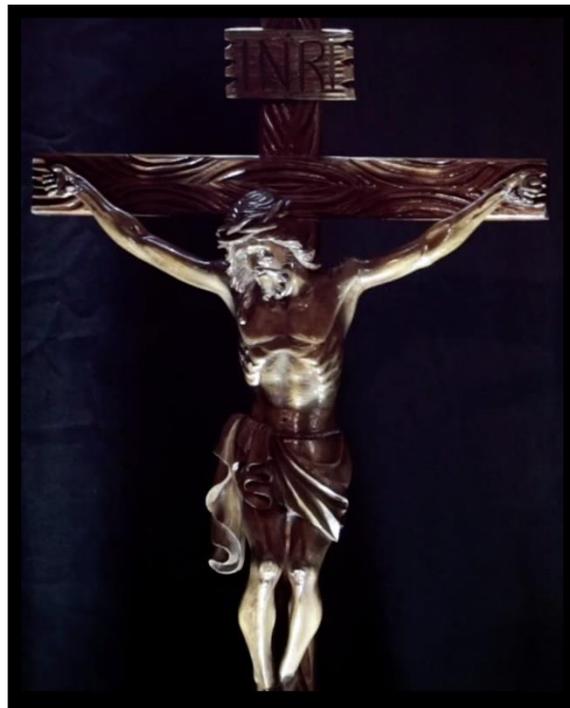
He Sacrificed for You and Me

God would use intercessors like Joseph and Moses.

But ultimately God used Jesus to intercede for you and me.

Moses sacrificed himself for the sins of the Israelites. But Jesus, He sacrificed Himself for the sake of mankind— for you and me.

And Jesus, when He went up on that Cross, He said: “Father, forgive them— forgive him, forgive him, forgive her, forgive her, forgive him, forgive her, forgive them, forgive me— for they know not what they do.”



He climbed that Cross and He said, “I’ll take their place. I’ll receive their punishment, I will bear their burden.”

I pray that this will make you fall in love with Jesus and want Him more in your life. Because the truth, my friends, this is the God that we worship. He’s not a false God. You cannot control Jesus.

But one thing you can control is the amount of faith and surrender that you can give to Him. I pray that today, you finally dethrone all the false gods in your life and allow Jesus, the One True King, to reside in your life.

*Father, we have allowed false gods to rule us,
to reign over us. But today this stops.
Today, we offer our life, to surrender to You.
We bow to Your Lordship, King Jesus.
Come, take Your place and have Your way.
We want You Jesus into our life. Amen.*



FAMILY

Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the Feast Mercy Ministries, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez. Earlier named as Kerygma Family, The Feast Family is a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

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

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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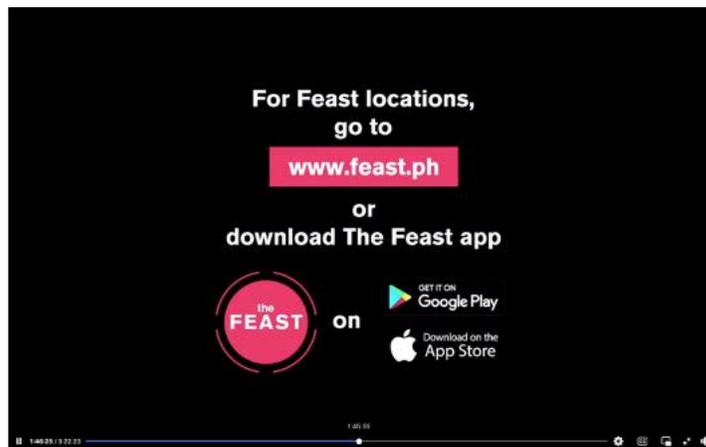
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

