



OUR talk series is turning out to be very relevant and timely. God is indeed speaking to us.

Our country is again so divided – because of the “kings” people choose to follow.

We, at the Light of Jesus Family / The Feast, are not and should not be quiet and unaffected in all these. We do have a stand. We should make our voices loud and clear.

Then, now, and always, we proclaim that our King is JESUS!

We follow and obey Him. We worship and adore Him.

In Talk 6, *Follow the Right King*, of our amazing series, *WHO WILL LEAD US? A People in Search of a King*, we’ll be introduced to Israel’s first king: Saul. But it’s not just about the king. It’s about the people who wanted a king when they were already supposed to have a king – GOD.

We’ll realize too that having earthly kings – or rulers-- shouldn’t be bad. We indeed need leaders. Yet, we shall powerfully learn today the criteria – the do’s and don’ts -- of a king, which are all very, very applicable today.

Because in the end, we are all followers. A good question therefore in looking for a king or a leader is: Who does your king or leader follow?

You might want to check if the king or ruler you follow follows God-- so that the earthly leader you follow should ultimately lead you to the One True King; JESUS CHRIST.

Get ready to be blessed as we welcome you to The Feast, where *You are loved!*

Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari sa ‘Yo!

Alvin Barcelona

Ancient and Modern Leadership Issues

AS we are working on this issue of *The FEAST FAMILY*, we hear news on political conflicts-- in the Philippines, where we will be having midterm elections this May, and in other parts of the world, particularly the United States, where they just had their national elections.

We then realize how timely our ongoing Feast Talk series, *WHO CAN LEAD US?* It is about the leaders-- or the lack thereof-- of the ancient Israelites. Yes, those *ancient* times-- but their issues are as modern as what we face this Year 2025.

Rev. Fr. Cris Cellan, in his Homily last Sunday Feast, talked about our present Lenten Season, about our Lord Jesus' journey from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, burdens and blessings, like we also go through, *page 3*.

Fr. Cellan's advice: "The Lord assures us that we will all overcome and prevail if only we listen to Him and we reinforce ourselves and arm ourselves with the Gift of Prayer."

Same is true with how we should face our challenges regarding our leaders. Yes, burdens can turn to blessings.



Bro. Alvin Barcelona also gives us pointers as he introduces Talk 6 of our series-- about King Saul, Israel's first king.

Bro. Alvin shares: "We indeed need leaders. Yet, we shall powerfully learn today the criteria – the do's and don'ts -- of a king, which are all very, very applicable today," *page 1*.

Bro. Audee Villaraza tackles how to hear God's Voice regarding who can lead us-- topic of Talk 5 last Sunday.

He points out: "We live at a time when we realize that we are broken as a nation and as a country... I asked, 'Lord, how can you heal us as a nation? How can you heal us as a country? Where do we start?'"

Flashback starts on *page 11*.

Continue exploring about choosing your leader.



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





Holy Mass



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Homily

REV. FR. CRIS CELLAN, SSP

on the Gospel Luke 9: 28b-36

WELCOME to our new home! I'm sad that you are no longer part of my parish, Our Lady of Sorrows, but I'll wait for your return.

On my first trip to the Holy Land, my most unforgettable experience was my visit to Mount Tabor, which is known as the Transfiguration Mountain. The closest I can compare it with here in the Philippines is Mount Arayat in Pampanga, though it is still higher than Mount Tabor.

Lo and behold, when you are up there on Mount Tabor, you have a different feeling. You will be enveloped with that mountain dew, that mist. You'll feel that you are in Heaven. Not only that. Aside from the beautiful church and the altar, the Gospel Reading, which is what we heard today, seems like configured to the presider and all the participants of the Mass when it would say, "Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up to this mountain to pray."

It's in all caps: **THE MOUNTAIN TO THIS PLACE.**

The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025 **3**

Mountaintop Experience

Every time you read, especially if you're the one proclaiming the Gospel, you would realize: "Oh, my God, I'm here. I'm standing in this place that I was reading about."

You could not believe it especially if it's your first time to be there at the place where Peter suggested to the Lord: "Lord, let us create three tents: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

It was truly an exhilarating experience. Looking down, you will see the plains of Galilee. The tour guide also showed us the Armageddon. You may have heard about it. You can find that in the book of *Revelation*. It was the place where the final battle would happen.*

Looking down, you would really have a mountaintop experience-- which means you are in communion with God. You feel like you're conversing with God and even with Moses and with Elijah.

But in other parallel Gospel Readings today, aside from the Book of Luke, Jesus would tell His disciples a continuation to this Gospel episode.

Jesus said: "No, we are not going to put our tent here. We have to go down and face our destiny. We need to go up to Jerusalem to face our Calvary. That is the only way to fulfill our mission."

Earlier, when I arrived here, I was a bit lost. I did not know where to enter until I saw one of our marshals holding a placard that says, "You Are Home."

That tells us that life is a journey, not a destination. That is the exact representation of Moses and even of Elijah. It is an exodus -- a passage from death to life, from sin to salvation, from pain and sacrifices to glory.

So, this is the kind of life that we need to undertake especially in this season of Lent. We have to realize that our life here in this world is "cruciform."

St. Rose of Lima once said: "Apart from the Cross there is no other ladder to Heaven."

That was imposed on your forehead last Ash Wednesday. We're reminded that the Cross is not for a show. It's a reminder that we are holy people but we are sinners.

So, we beat our breast and we would cry out to the Lord, "Lord, have mercy on me. I am a sinner."

Thus, we need to come down. How are we supposed to do that?



*Armageddon (probably Hebrew: "Hill of Megiddo"), in the New Testament, the place where the kings of the earth under demonic leadership will wage war on the forces of God at the end of history. Armageddon is mentioned in the Bible only once, in the Revelation to John, or the Apocalypse of St. John (16:16).
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Armageddon>

How To Come Down from the Mountaintop

1. Intensify your prayer.

The Gospel of Prayer is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke.

Padre Pio once said, "Prayer is the oxygen of the soul."

How do we pray? We pray by opening up to God and not monopolizing the communication and the talking.

We allow ourselves to hear God's Word and His will for each one of us.



2. Listen to Jesus

We need to do what the Father has confirmed: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

There is no other way. Yes, Jesus is a soul mediator to the Father. Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth, and the only Life.



First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

5 The Lord God took Abram outside and said: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." 6 Abram put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. 7 He then said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." 8 "O Lord God," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. 11 Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. 12 As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. 17 When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking brazier and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. 18 It was on that occasion that the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025 5

How To Know the Father

I remember, when I was studying Theology, as part of our comprehensive exam, our professor asked us a seemingly harmless question: "How do you get to know the Father?"

I gave answers which I got from *Conciliar* (document on approved positive doctrine of the Church), Synod (assembly of bishops and other church officials to resolve administration issues), and other references.

Then, my professor said, "You're so far off. You get to know the Father by simply following Jesus-- how Jesus thinks, how Jesus talks, and how Jesus acts."

Jesus is the Word Incarnate. He is a God Incarnate. He is with the Father and that's the only way. You cannot imagine and speculate things. It is only through Jesus that we can follow Him and so, Jesus must be our ultimate and primary model.

We need to listen to Him. Rearrange the letters of *listen* and it becomes *silent*. You need to be silent."



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

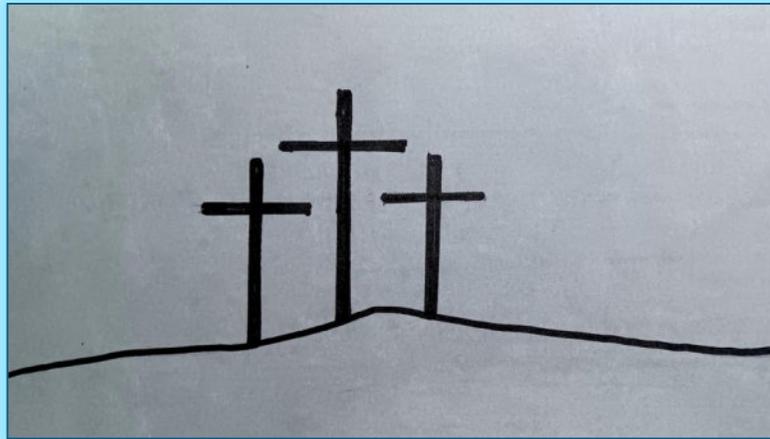
1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? (R)

7 Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me. 8 Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. (R)

Your presence, O Lord, I seek. 9 Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant. You are my helper cast me not off. (R)

13 I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. (R)



Focus: The Road to Calvary

My dear Brothers and Sisters, we are just on the second week of the Lenten season. As we continue with our 40-day penitential journey, this is going to be intensified even with the way we celebrate our Liturgy. No loud music and no flowers for now because the atmosphere has to be toned down.

Our focus should be on this road to Calvary and realizing that there is no glory if there is no sacrifice. No sacrifice, no crown. No Easter Sunday without Good Friday. But the Lord assures us that we will all overcome and prevail if only we listen to Him and we reinforce ourselves and arm ourselves with the Gift of Prayer. Amen.



Second Reading: Philippians 3:17–4:1 (or Philippians 3:20–4:1)

17 Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. 18 For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their “shame.” Their minds are occupied with earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025 7

Worship!



BRO.AUDEE VILLARAZA:

God, we believe that You are here in this place. And we declare that in yhis new season thar we are in this new venue, that the same grace that flowed through our previous venue every year, is flowing in this place as well. And Father, we declare that You are making all things new-- broken relationships, broken bodies, broken spirits, broken wallets. You are restoring us to brand new, oh, Jesus. And wwe are declaring that in Your Name, oh God, there is restoration, there is resurrection.



If you believe that, I want you to just lift your hands. Come on!

The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. That means that whenever you shoot the praise up, God dwells down into your presence.

So, if you are sick, just call on the Name of God. If you need help, call on the Name of God. We believe that God *is* here-- whether you are in this hall, or you are in the Overflow, or you are in the *live* broadcast. God *is* here!

Everybody, say that with me: "God is here."

And where God is, there are miracles, there is healing, there is power, there is love!

Let's just praise His Name, Everybody!

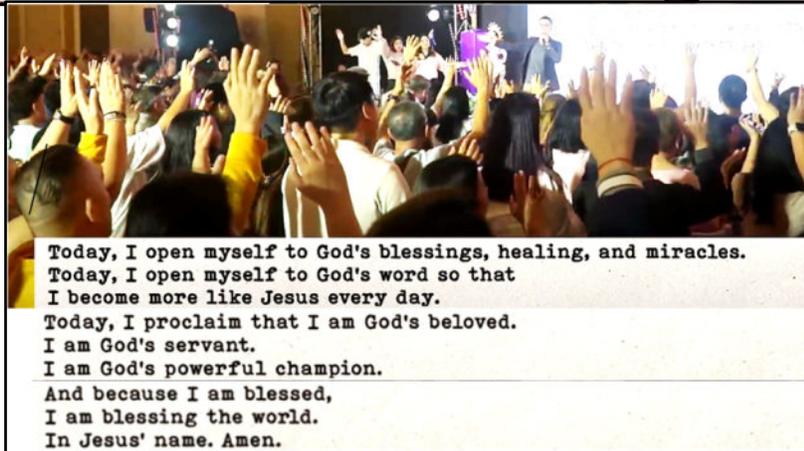


NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

Are you ready to be blessed today?
Everybody, lift your hands and I want us to do this together as a family. This is our prayer every Sunday:



**Today, I receive all of God's love for me.
Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless,
overflowing abundance of God's universe.**

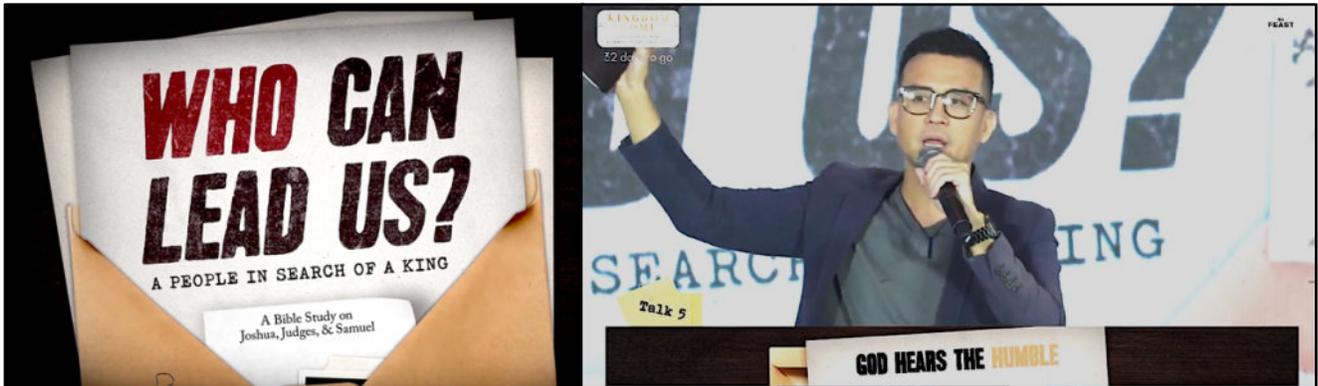


**Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.
Today, I open myself to God's word so that
I become more like Jesus every day.
Today, I proclaim that I am God's beloved.
I am God's servant.
I am God's powerful champion.
And because I am blessed,
I am blessing the world.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

With reverence, we give honor
to the Word of God, as we sing:
*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*



Talk



BRO. AUDIE VILLARAZA:

We're still in our series titled *WHO CAN LEAD US?* We finished the books of *Joshua* and the *Judges*. Now, we're going to study the book of *Samuel*.



I want you to picture for a moment the agony of Hannah. Not only did she share her husband with another woman. She also had no children. That's why the next move of Hannah would shock the world because it was a great act of faith and humility.

God Listens to Hannah

Hannah dedicated her future child -- a child that she had no idea if God was going to bless her with, a child that she had not even met.

And she said, "Lord, if you give me a child, this child is going to grow up to be a Nazarite."

What does it mean? A Nazarite is somebody who never consumes products from a grapevine like plums, jams, raisins, and wine. Back in the day, wine was like water. They used it for celebration.

Hannah said, "This child is not going to indulge in these world things. This child would not have his hair cut."

You remember somebody like that? You remember Samson? We studied him last Sunday.

This child would be *set apart*.

But Hannah was a Levite. Back then, Levites were people who belonged to God. It was as if Hannah took someone who already belonged to God and then gave him back to God in a greater way.

I'll give you an example. I'm thinking of a couple in our Light Group -- Anna Rita and Noel Foronda. They serve here at The Feast. They have a son, an only child, named Theo.

When Theo was 16 years old, he told his parents that he wanted to enroll in a seminary school. He wanted to be a priest.

Usually, some parents would say, "No. We want grandkids. We want you to have a family!"

Noel and Anna did not say that.

Instead, they said, "Who are we to get in the way of God's plan for our child?"

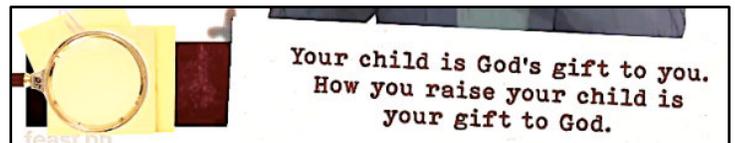
That's amazing! Parents, listen: I believe that our job as parents is to dedicate our children to the Lord-- whether they become priests, preachers, or missionaries. The truth is we don't own our children. They're not our possessions.

Your children are God's blessings to you. They're gifts. How you raise your children is your gift to God.

Hannah understood the assignment when she dedicated this child to God, saying, "He's going to grow up to love You and to serve You."

That's exactly what happened. Because of her humility, God listened to Hannah and blessed her with a child.

And he was named *Samuel* which means *God has heard*.



GOD HEARS THE HUMBLE.

God listened to Hannah because *God hears the humble.*

That's our message for today. Put your hand over your chest and say:

"Father, we are all here again. Without Your Presence, this is just going to be a pointless gathering-- and we don't want that. We invite you to be part of this. Let your wisdom, healing, and anointing pour out on us. Lord, let revelation pour out but use the Holy Spirit to turn that revelation into relevance so we know exactly what areas of our life we can apply this to.

Lord, make Me humble today. In Jesus' Name Amen."



One more time:

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

I'm going to divide this talk into three parts. Part 1 is going to be about how God heard Hannah because of her humility. Part 2 is how Samuel heard God because of his humility. Part 3 is about how the sons of Eli could not hear God and God could not hear them because they were proud.

So, this talk is about *humility*.

The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025 **13**



PART 1: God Hears the Humble Hannah

Before we walk with Samuel, I believe we need to learn first who Hannah-- his mom.

The name *Hannah* means *favor*. What's ironic is that her name means *favor* but in the beginning of her story, it seems she's not *avored*. Why? Because she doesn't have children.

Back in the day, they believed that if you were married and you did not have kids, you were being rejected and punished by God.

Sadly, some people still believe this today. I want you to know that it's not true. God does not punish us.

To add salt to the injury, not only is Hannah barren-- she's sharing her husband with another wife by the name of Peninnah.

This other woman has multiple children-- yet she's mean and arrogant while Hannah, despite being humble, has no children.

I think this is the part where we all ask, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

Maybe you can even take it from the opposite spectrum: "Why do good things happen to bad people?"

I've got a perfect answer for you: I do not know. But one thing I know is that we will never fully understand God's ways until His plan comes to life. Isn't that true?

You're fighting a battle and you don't know why. Five years later, you realize God did not mean the setback. He was just setting you up for a victory. You'll never really understand God's ways. All you can do is trust in Him and trust in His plans.

A Burden or a Blessing?

Going back to Peninnah, did you know that we all have Peninnahs in our lives? They're like the nosy aunt in your family. We all have one. The one that you avoid every family reunion. Why? Because she's the one who's always sarcastic.

She's the one who says, "You're 35 and still single? You are being left behind!"

A Peninnah can also be an uncle who thinks that his job description is to just be blatantly insensitive in your life. You might be married but don't have kids yet and this uncle tells your husband, "What happens now? Your eggs may have rotten already!"

But did you know that Peninnahs can also be a blessing? Especially if they lead you closer to God? Just like Peninnah in the story:



1 Sam 1:9-10 NLT
Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the Lord.

I'm glad that the author of *Samuel* wrote that -- simply because he's showing all of us that this is the right way to do it. When you are in anguish and bitterness, you do not run away from God. Your pain is supposed to lead you closer to God. Don't hide away just because you're hurt. Instead, you run to God the Father because He can handle your pain.

So, do it like Hannah did.

1 Sam 1:15-18 NLT
"I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the Lord. Don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow."
"In that case," Eli said, "go in peace!" May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him. "Oh, thank you, sir!" she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad.

When you pour out your hurt and your anguish to the Lord, He gives you a gift called *joy*.

When you pour your sorrow to the Lord
He turns it to joy.

Isn't it true that when you pour out your hurt to the Lord, He turns your sorrow into celebration? He turns your sorrow into joy. He turns your mourning into dancing. He turns your grief into gladness.

The next time you're feeling rejected and feeling down, the first One you must run to is God. Because He's the first who will understand you.

The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025 15



Something Controversial

Before we continue, let me just talk about something that I believe is so important because this is controversial:



Does that mean that it's okay that Elkanah had two wives?

The author doesn't say so.

If I'm reading this through modern eyeglasses, I would think having two wives is okay. But when you read the Bible, you cannot use your modern lenses because the Bible is an ancient and highly sophisticated literature that just doesn't *tell* you-- but it *shows* you what is good in the eyes of God.



This has happened to me so many times that I like the Lord to spoon-feed me. Whenever I read Scripture, I just want the Lord to tell me a story with a moral lesson-- like what I get from a children's book.

But the Bible is not like that. Jesus often spoke in parables or short stories because He had this intention to hide the truth from people who did not want to know the truth. He revealed it only to the people who diligently studied Scripture.

He would speak in parables so that the wisdom of God would be available only to those who wanted it. That's why when you read the Bible, don't take it for what it is. The Bible is going to show you the dangers.

For instance, what was the fruit of the polygamous marriage of Elkanah? Hannah was in deep anguish. Peninnah was deeply arrogant. When you're reading between the lines, it's simply saying that God is telling me that if I do something wrong, this is what's going to happen.

He's not *telling* us but *showing* us (the consequence of our actions).

The next time you get confused, pray about it, chew it, and digest it.



PART 2: How Samuel Hears God

Samuel is somebody who was dedicated to the Lord because he's a Nazarite. He never tasted wine or grapes. He never had his hair cut.

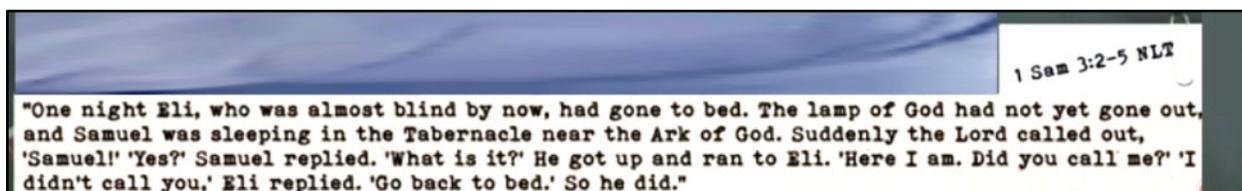
He was set apart for God. When he was young, he was already serving in a sanctuary with a priest named Eli.

Eventually, Samuel became a priest himself.

Here's a little trivia: Samuel was the last judge in the Old Testament but he was also the first prophet. He was the first king because, after his leadership, the people transitioned from that old style to becoming a monarchy.

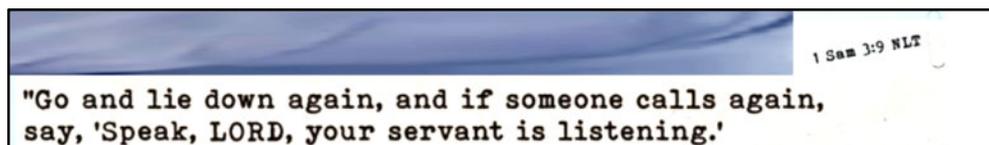
After all, eventually, the Israelites would ask for a king and then he would anoint King Saul and then eventually King David.

But in this part of the story, Samuel is young. He's serving in ministry. He's serving under the tutelage and guidance of the priest Eli.



This happened three times. On the third time that it happened, being spiritually sensitive, Eli realized that this might be some other guy speaking.

He told Samuel: "Here's what you do. Go and lie down again and if someone calls you again you say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



Do You Hear God?

God calls Samuel three times and Samuel hears a voice but he doesn't recognize the voice. You might say he doesn't know God but at least he heard the Voice.

How many of you don't know or don't hear the Voice of God?

At least, Samuel heard the Voice.

Parents, just because your children are growing up in a godly home, it doesn't always mean that they're going to grow up to be good people. We know a lot stories like that.

We're going to see Samuel being converted little by little-- until eventually following God.

My point is that Samuel heard God. Do you want to hear God?

Samuel heard because the truth is God hears those who are humble -- but only the humble hear God.

So, if you want to hear God speak to you, be humble. Sometimes, our pride gets in the way and we think that it's God speaking but it's not really true.

Jesus said: "My sheep know me, and I know my sheep. They know my voice."

How well do you know the Voice of Jesus? The only way you're going to know the Voice of Jesus is through one thing: a relationship. It's a dialogue.

When you walk with somebody and when you are with somebody for the longest time, you know that person because you are in a relationship.

There's a dialogue.

But if you've never had that chance to be in a relationship with Jesus, you're never going to know what His Voice sounds like. You can confuse His Voice with other voices in the world.

Samuel heard God because he was humble and God heard him because he was humble. Do you see the pattern that I'm trying to build here?

It's humility that allows us to hear from God and God also hears from us.

But there is a danger...



**GOD HEARS THE HUMBLE,
BUT ONLY THE HUMBLE HEAR GOD.**



Hand of God by Michelangelo
Freepik
<https://www.freepik.com>

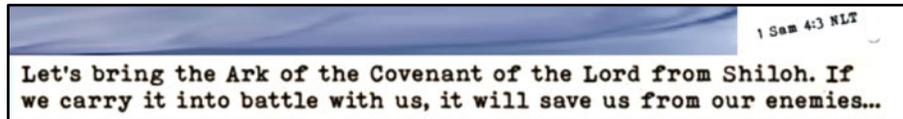


PART 3: The Proud that Cannot Hear and Cannot Be Heard

We're now talking about the sons of Eli-- Hophni and Phinehas. These pastor's sons were terrible. This is proof that just because your dad is a priest, it doesn't mean that you grow up to be the same way. It's documented in this book. They're the type of people who would steal food from the offering plate. They would threaten the worshippers, who would complain, with violence. What's worse is that they would sleep with the young women at the entrance of the temple. That's how bad they were.

Then, they were at the time when they had become priests and they were just lost in battle. They lost 4,000 good soldiers and they did something so bad.

Listen to this:



In the time of the Israelites, the Ark of the Covenant was the box that contained the Tablets of The Commandments that God gave to Moses. The cover is supposed to be the seat of God's throne. It was their religion's holiest symbol, and they carried the box around in battle. They would worship and use that to tell them that God's Presence was traveling with them.*



Ark of the Covenant Transporting the Ark of the Covenant, gilded brass relief, Cathedral of Sainte-Marie, Auch, France.

*Background: The Ark of the Covenant is the holiest symbol in their religion, Judaism. The Ark was the box that contained the Tablets of the Ten Commandments, and the lid of that box was also the seat of God's throne, with the wings of two angels as backrest. So, it symbolized God's Presence.

Why was it called "covenant"? From Britannica.com:

"This covenant, known as the Sinai covenant, was a conditional *agreement* made at Mount Sinai. It affirmed the Israelites as God's chosen people, contingent upon their adherence to certain rules of conduct, starting with the Ten Commandments. These commandments included directives such as worshipping only God, honoring the Sabbath, and prohibitions against murder, theft, and adultery, among others.

The Ark, therefore, symbolized the physical manifestation of this divine agreement, representing God's presence and the Israelites' commitment to uphold the laws given to them." <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ark-of-the-Covenant>

Symbols of Our Faith

If you noticed, these two guys said, "Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh."

Well done and good. It's good to bring the Presence of God. But the problem was when they started saying, "If we carry *it* into a battle with us, *it* will save us from our enemies."

Do you notice something so problematic about those words? They say that if they bring *it*, they will be saved. They're using this object and they are worshipping this thing as though *it* is the one that will save them-- but that's not true.

It's God who will save them. We don't refer to God as *it*.

We, Catholics, have a lot of rich traditions in our faith. We have rosaries, scapulars, and crucifixes. You've got a St. Benedictine medal for protection.

But those are symbols of our faith. The moment you start worshipping those symbols, that's the problem. Those symbols will not save you-- the Savior will save you. His Name is Jesus. God is God and He is the reason we are saved. God is the reason we are healed. God is the reason we are blessed.

So, the Israelites lost every battle. When Eli heard the news that his two sons died Eli fell back. He broke his neck and died too. So weird! Now, they lost their priest, they lost the Ark, and they lost their God. Just like Hannah, they're barren.

Here comes Samuel to save the day.

The prophet Samuel told the Israelites: "Repent! Change your ways!"

Since they were at rock bottom, they had nothing and that's when they listened.

Sometimes, it's in a rock-bottom moment that we listen to God. When we've got nobody to turn to anymore, we realize in our rock-bottom moment that God is the Rock at the bottom and we start listening to Him.

Don't reach that part when God has to allow you to reach rock bottom so that He can speak to you.

For the first time in a long, long while, the people listened to Samuel. They repented their ways, and they won a battle against the Philistines-- because *God hears the humble*.

They were humble enough to say, "Lord, we repent and we turn away from our wicked ways."



The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

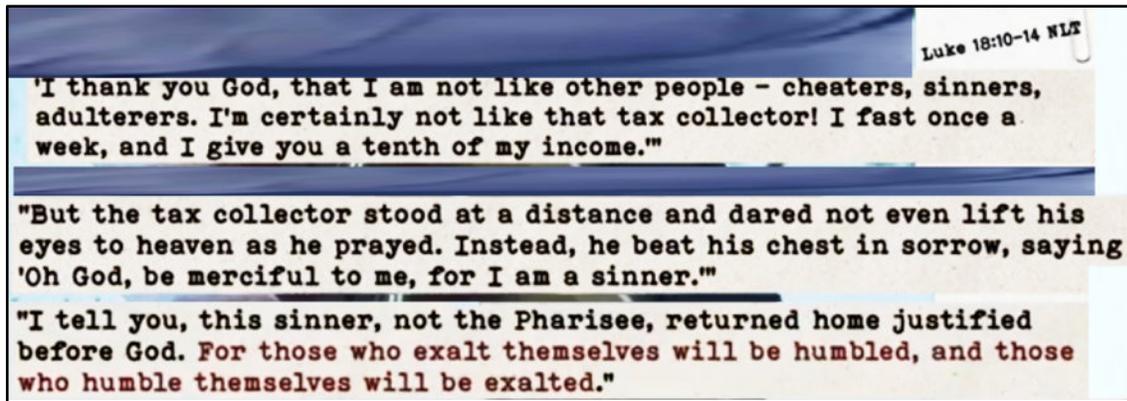
I'm going to move you now to the New Testament.
Because this is a story on humility, I might as well give you a story of humility in the book of *Luke*...

There's a difference between these two persons.

The Pharisee says, "I'm not like anyone else. I'm better than everyone."

The tax collector says the same thing-- except a little differently.

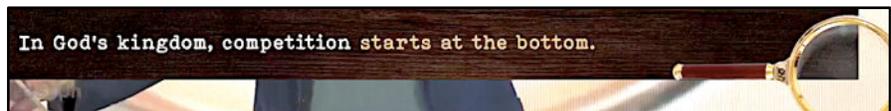
He says, "I'm not like everybody else as well. I'm not better than everybody else. I'm worse than everyone else. Lord, the problem is not their sin-- but my sin. Lord, I humble myself and I ask You to correct me."



In his humility, the tax collector was the one who was rewarded by God.

They say that the powerful people will inherit the world. That's not true.

Jesus says, "Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted."



In the Kingdom of God, it's upside down. Competition starts at the bottom. The best position in God's Kingdom is the bottom.

It's the one who says, "I will be the one to serve. I will be the one to be selfless. I will be the one to sacrifice. I will be the one to walk the extra mile. I will be the one to wash somebody's feet."

People who are humble enough to act accordingly are the ones who are exalted by God.



Politics and Prayer

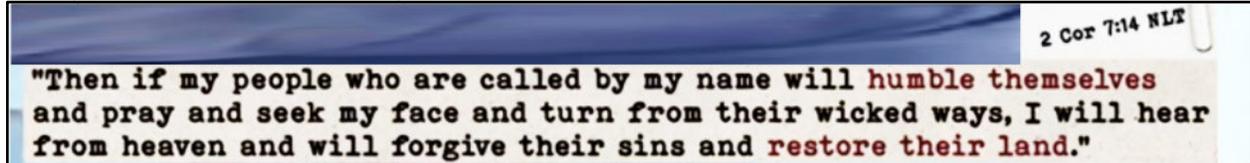
We live at a time when we realize that we are broken as a nation and as a country. We may be united here in The Feast and our Community. We may be united in our Light Groups or other organizations.

But the moment you bring politics into the room, we discover that we're broken people. We've seen how people have unfriended other people because of pride. And the one thing that I could not take was people mocking one another because they thought that what they believed in was right.

And I was like, it is happening again... I read this in the Bible. I read how people mocked Jesus and I read how people jeered at Him.

I asked, "Lord, how can you heal us as a nation? How can you heal us as a country? Where do we start?"

And the Lord pointed me to a piece of Scripture -- in 2 Chronicles. And I pray that you hear this. God says:



What is the way towards healing? It's *humility*. I can't make you humble. I don't have the power to do that.

All I can do is to humble myself and say, "Lord, my sin is the problem. Fix me first."

People are saying, "Run to the streets!"

Instead of running to the streets, let's run to the Father for



mercy. They say that we need "People Power." But what we need is "Prayer Power." We need to pray for one another.

Let's humble ourselves because it starts with me and with you. You cannot force somebody else to do it. You need to be the first to forgive people who have hurt you because, in the end, God is just. We believe that we have not yet seen the Lord's plan come to life. His ways are still moving. So, we have to trust in God.

22 The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025

Commitment

Let me read to you
what Jesus did while
He was being nailed
to a cross:



Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified - one on his right and one of his left.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah. The Chosen One." The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine.

My goodness, we're doing the same thing
all over again.

But Jesus says, "If my people would humble
themselves. If they seek my face, turn to me,
and change their ways, I will heal them.
I will forgive their sins and heal their land."

I'm going to ask you to do something so radical today. I'm going to ask you
to run to the Father instead of running to whoever you think will save you.

Jesus is the only One who can save us. He's our King. He's our ruler
and this is His land.

We're declaring this as early as now: that our country is for Jesus.
Manila is for Jesus. Alabang is for Jesus. Quezon City is for Jesus.
Visayas is for Jesus. Luzon is for Jesus. Davao is for Jesus. Rizal is for Jesus.
Antipolo is for Jesus. Cebu is for Jesus. The Philippines is for Jesus.
Canada is for Jesus. Japan is for Jesus.

We are all the children of God. Let's humble ourselves before God. Let's run
to Him like the prodigal people that we are. He's waiting for us and all we have
to do is just run back to the Father. He alone can save us.

Lift your hands, Everybody, as an act of humility.

*Oh, Father, we are deeply humbled before Your Presence. We know
what Your Word says. We know it's difficult to practice this, that's why we need
Your grace. We cannot do it alone. There is so much temptation, anger, bitterness,
envy, and bickering.*

*But today, we declare that Your grace is going to work for us and not against
us. We're going to walk out of this place completely healed so we can become
broken healers.*

*Lord, use Your son and your daughter today and forever to be vessels of peace
and not of war. Use each one to be a person of unity and not division.*

*We claim in Your Name that in Your perfect time, there will be healing
in our land. There will be complete humility in our land. There will be unending
joy and love. Because Father, in the end, You, not us, will win the battle.*

We run to You and we surrender our lives to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

The FEAST FAMILY March 23, 2025 23



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the Feast Mercy Ministries, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez.

Earlier named as Kerygma Family, The Feast Family is a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

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

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

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

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us to continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Our Partner Beneficiaries

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



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



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



Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation
grants scholarships to indigent students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer
provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.



The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center
ministers to those who are emotionally and spiritually wounded.



H.A.I.L. MARY is acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, adopting the Blessed Mother as the patroness of its mission to eradicate leprosy in Abra within 8–10 years.



The Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry
provides evacuation assistance, relief goods, financial aid, and other needs of calamity victims.

The Light of Jesus Prison Ministry
brings Jesus to the Correctional Institution for Women to give them hope for a new life of dignity.



Anawim Lay Missions Foundation provides a home for poor elderly who have been abandoned by their family and have nowhere else to go.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.

2. Pick Up from Your House or Office (Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.

3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office for US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family, 848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107. For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109.

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherd's Voice Account in any branch of these banks:
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Note: Text, Fax, or email us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us. Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230.



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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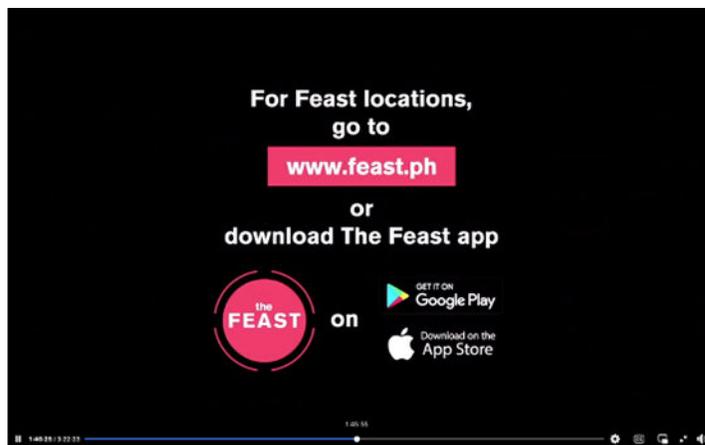
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

