



LEAD and LOVE

Like



JESUS

Like



**POPE
FRANCIS**

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." --JESUS

"Love everyone, even when they do not love us." -- Pope Francis

"I have come not to be served but to serve."

"Whoever wants to be great must be your servant." -- JESUS

"The world tells us to seek success, power, and money. God tells us to seek humility, service, and love." -- Pope Francis

It will be just a few days before the national elections. Many believe this is such a crucial, critical, and make-or-break election.

No, we are not electing the next Pope, nor are we choosing a saint. Yet, we are choosing leaders in whose hands millions of lives are at stake.

All of them claim that they want to SERVE the people and the country. It's now up to us who to believe, who to elect, and who to entrust our towns, cities, provinces, the nation – the Filipino people.

We must not vote blindly. We should have learned our hard lessons from the past. We should be guided by our conscience and listen well to those who speak with wisdom, moral authority, credibility, sincerity, and honesty.

Above all, we listen to GOD and see JESUS as our model of SERVANT-LEADERSHIP. We look at people who reflect that kind of leadership-- with humility and love, like POPE FRANCIS. Notice how even in his funeral Lolo Kiko gathered the high and mighty around the world, along with the poor and the powerless.

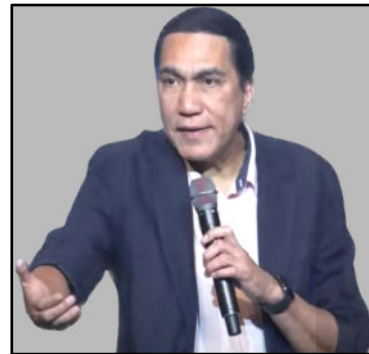
One question in choosing your candidate: Will he or she lead like JESUS?

Get ready for another Special Talk in our FEAST today that will surely bless and empower you.

Welcome to The Feast, where *You are loved!*

Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari sa 'Yo!

Alvin Barcelon





Have You Touched the Wounds of Jesus?

Thomas the Apostle could not believe Jesus' Resurrection-- until the Lord appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch the Lord's wounds.

In his Homily last Feast Sunday Mass, Rev Fr. Kiev Dimatatac said Jesus invites us today to touch His wounds and His scars.

Fr. Kiev added that in the book, *The Name of God Is Mercy*, Pope Francis said we can see Jesus and touch His wounds by doing works

of mercy for our brethren who are hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless, sick, and imprisoned. They are the wounds of Jesus today. We are called to touch, caress, and heal them, *page 3*.

On Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, Pope Francis went home to Heaven but his words, echoing the words of our Lord Jesus, keeps Pope Francis alive for us. Words that indeed sets

us free from our earthly burdens.

That's Bro. Alvin Barcelona's intro of the Special Feast Talk today, *page 1*.

Yes, our Lord Jesus unshackles our material and spiritual chains, as Bro. Bo Sanchez pointed out in his introduction of last Feast's Special Talk, *Breaking Free from Bondage*, *page 11*.

Bro. Audee Villaraza pointed out that indeed God wants to set us free-- citing lessons we can learn from the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt and their struggles in the wilderness, *page 14*.

Have you wounds from sins and Life's burdens? Let Jesus touch your wounds and through Him touch and heal others' wounds too.



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





Holy Mass



Homily

REV. FR. KIEV DIMATATAC, SSP
on the Gospel John 20:19-31

Excerpts:

TODAY is the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope John Paul II established this feast, designating the Second Sunday of Easter as the day of our celebration of the Divine Mercy, according to the vision of Sister Faustina Kowalska. *Above, right*, the original image by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, 1934. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Mercy_image

Do you have scars? Some of us have obvious scars that we want to hide or get rid of. Thanks to modern medical technology, we can now remove or hide scars. Perhaps, the women here know better what ointment to use or what night regimen to do to remove those scars.

When I was a child, we used only one thing to remove scars, and we called it *Sebo de Macho*. In my younger years, I loved to goof around but I was feeble. I would easily slip or fall, get wounded, and have scars. My mother would put *Sebo de Macho* on my knees to remove those scars. It seemed to have no effect on me.

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The Story: Reminder of God's Mercy

Not all scars are visible. Some scars are within us as a result of emotional hurt or social affliction. Some *scars* are called *traumas* and *fears*. Some scars are in the heart-- inflicted by people's betrayal, lying, bullying, or abandonment. Experiences as such create wounds in our heart. They are not easy to heal. Sometimes, we are not even aware that we are suffering from those wounds.

We do not want scars. These are marks left behind by our wounds. They say that behind every scar is a story of struggle. Hence, we do not want scars.

But our scars cannot be only a remembrance of pain, but a reminder of lessons learned. We learn from our mistakes. We learn from our pain.

We have seen this in our Readings today. Scars cannot only be a reminder of pain and suffering but they can also be a point of encounter with God. This can be the opening where God's mercy enters into our life. Our scars and wounds can become the way of God's healing, mercy, and grace.

In his book, *The Name of God Is Mercy*, Pope Francis-- then Fr. Jorge Bergoglio-- recounted a story about a man who came to him for Confession.

This man asked, "Father, how can I be sorry when I do not feel sorry for my sins?"

Instead of giving an answer, Fr. Bergoglio asked, "Do you feel sorry because you are not sorry?"

At that, the man cried and poured his heart out.

Often, it is in those moments of sinfulness and brokenness that we encounter God's mercy. This is the heart of the Gospel. This is the heart of our celebration -- not our sinfulness and brokenness but the conquering power of God's mercy in our life.



First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

12 Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico.

13 None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them.

14 Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. 15 Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

16 A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.



The Message: The Power of God's Mercy

In our Gospel today, we see many afflictions of the Apostles-- the closed room, the darkness that enveloped them, their scarred hearts, and that unbelieving Thomas. They were wounded and were staying in the dark because they had abandoned Jesus. Peter denied Jesus. Thomas refused to believe that Jesus is alive. Those were signs of trauma and fear. They thought Jesus was dead and that's the end of the story. But through the cracks of those closed doors, Christ entered and overwhelmed them with His mercy by telling them, "Peace be with you."

Perhaps, those were the very words they needed to hear-- that Christ understands and forgives them and that Christ will never abandon them. In spite of what they had done when He was crucified, Christ remained merciful.

The message for us this Sunday is that no matter how sinful we are, there is no greater sin that the mercy of God cannot conquer. There are no closed hearts and no darkness where the light and mercy of Christ cannot penetrate. His mercy has an overwhelming power that can conquer our sinfulness and darkness.

We have seen this interesting detail in our Gospel today. The Gospel says that Christ still bears the marks of the cross and the nails.

We can imagine the glorified body in the Resurrection that we will all be -- pure, beautiful, and handsome. Isn't it our idea that when we die, we will become like angels in the afterlife?

But today, we have seen Christ still bearing the marks of the cross and his pierced side. Perhaps, this is also what will be of us in the afterlife. My Eschatology professor says that in the afterlife, we do not know so much about it and that the only basis that we know about the afterlife is Jesus Himself.

R: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

- 2 Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."
- 3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever."
- 4 Let those who fear the Lord say, "His mercy endures forever." (R)
- 13 I was hard pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me.
- 14 My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior.
- 15 The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just. (R)
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- 23 By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. (R)



The Call: Touch Jesus' Wounds

Perhaps, we will still have scars in the afterlife. We will still have the marks brought about by the pains we endured. But this is not to remind us of the pain-- rather, that we loved and that we gave ourselves for love...

Jesus invites us today to touch His wounds and His scars. How?

Just like in our First Reading, we are called to become agents of mercy. As we have been overwhelmed by the mercy and grace of God, we are also called to help our brothers and sisters have the same experience.

In the book, *The Name of God Is Mercy*, Pope Francis added that we can touch the wounds of Jesus even if we don't physically see Him-- by doing the works of mercy for our brethren who are hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless, sick, and imprisoned. They are the wounds of Jesus today. We are called to touch, caress, and heal them. Only when we touch them can we really become agents of God's mercy. Let us not be afraid to touch the wounds of other people.

There is a story about St. Francis when he met a man who was afflicted with leprosy. In the old times, leprosy had no cure. Leprosy patients were outcasts in their community. But St. Francis embraced this man.

St. Francis told him, "I touched the living God."

In the same way, we can touch and adore this God of mercy by touching His wounds through the wounds of other people-- and not by adding to their wounds.

Today, let's pray that we become agents of mercy and that we may have the courage to touch the wounds of others so we may become whole again and rejoice in the love of God. Amen.



Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19

9 I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. 10 I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, 11 which said, "Write on a scroll what you see." 12 Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands 13 and, in the midst, of the lampstands, an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest. 17 When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, 18 the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. 19 Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

Worship!

BRO. RODEL CRUZ:

Happy Easter, Everybody!

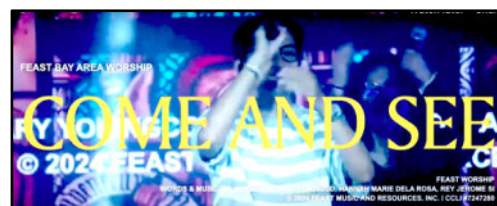
May I invite everyone to stand and give a Hi-5
to the person beside you and say:

“You’re my Easter person!”

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, let us come
and see God’s mercy and love.



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SIS. LUAN FEDERIGAN:

Hallelujah! Praise our God!

As we continue to worship our God,
we know that our God is the One True God.
And our God is King. The King who is alive.
And He is alive in this place.

So, let us now declare that we live for
that One God, our King who is our Rock
and who is our salvation, who stands firm today.

Let this be our declaration. Come on, sing with us:



CHRIST IS MY ROCK, MY LIVING HOPE

I STAND ON HIM, ON HIM ALONE



NO OTHER GROUND WILL I BUILD ON



BUT JESUS CHRIST, THE CORNERSTONE



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Something beautiful happens when a spiritual family gathers together, from different backgrounds, different burdens in our hearts. We come together as a family, recognizing that we have one Father.

And that Father is here.

He looks at each one of us and He says: “My child, my son, my daughter, my dearest friend, I want you now to look at the different changes that have been happening in your life. “

Are there many changes in your life? There are many. And yet there’s one thing that will never change: the love of the Father.

Nagbabago ang pamilya, nagbabago ang ating kalusugan, nagbabago ang mga relationships, nagbabago yung trabaho, nagbabago ang ekonomiya. Family, health, relationships, jobs, the economy-- they all change. So many things change, but the love of the Father for you will never change.

I want us to pray, I want us to sing about the Rock that will never change:



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

Lift your hands and say our prayer in every Feast:



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 everyday.
Today, I proclaim that I am God's beloved,
I am God's servant
And I am God's powerful champion.
And because I am blessed,
I am blessing the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.



Special Talk



BRO. BO SANCHEZ

Néle Azevedo, Brazilian sculptor. What's amazing about her is that her artwork is temporary. You call it temporary art. *Here*, I show you some pictures of her art: ice sculptures, tiny ones, little figures, 1,000 of them.



Néle Azevedo

April 28 at 12:55 AM · 🌐

resonance of the Minimal Monument in hearts and minds world outside...



WARNERCROCKER.COM

Néle Azevedo's Melting Men Reminds Us That Life Is Short



Here, a post on Azevedo's sculptures

on her Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/nele.azevedo/>

Azevedo called the sculptures *Minimal* Monuments.

Why? Because the usual monuments--made of stone, marble, or bronze--they last almost *forever*. Azevedo's artwork would last for only *30 minutes*. After that, the ice sculptures melt (*above right*) --they're gone.

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Two for Blessings Overflow



The reason I share with you Nele Azevedo's *Melting Men* is I became very sentimental a few days ago.

At the recent Holy Week Retreat and Grand Easter Sunday Feast, there were two persons who were not there. I'm talking about Tita Lynda Reyes (*right, in black*) and Tita Aida Dy (*in yellow*) Every single Sunday, they were here at The Feast.



Let me tell you their story.

Many years ago, they were in their late 60s already, they walked into The Feast for the first time. They loved it. They talked to me. We called them *Doñas*. We called them *Imeldific* They had elaborately coiffed hair. They always dressed well. They wore beautiful jewelry.

They would walk into The Feast with that sense of confidence and aura.

One day, they told me: "Bro. Bo, we visited The Feast, and we love it. We visited Anawim, our Ministry for abandoned elderly, and we love it. We want to serve there."

I said, "Parang hindi kayo bagay doon. It seems you'd be out of place there..."

But they said, "We want to go there. We want to serve there."

You know, they adopted Anawim.

They said, "Bro. Bo, we're going to build houses there."

They raised funds. They dug from their own pocket. They started building one house after another. Anawim was transformed.

And people started telling me, "Bro. Bo, Anawim is like a resort."

I said, "Blame it on the Doñas."



Original nipa huts transformed into "resort" cottages for our lolos and lolas.

The Message of Easter

Tita Aida and Tita Lynda would go to Anawim weekly, stayed overnight, or for two nights. They beautified everything there.

Every Sunday at The Feast, I would go to the lobby for book-signing and picture-taking with attendees. After that, I would walk and see two familiar figures manning the table of Anawim, attending to those inquiring details about this ministry, and those who want to donate. I always said in jest that people might not donate to Anawim anymore because they looked wealthy already. They were so regal.

Last year, in a span of one month, both women passed away. It broke our hearts. Two ice sculptures melting in 30 minutes. That's who we are. We melt.

Tita Lynda and Tita Aida are not here anymore. The table is empty. I miss them so much because every Sunday they were there.

We are not made of marble or stone or bronze. We are made of ice. After Néle Azevedo carefully set up 1,000 ice sculptures, they become puddles of water-- after 30 minutes.

One day, we will all be gone. Here's my very strong recommendation. Do not be too attached to anyone nor to anything in this world. We need to understand the power of Easter. The message of Easter is if Jesus rose from the dead, He will raise you up as well. This earthly life that we have is temporary-- just like the art of Néle Azevedo. But we last forever in another form.

Let's read Luke 12:16-21:

"A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. In fact, his barns were full to overflowing—he couldn't get everything in. He thought about his problem, and finally exclaimed, 'I know—I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones! Then I'll have room enough. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "Friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Wine, women, and song for you!"' "But God said to him, 'Fool! Tonight you die. Then who will get it all?' "Yes, every man is a fool who gets rich on earth but not in heaven."

LUKE 12:16-21



Tita Lynda and Tita Aida were rich here on Earth but when the barn was full, they did not build new barns. They just let the barn overflow.

It's okay to overflow. Because we are all ice sculptures that melt.

Tita Aida and Tita Lynda's generosity overflowed to Anawim and they made it beautiful.

If you want to be free, let go of attachments and trust in the One who will raise you one day.

If God blesses you so much, just let the blessings overflow to the people around you.

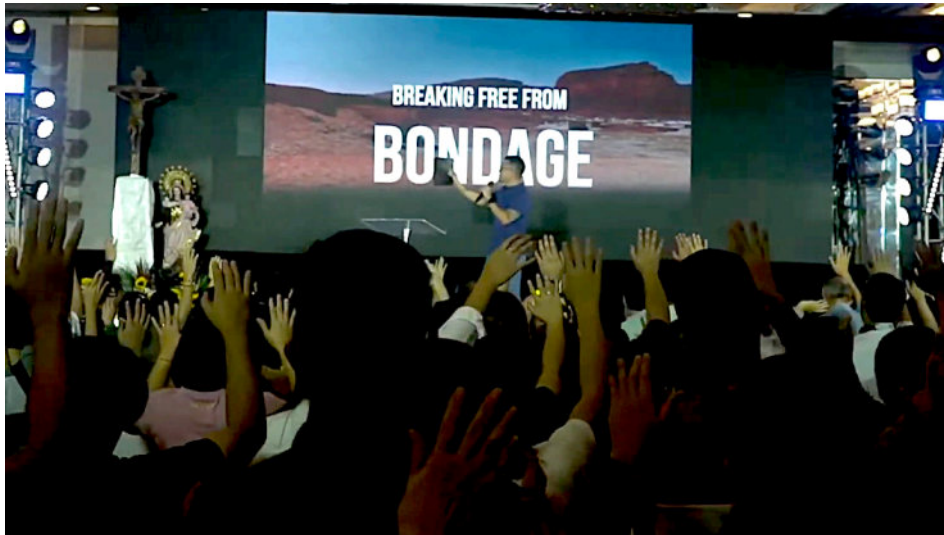
Special Talk



BRO. AUDIE VILLARAZA:

This week, I prepared a message that I believe will set someone here free. I don't know what kind of chains or bondage holding you back. But I'm declaring right now that the power of Jesus is upon us. Right now, He's going to set you free. I want you to believe that with all your heart.

Lift your hands as we sing in honor of God's Word:



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

After coming from the Grand Easter Feast last Sunday, I wonder if you also asked this question. After every big occasion that happens-- whether it's Easter, Christmas, birthday, or a regular Feast where you get so inspired-- do you also ask: "So, what now?"

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The Message

I realized that this is a message that we all need to receive because God has been trying to do something since the beginning of time.

We're going to walk through this beautiful story from the book of *Exodus* on how the Lord has been trying to resurrect people since Day 1.

The problem is that for some reason, people keep on going back to sin, to chains, and to slavery.

My big message for all of you today is that God wants to set you free.

He really does set you free from whatever prison you are in. Maybe you're a sin to social media. Maybe, you're a sin to a substance. Maybe, you're a sin to people-pleasing. Maybe, you're a slave to a person you are trying to love--but it's becoming so hard to do so.

Today, I believe that God is going to set us free. I want you to come into that posture of receiving the light and the love of the Lord.

Put your hand over your chest and say:

"Lord, change me from the inside out.

Only You can transform me in this moment.

I will listen and I will receive with love.

In Jesus' Name. Amen."



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

Three Lessons from the Wilderness

We're going to backtrack a bit to the Old Testament, in *Exodus*. We're going to talk about the story of the Israelites being freed from Egypt. I'm going to teach you three powerful lessons that we can learn from the wilderness. We're going to do a little wilderness-walk.

If you have a goal of taking 10,000 steps every day, we're going to have a goal of taking 10,000 spiritual steps today with God.

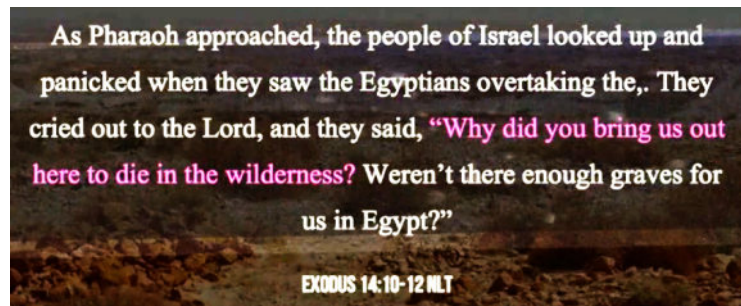


Quick context: This is the time when the Israelites were already freed from Egypt and they were walking towards the Promised Land*

--until they reached the Red Sea. And then they noticed that the Egyptians were chasing after them.

Let's read Exodus 14:10-21>

I want you to think about this for a few moments: The Israelites were slaves for 400 years. That's a long time. They were praying to God for help. They were begging God for freedom.



All of a sudden, God freed them from Egypt through plague after plague and miracle after miracle until finally, the Pharaoh softened his heart and said, "Go. Go away from this place."

That was a happy moment. It was a celebration.

*Why were the Israelites in Egypt?

In the Old Testament, in *Genesis*, because of his faith and obedience, Abraham was blessed by God who promised his descendants would inherit the land of Canaan. From Abraham came Isaac, from Isaac came Jacob and from Jacob came 12 sons, one of them, Joseph (the dreamer) who told his brothers he dreamt that one day, they would bow down to him. This angered the brothers so they sold Joseph to slavery in Egypt. Joseph gained the favor of the Egyptian Pharaoh who assigned Joseph second in command -- to stockpile food to prepare the nation for an impending worldwide famine.

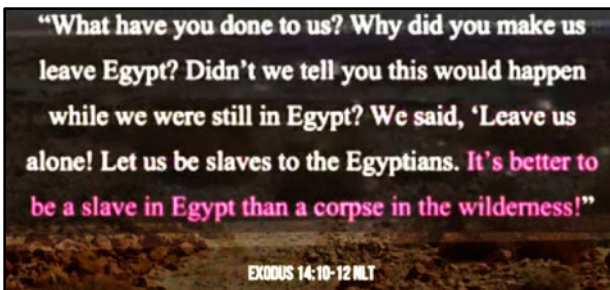
During the famine, Jacob and his sons had to transfer to Egypt since it had food reserves. The Israelites flourished in Egypt -- until succeeding pharaohs after Joseph's time were threatened by the growing number of the Israelites. So, they made the Israelites slaves and they remained so for 400 years until God then chose Moses to set the Israelites free.

In *Exodus*, led by Moses, the Israelites then set out for Canaan, the Promised Land.

Trivia: Today, the Promised Land encompasses the modern states of Israel, the West Bank/ Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, and southern Syria. Gaza.

Egypt Still Following You?

After 400 years of bondage, the Israelites were finally free. They were walking in the desert. They were walking towards the Promised Land, a land filled with milk and honey-- until they got to the Red Sea. They saw the Egyptians riding in chariots, chasing them. From celebration, they turned into depression. They started complaining to Moses:



The lesson here is simple. Sometimes, you think that you have left Egypt but Egypt is still following you. It's right behind you. Isn't that so true when it comes to sin?

Imagine this very powerful and very scary image: The Devil is always there chasing you. The moment you take a step, he's chasing you to get you back.

That's how sin is. It's so hard to overcome sin because it's always there. But one lesson we need to learn here is that sin is not too far away from all of us.

You think you're free -- until the next bad medical report, or until the next bad day. I mean, you would be surprised how little it takes for the enemy to steal your joy. Somebody comes up to you, and you're chasing your dream, and you're now experiencing the abundance of your business-- but then one bad day happens and now you're back to where you started, questioning God and your faithfulness in God. It's so easy to get us back into that familiar place.

We prefer familiarity over what is uncertain.

Think about it: Why do people keep going back to toxic relationships even though they are physically abused or verbally battered? Because that relationship is familiar.

Why do 66% of ex-offenders in the United States end up back in prison within a three-year span of time? Because the prison is already familiar to them.

This is the truth. *Familiarity* doesn't necessarily mean *freedom*.

God wants something better for you. He wants you to be healthier so that you can be healthy for your family. God wants you to experience financial freedom. Just because you think you know how to survive in Egypt doesn't mean that you belong there. Just because you think you can handle that sin doesn't mean that God wants you to have that sin.





Once God frees you, you are free physically. But the battle is now in your mind.

Everything happens in the mind. For example, you got out of a toxic relationship but for some reason, the slavery mindset still grips you.

You're not opening yourself to other people for them to love you. Why? Because you're stuck in that position--thinking, "I'm not worthy to be loved by anybody else."

Some people are like that because they went through a trauma in life --and that's a sad part.

Egypt is more than just a place. Egypt is a mindset.

God wants to remove that slavery mindset because it continues to chase us wherever we go.

If you're going through any of these situations, I want you to know that there is a spiritual family here at The Feast that you can come to for help.

We can point you to our Pastoral Care Center.

We might not know all the answers but at least, we're here to journey with you and to pray with you.



Reasons People Keep Going Back

1. Familiarity feels safe (even when it hurts)
2. Hope that things will be better
3. Low self-worth or guilt
4. Emotional or spiritual connection
5. Lack of support or resources



2.
GOD LED THEM THE LONG WAY
-- FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

God led the Israelites to a long path for a specific purpose:

They were walking in the desert for 40 long years. Do you know how long it should have taken them from Egypt to the Promised Land? Only 11 days.

But 11 days turned into 40 years. *



God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, *though that was shorter.*

EXODUS 13:17-18 NLT

"Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands."

DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3 NLT

Why did the Lord allow them to go through that?

I used to think that the wilderness was a place of *punishment*. But the truth is, the wilderness is a place of *preparation*. Because the Israelites were slaves for 400 years, the Lord needed to prepare them for freedom. Because removing that slavery mindset doesn't happen overnight.

So, the Lord will change you not overnight but over a lifetime.

Little by little as you walk with Him, God is changing you, unlocking your potential in living with Him. But I need you to understand that the reason God is allowing us to go through a lot of delays in life.



truthandtidings.com/2020/09/egypt-to-canaan-map/

*There are 250-330 miles (400-500 kilometers) between Egypt and Canaan, the Promised Land-- which took the Israelites to complete in 40 years.

The shortest route was 250 miles-- which could have been negotiated for only 11 days.

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Two Reasons for Delays

God is allowing us to go through a lot of delays in life. There are two reasons:

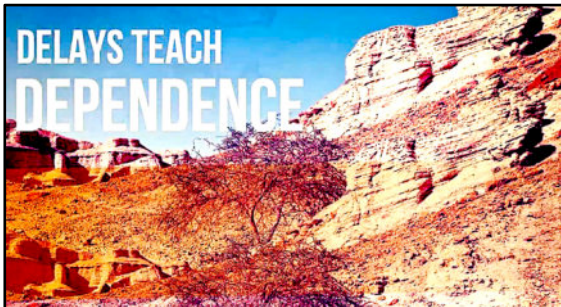


When my Dad was still single, he used to work as a medical technician. During his time in the 1960s, nobody travelled by plane. So, he would be driving all the time to different cities and he would experience a lot of unforeseen delays.



By the time he was married and already had children, he had clocked in over 10,000 hours in the patience department. He would wait for us even when our classes ended up late. He would not complain a single bit.

They say that the best way to learn something is to experience it. Do not be surprised that the Lord will allow you to go through traffic. Do not be surprised that the Lord will allow you to experience canceled flights. Because sometimes, the only way that the Lord will teach us is through experience.



By this time, they were already hungry.

So, it says in Exodus 18::

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Look, I'm going to rain down food from heaven for you. **Each day** the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day."

EXODUS 16:4 NLT

So, the Lord was going to rain down food from Heaven. Each day the people can go out and pick as much food as they needed for that day:

What was God doing? He was sending manna. Manna is bread raining down from Heaven. That is beautiful. Imagine, just receiving the blessing of the Lord every day.

But there's a catch. You need to eat manna or bread on the day you get it. Because by tomorrow, it will already be rotten.

There was a time limit. The Lord wasn't just trying to get the people to a destination. He was teaching them dependence on Him.

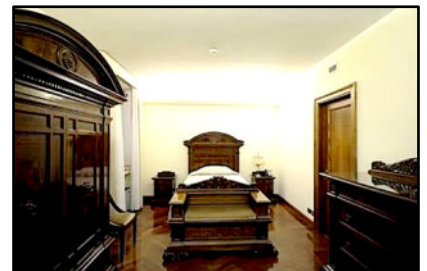
In the same manner, God is teaching you to depend on Him, so that every day, you go to God for what you need.

That's why Jesus taught us the prayer: *"Give us this day, our daily bread..."*

Pope Francis' Humble Statement

I really want to honor Pope Francis.
He's a leader who just recently passed away.

(Following a heart failure, Pope Francis died at age 88 on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at Domus Sanctae Marthae, in Vatican City.



He could have lived in The Apostolic Palace... But he chose to live in a small room in the Vatican Guest House.

It was his statement: to let everybody be aware that we are humble Christ followers who depend on God for all that we need.

The FEAST FAMILY May 4, 2025 19



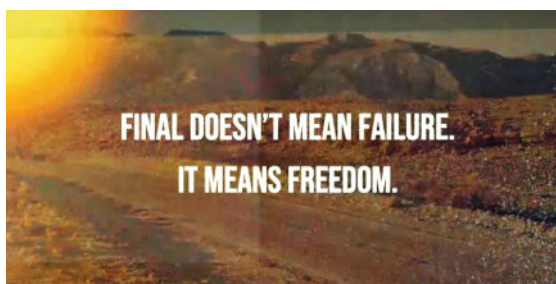
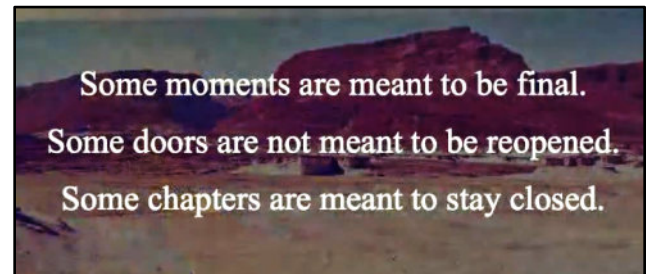
But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. **The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again.**"
EXODUS 14:13 NLT



This is how God is speaking to all of us. Don't be afraid because that thing that you're so scared of, after today, you'll no longer see that. God wasn't just delivering the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land.

God wasn't just *delivering* them. God was *destroying* everything that was coming against them. He said that right after the day they are freed from sin, these people will no longer be in that oppressive situation.

We shall be set free in the same manner. I know this is going to be a hard truth. There are some moments in your life that are not meant to continue. There are some doors in your life that are not meant to be reopened. There are some chapters that are really meant to be closed.



Why? Because God wants to set you free. Sometimes, to set you free, there has to be a final note.

But *final* doesn't mean *failure*. Sometimes, *final* simply means *freedom*.

Because the only way that you can walk away from sin and oppression is to really say:

"This Is Final."

I know it's hard to walk away from a toxic relationship where you feel loved. But you need to do it so that the Lord can heal you and give you something better. I know it's hard to walk away from a high-paying job that pays for your bills. But if it's stressing you out and it's corrupting you, you need to walk away so that the Lord can save your soul.

What does it profit you to gain the whole world but then lose your very own soul?

**GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO MERELY
SURVIVE IN THE WILDERNESS. HE WANTS
US TO THRIVE IN THE PROMISE.**



The Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land wasn't just about blessing them so that they would survive where they were.

God sent the Israelites manna every day but God was doing something deeper-- giving them nourishment for their soul.

And I believe He's still doing the same thing today-- while you are in your business of being in your own wilderness.

Please don't rush your wilderness season. The Lord is preparing something greater for you. While you are still in the wilderness season, He doesn't just want you to survive. He wants you to be ready for the Promised Land. When you come to the Promised Land, you won't just survive but you're going to thrive. You're going to excel. You're going to experience abundance like no other.

Don't rush your progress. Take your time. There are delays in life-- and that's good. Because God will teach you how to persevere, how to be patient, and how to depend on Him.

Pope Francis showed us that what we need to do is to keep walking forward. Pope Francis came at a time in Church when there was a lot of division and anger. But he reformed the Church through his humility. He pushed the boundary to love people who felt unloved. He accepted and embraced people from different sex.

That's what we need to do. We need to stop looking back at the past, and instead keep moving forward to a better life.

Egypt is a place that represents sin. It's a place of opulence, of grandeur, of excess. It represents power, oppression, and slavery. The Israelites were trying to get away from it all for 400 years. They were trying their best to get out of it but they couldn't. They were in bondage and for some reason, even if they were already freed from slavery, they kept on returning to it.

Isn't that just like all of us here? There's a tendency for us to keep returning to slavery because it's our mindset.

Commitment

Finally, the Lord said: "I'm going to send my best messenger -- my Son, Jesus."

And Jesus said: "Whom the Son sets free is free indeed."

Egypt could not hold the people of God. And God showed us through this story and through the life of Jesus-- who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life-- that sin cannot hold us.

Depression cannot hold us. In the same way that Jesus showed us that the grave could not hold the Son of God, the only way we get to experience freedom is through Jesus.

I want you to receive the love of the Lord empowering you, overflowing in you, to attack every sin, every difficulty, every shame, and every guilt that the enemy is using against you. The Lord has a plan for you but it starts by setting you free in your mind. I wonder what you need to be set free today.

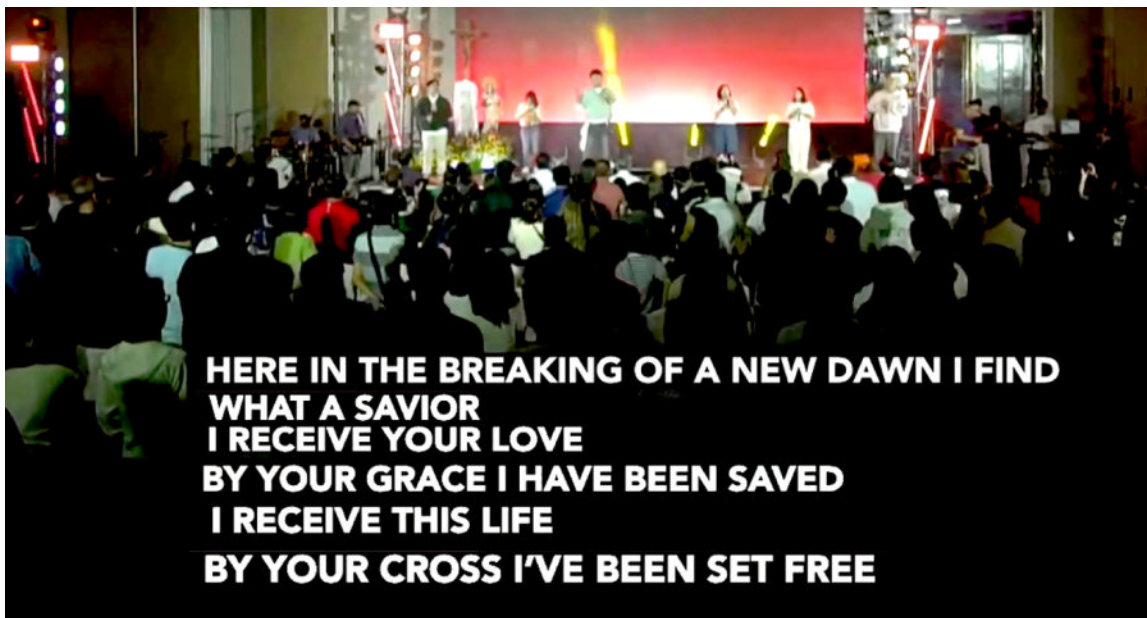
Let the Lord set you free and renew your mind so that He can transform you to become the person that He's called you to be.

Put your hand over your heart and say:

*"Lord, I want to be changed not just for a day but forever.
Today, I am letting go of all the chains that imprison me.
I'm opening my door so that Your light
can penetrate all the darkest places in my life.*

I receive Your love. I receive Your mercy.

I receive Your Son, Jesus.



Surrender

True freedom comes at a cost. Freedom is not being able to do anything that you want. Freedom is not being free from oppression or from sin.

True freedom is actually learning how to trust and walk with God when you're no longer in survival mode. It's hard to do. It's hard to trust the Lord when you want to do it your way. It's hard to surrender your life when you want to be in control-- but that's what Jesus is trying to teach us.

If you want to experience real freedom, give your all to Jesus. Give your life to Him. Give Him your faith, your trust, and your obedience. From there, you will experience freedom that only Jesus can give. Freedom from shame, from fear, from judgment. That's the kind of freedom that Jesus can offer us. It can start for us today.

This is Day 1 for all of us when we can commit our life to Jesus by saying: "I'm done turning back and going back to Egypt. I'm going to be looking forward to the promise of God for my life."

Lift your hands in the Presence of God And say this with me:

"Lord, I am a sinner. I know that I've sinned against You but I believe in Your mercy. I believe You can forgive me. Right now, I want nothing but Your love to wrap around me, to engulf me, to embrace me, and to ultimately change me. I want to walk out of these doors completely brand new.

Thank You, Jesus, that You are setting me free at this moment. You are my God and You alone, will I worship. I give You my all. In Your Name. Amen.



Love Offering

BRO. BO SANCHEZ:



I would like just to say this to everybody. This is your home. I want you to own this home. Like Tita Lynda and Tita Aid did. They were not just sitting there and saying, “Oh, it’s nice to watch and be just a spectator.”

No. Own it and say, “Help me. I’m going to make this place a beautiful place.”

I want you to make this home your home. Make it beautiful. Make it overflow with the blessings of God.

We’re going to have an offering. Let it be an expression of your trust in God-- that God will continue to provide for you. And God will continue to provide for this house.

Let me pray for you:

Heavenly Father, I pray for every person here, especially in the area of their finances. I ask You, Lord, that You bless their jobs. I pray that You bless their businesses, sidelines, side hustles. I pray that You bless their investments. I ask that You prosper the work of their hands. And I pray that You make them into pipelines of blessings so that the blessings will overflow to so many other people, specifically Your Ministry. May this house be blessed through these people.


This we pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.



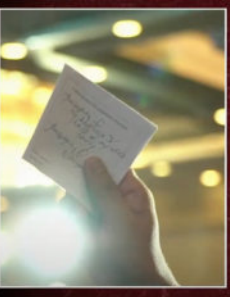
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Give with joy and give with love.

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Thank You!

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

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

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

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

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

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

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

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

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Our Partner Beneficiaries

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



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



He Cares Mission
provides shelter
and pastoral care
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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.

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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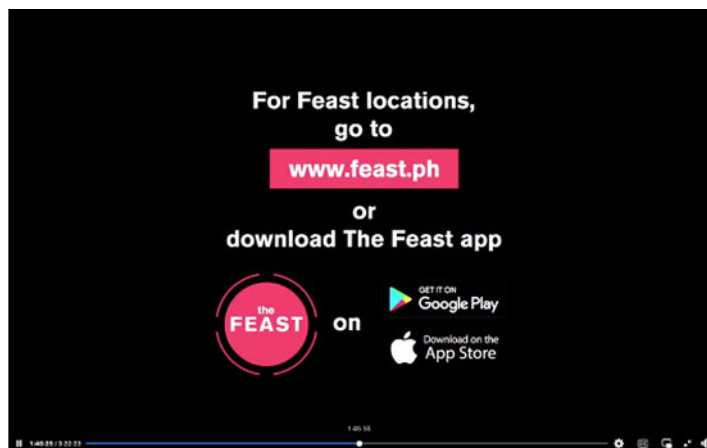
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

