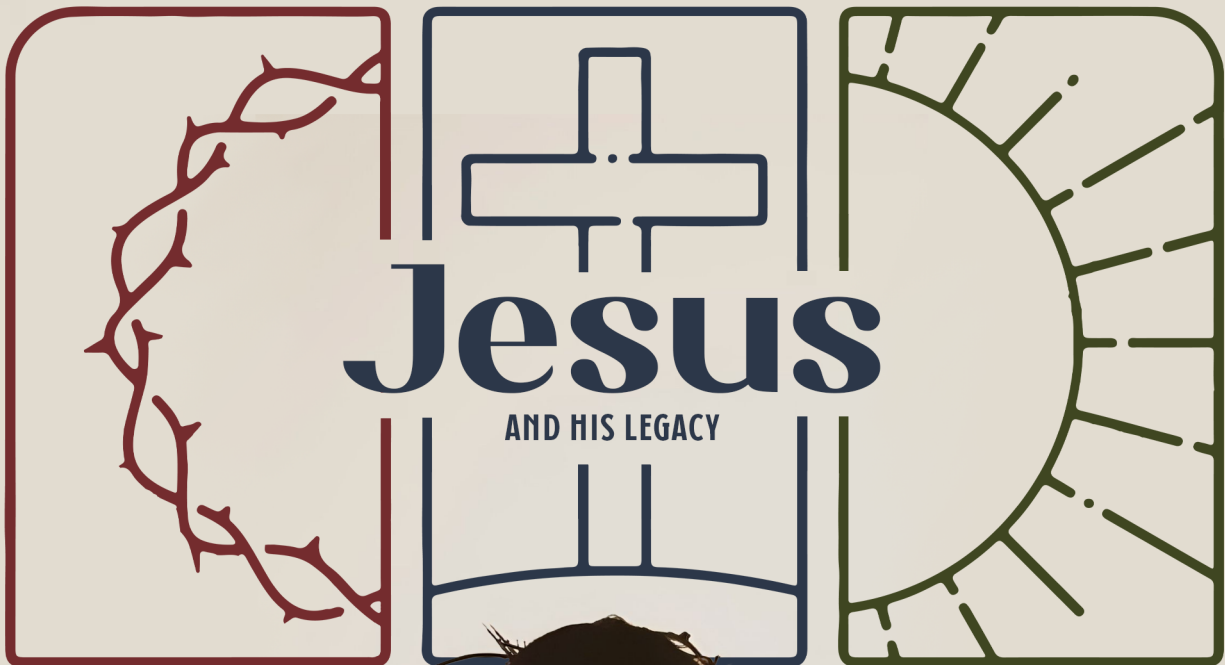


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ACTS

MAGAZINE



**THE LEGACY OF
THE KINGDOM
OF GOD**

**SEEKING TO BE
A VISIONARY
LEADER**

**PREACHING IN
THE MINISTRY
OF JESUS**

**LEADERS
CARIBBEAN
FIELD**



+502 4219-2841

@MAR.Evangelismo

@evangelismo_mar

www.evangelismomar.org

evangelismo.pj.mesoamerica@gmail.com

EDI- TORIAL



DIRECTOR

Dr. Milton Gay Valencia

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Jerson Chupina

EDITOR

Daysi Lemus

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Daysi Lemus

Gabriel Yip

Jerson Chupina

EDITORIAL DESIGN

Merari Riley

GRAPHIC DESIGN PARTNERS

Daysi Lemus

COLUMNISTS

Dr. Milton Gay Valencia

Magdiel Martinez

Milton Gerardo Gay Novoa

Jerson Chupina

Dr. Marcos A. Velasco

Dr. Jorge Baños

Vanessa Maldonado

Gabriel Yip

WEBSITE DESIGN

Daysi Lemus

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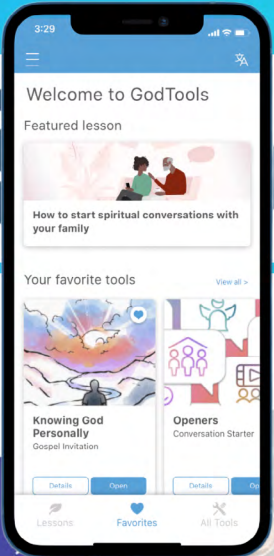
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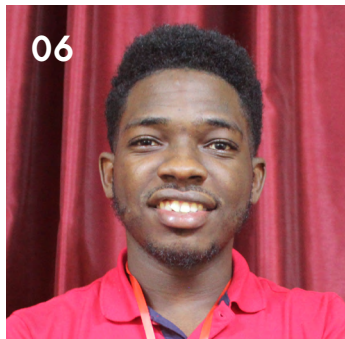
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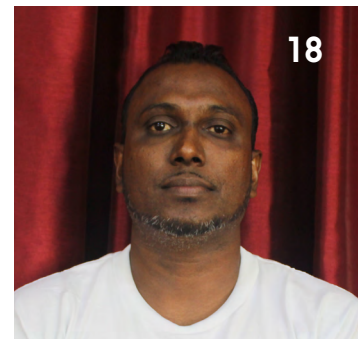
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ULISES DANIEL SOLÍS JIMÉNEZ



Date of birth: October, 16 of 1955

Family: Wife and children: Kelly Mejía, 2 daughters, Gilma Arely, Wendy Jeannette and 5 grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls.

Years serving in the Church of the Nazarene: 43 years, Since 1981.

At the local level, we have served as the president of JNI, MNI, DNI. In the district level, five years as the Superintendent of El Salvador Oriente, church planter, 18 years serving as a pastor in 3 churches. Also we served 8 years as secretary of the Advisory Board in the department of El Salvador Centro. In January 2004, I was called as missionary, where we have served where the Lord Jesus Christ and the church has needed us. We coordinated the area-level ministries of DNI, MNI, Evangelism, Jesus Film, 2 years as an internal CEA, dean of SENDAS and currently we serve as rectors of STN in Guatemala.

The most significant ministry we only do it for the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything is important and has great significance because it is

serving our neighbors and the local church. We serve the Lord of the harvest. Now, the ministry I love the most is being a pastor and teacher. These are the occupations that the Prince of pastors and teachers, Jesus Christ identified with.

My message to the region is serve with passion and an honest heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, since there are a multitude of spiritual blessings and great satisfaction, making the evangelism a lifestyle. Proverbs 12:25.

Also, one suffers in the ministry, but you all must be convinced that you are not alone in the name of Jesus Christ and in the Power of the Holy Spirit there is sufficient and enabling Grace for you to advance in your service to the Lord of the harvest and to those led by you.

**SERVE WITH
PASSION AND AN
HONEST HEART
TO THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST,
SINCE THERE ARE
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OF SPIRITUAL
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**WEEK 4
PROCLAME**

21 TO 27 MAY 2023

**WEEK 5
DISCIPLE**

28 TO MAY 2023 AND ON



JESUS LEGACY

cornerstone



BY VANESSA MALDONADO

► From the Old Testament we have found references of the Messiah, from His arrival to His death and resurrection. Some references are explicit, and others make allusion of what daily life was and situations that were easy to understand. I love finding in the Bible illustrations of food, the body, professions and in a particular case, about construction.

The following illustration particularly catches my attention because I like architecture. In university, we had a subject called “Architecture History,” and the focus was on how to build and how there are works that have

lasted for hundreds of years, some that we even see today. And one of the essential pieces to build is the cornerstone. This is the principal stone, normally placed in the corner of the building, and it is the largest, most solid, and best built. This guides the workers in alignment and the measurement of the building. In occasion, it is related or equipped with a keystone of an arch. If you observe to an old building door, you will find a little piece in the middle of an arch, one that gives strength to sustain everything. If that piece is missing, all the other ones would not have direction or strength. It is what allows the arch to keep firm

and strong. It is an interesting comparison when we talk about our Lord Jesus Christ.

His Word says, “So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic” (Isaiah 28:16NIV)

Looking at it that way, we can understand that Jesus Christ represents a foundation that guides us, gives us direction, strength, and support in our lives. It is the infallible part of ourselves. Who gives meaning to everything.

I like it in the New International Version how it mentions in verse 16-17, the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line. In the same way that constructors had to pay attention to the cornerstone to know that they were following the right line, God affirms us that if we turn to Jesus Christ, then we can be sure we are going through the right path.

There isn't a greater legacy than God's salvation through Jesus. That good news has passed generation to generation, and many have had the privilege to communicate it. Without a doubt, the protagonist is whoever made the Work and is the cornerstone that we spoke about previously. But I ask myself, what is the legacy that we are leaving behind. What is that that will continue, even when we are no longer around. Many times we settle with being part of a ministry, with going to church or camps, and we are happy doing activism. We even may talk to someone we know about God sometimes, but I don't think that means we understand what it means to be part of Jesus' legacy, being part of chosen people who will live with God for eternity, or be part of the children saved with blood and be the ones who have the privilege to share with others the wonders of the plan of salvation. Not like a planned activity for a ministry, but as a lifestyle. Because living as a part of Jesus' legacy is experimenting God's presence in our lifestyle. That means that our lives must be a reflection of God's existence and the conviction of striving to be as perfect as He is.

Have you thought about the most influential person in your life? I can assure you that what made you chose that person as an example was not what they say or the

knowledge they have, but their lifestyles, the way they act. And when this happens, we learn the things we like about them, and we teach others what we have learned. That is what is considered a legacy. Francisco de Asis would say "preach the Gospel all the time and use words when necessary." Very close to the subject at hand, by the way. What a challenge! This is because it is taking us to the point where we understand that when we are aligned with the cornerstone and we are formed over that stone, meaning, we get stronger for that union that has been created, we can be sure that we are walking the right way. The way we act has been guided completely

by Jesus' example in this earth. And that this is a presentation card to those who see us, proving that we are truly followers of Christ. Therefore, they will not follow us for what we say, but for that that is expressed through our actions, our lifestyle, that includes how we respond to others, how we treat them, our responsibilities at school or work, how honest we are, how righteous we are, and the list goes on. This challenges us to be examined by others and that they are able to see Jesus reflected in us instead of seeing us. That is what being a part of Jesus' legacy should feel like as well as leaving behind a legacy for future generations. To teach others what God can do in their lives without

promoting us because words are not the main thing when our hearts are reflected in the actions we make.

Have you asked yourself how firm in the cornerstone your faith is? How are you honoring the privilege of being a part of Jesus' legacy with the way you're living your life? What legacy are you leaving behind following Jesus' example? Reflect on this and talk with God about your answers. Nobody knows your heart more and nothing will give you direction more than that wonderful cornerstone that has come to us as Jesus Christ.

There isn't a greater legacy than God's salvation through Jesus

RECOMMENDED READING

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR YOU

→ Legacy: Leading a new generation



We are all part of a plan God wants to perfect and complete. The moment you read this book you'll be forced to ask yourself this question: What are my dreams?

Subsequently, you will realize that this is a question that requires reflection, evaluation, and ideas. You will learn that it is necessary to get over a casual and existential lifestyle trapped in the routine and adapt it to a place for growth on what we should. This is your opportunity to become a transcendent leader who may impact multiple lives reflecting the image of Christ. Accomplish your dream and leave behind a legacy.

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on our evangelism approach and how to improve it.



JESUS, HIS RECONCILIATION LEGACY



BY GABRIEL YIP

For afar you could hear the shouting and screeches that came from a house that from outside looked peaceful like any other place in that area. However, inside a battle was developing between two brothers, one of 7 and another of 8 years old. They were decided to solve the conflict with their hands and all the strength they had. After both took a breath, both jumped on each other. But before having the big crash that would define the battle, they heard a sound that frightened them much more than the fierceness of their opponent. Phooweet! It was their dad's whistle who had noticed the situation and had come to put peace between this brother conflict. Does that situation sound familiar to you? How many parents or authorities do we need to solve our conflicts and prevent a battle?

Some consider that a different type of education and convincing to the new generations will train them to solve conflicts through conversation. Others suggest that police supervision everywhere will avoid any mishaps. We cannot discount the persuasive and civil work as something

important and dismiss the protection and the care for civilians. But Jesus' legacy goes deeper in personal relations to make of them something different, and we see that in the following verse, "and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross" Colossians 1:20.

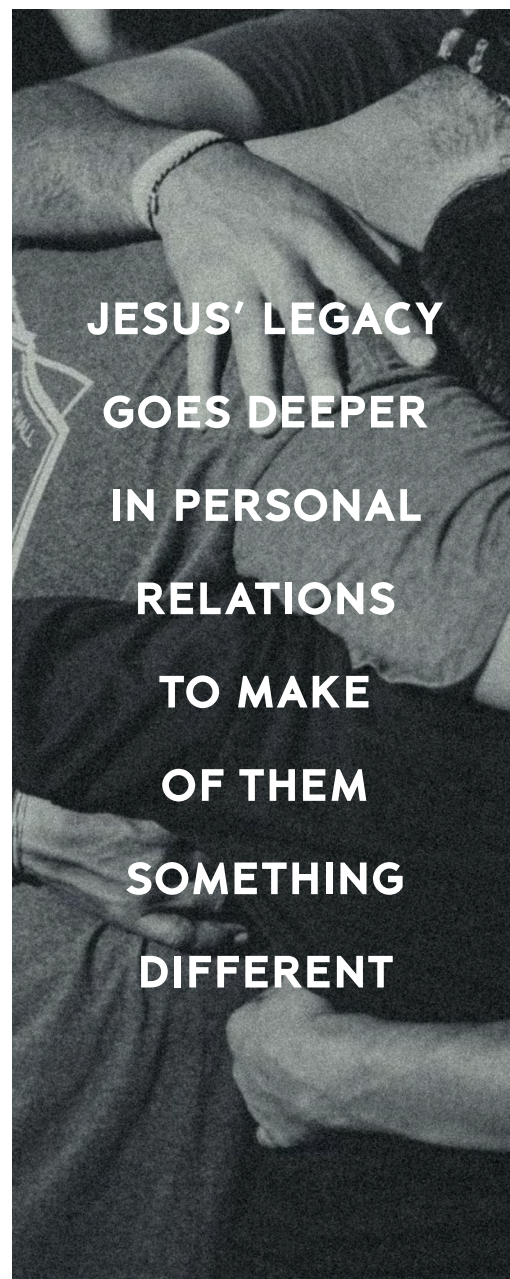
From a Christian focus, we recognize that the initial conflict isn't with a sibling, relative, social class or political leader. Either of them or us can be the ones provoking a conflict, but the initial cause of everything is that all, women or men, rich or poor, of any ethnic origin, we are in enmity with God, and that is reflected in the relationships with our neighbors. Therefore, together with political education and citizen care, it is necessary to eliminate conflict with God. Paul the Apostle presents us a solution for conflict in Jesus Christ who put closer that what was separated with his sacrifice, and he eased a peace with God not only as an absence of conflict but also an elimination of the grievance to God, paying the price of humanity and setting an example of a life in obedience to the Father in a reconciliation mission for all creation.

The conflict between God and humanity began for a rebellion (and the abuse of freedom), the sins started the enmity with our Creator; however, He, who is wide in mercy, took the initiative to reconcile. He knew and knows that with an enmity with Him, all our relationships will be transformed in a severe way. That is why He sent His son Jesus Christ. Whoever receives Him as their Savior and follows His example will experience a life of reconciliation. 2nd Corinthians 5:17-20.

There are many examples of Jesus' legacy in personal and town relationships. The declaration presented in the letter to the church of Galatia, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28, shows us. In the context of the passage, we can identify the distinction between Jews and Gentiles who were susceptible to rejection, trials, rivalries or pressure of the Jews towards the Gentiles to live the religion in a Jew way.

Being in Jesus is accepting the need to be saved from our sins, of our rebellious condition and continue being guarded by His Holy Spirit until Jesus comes or we leave this Earth. Living reconciliation eliminates the false deception of our justice, but it demands that we encourage others to reconcile with God through Christ. If this is not happening, we are disparaging the Lord's legacy. This also makes us review all our relationships. Whether they are mediated by the example of Jesus whom God makes us a single people without distinction, without levels of inferiority or superiority, and invites us, through the Apostle Paul's words, to seek peace if possible, with every person, Romans 12:18. This means to find peace with those who do not share our faith in Jesus.

Jesus' reconciliation legacy is not an intervention of an earthy father who prevents conflicts and put order. Jesus has the authority, and he has an approach where He did what was necessary so that we can be again in friendship with God, being all one people of all ethnic origins. That being rich or poor, women, or men, etc.



JESUS' LEGACY GOES DEEPER IN PERSONAL RELATIONS TO MAKE OF THEM SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Having good civil education, fair laws and police who looks out for us for the good of society is important. But if there is not a good creation, these will only be bandages that will not take us to the urgent beginning of a relationship with God that with Christ reconciles all things that are in the heavens and earth.



FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME
TO SEEK AND TO SAVE
THE LOST.

-LUKE 19:10-

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9% ministry support





JESUS THE TEACHER WHO INSPIRES US TO SERVE



By Jerson Chupina

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:12-15 NIV

Jesus preferred using questions to teach. Some were strong questions that confronted a whole auditorium and others were rather simple with the purpose of finding in the audience the answer and ultimately the lesson. Do you understand what I have done for you? Jesus of Nazareth John 13:12

This question is thrown in the middle of an action Jesus makes, where nobody thought the Teacher would do such a thing. Jews were used to washing their feet upon entering a home, but the one in charge of this task was the youngest of servants of the home. But, let’s remember that there was not anyone else besides Jesus and His disciples in the home, like Jesus had indicated for the Easter celebration.

It is likely that the disciples’ minds came up with questions like, who will do it? Would John be the one since he’s the youngest one? Why did nobody receive us to wash our feet? Today, generally nobody washes our feet upon entering a house, nor do we do it as a ritual, but if there was an activity

similar to Jesus’ time, it would not be strange to hear comments and questions like the ones above, where it is denounce that nobody takes the initiative to do such task that is not very recognized.

Let’s take a look at some aspects that we must consider and make us see Jesus, the son of God, as an inspiring teacher.

JESUS IS THE LORD

There is no doubt about this, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is the Teacher, and there will never be one like Him. This is since Jesus is Christ, the Son of God, and the Lamb that took away all the sin of the world.

Paul the Apostle said like this, Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore, we understand that He is much bigger than us. What do you think of Jesus? Do you recognize His greatness? I am sure that is the case. Let’s remember the way Jesus introduces Himself to John in Revelations, I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. Revelations 1:8

And we see the way in which John understands who Jesus is though the praise which he begins his book with... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelations 1:5-6. Who is Jesus to you? To me, He is The Almighty.

THERE IS NOT SUCH A THING AS AN INSIGNIFICANT TASK

We as people categorize everything: good, bad, cheap, expensive, insignificant, extremely important, etc. When it is about acts of service, we tend to choose what is most visible, what catches people's attention, and we forget the purpose of those tasks that aren't too striking or very popular, even considering them humiliating.

However, what does Jesus Almighty teach us? That there is no such a thing as an insignificant task in His Kingdom. On verse 3, we are told that Jesus knew that the Father had given Him the authority over everything, including the things we would consider from a low category. But Jesus made this task, the most humble and least desired, because of how necessary it was in that moment. Jesus was teaching us that in His Kingdom there is not a small and insignificant task. Jesus was clear on whoever wants to be higher in His Kingdom must serve everyone, (Matthew 20:26). Therefore, the small tasks, the despised ones, the least visible, are the higher tasks in his Kingdom; you and I are in his Kingdom. Compare the things you do and wish to do today with those ones that you do not wish to do or would prefer someone did for you, would you be rejecting a high task of the Kingdom?

IT IS YOUR TURN

It is interesting to notice how the first disciples did not leave behind this attitude of service, but instead they considered themselves servants, a more adequate term would be slaves. Let's consider at least two examples: James, Jesus' brother and Paul the Apostle.

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the "twelve tribes" -- Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings! James 1:1 (emphasis on the writer). James, a brother that while Jesus was living he did not believe in Him (John 7:5) becomes a servant, slave of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another example of a servant is Paul the Apostle, who persecuted the church and was a notable Pharisee who ended up as a slave of the one he persecuted.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— Romans 1:1

The word servant mentioned here, in both letters, was used

to name those who voluntarily chose to stay as slaves of their owner: a slave for love (Deuteronomy 15:12-18).

Everything until now can be a nice teaching about Jesus and His humility; however, there is something we must rediscover, that is, Jesus is calling us to imitate Him.

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:15

We do not only need to know about Jesus, we must be like Him. It is our turn to follow His legacy of service. Jesus' life must inspire us to give the best of us, no matter the adversity we face, serving others with love and content, just as He did.

Let's remember what the letter to the Hebrews said:

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2b

For the joy set before him... Jesus gave his life in the cross as a life of unimaginable service. It was a service to the last consequences, but He did not complain like when as young children our mothers would ask us to do something and we would reproach but do it just to get it out of the way. Jesus did not come to the world only to finish a task by a punishing Father. Jesus came for us to keep His promise of joy as His goal enough to bear the cross and humiliations. Jesus kept His promise and He did it with good faith.

”

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’... “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25: 34-36, 40.

It is our turn to serve. Yes, to serve Jesus with joy because when we serve the least one, we serve Him.

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

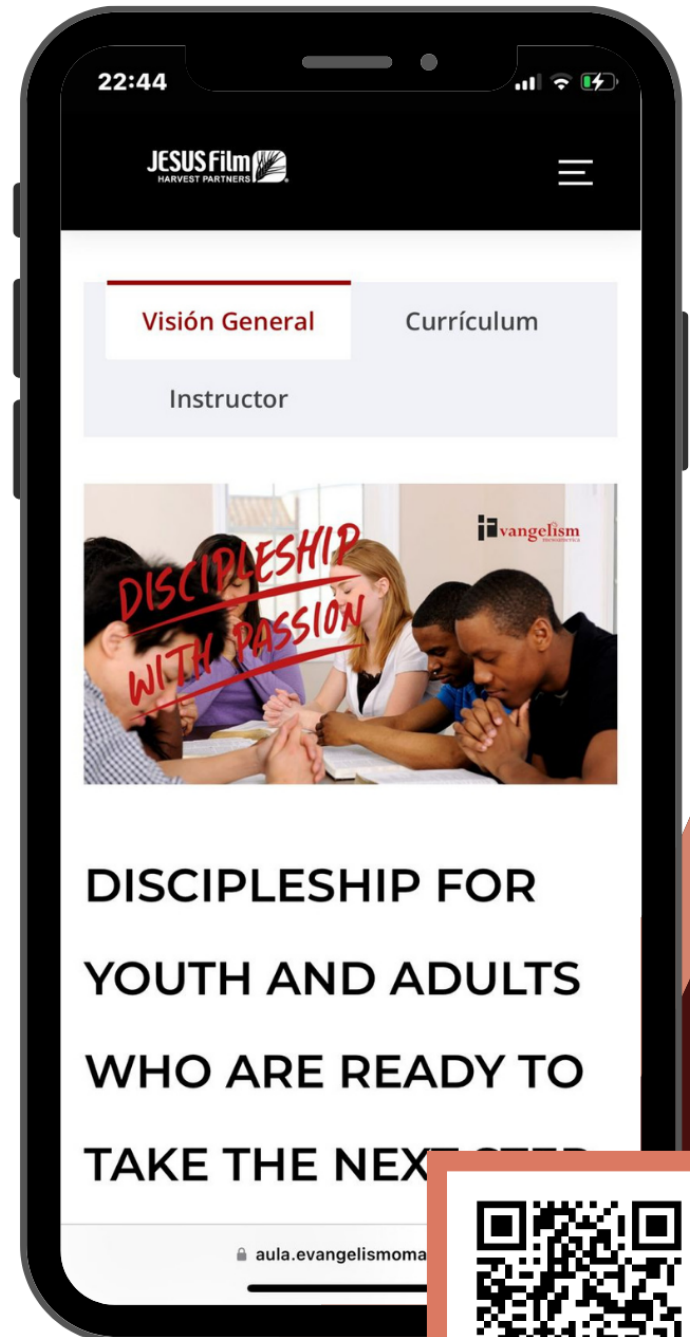
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A REFLECTION OF THE WAY TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER



DR. MARCOS A. VELASCO



A few years ago, a young man asked me when the next worship concert would be. For him, Jesus Christ was the top reason for his worship because he could feel Him, and his feelings would overflow during each concert. So then, I asked him why he was asking me the date for the next worship concert, since the last one had been only a couple of weeks before. To what he replied that he wished to experience and feel again the presence of Jesus in his life. I responded that his life and his salvation did not depend on the feelings he experiences during a worship concert. The validity of our salvation is not exclusively based off the way we feel. There isn't any feeling that is superior to the Biblical evidence found about the truth of the Gospel in Jesus Christ. We see in John the historic revelation of Christ. God was fully present in Christ revealing the Father's path. Jesus said to Philip, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9b ESV).

Jesus does not show us the path, but He Himself is the Path. But some people, we are like Philip, who said, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us" (14:8 NLT). In other words, "Show us the Father and also manifest!" It is like if he would have said, "do something amazing to prove you are the highest revelation that we need to believe." Today, what many Christians forget is that the

highest revelation of God aren't His miracles, or any overflowing emotion, but instead Jesus, His son, as a person is who God has manifested and has spoken definitely. What Philip needed was to know the revelation fully in Jesus. But Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!" (14:9 NIV). We can go on for days at a concert, singing with overflowing emotions while we worship, without fully knowing who Jesus is. Christianity is not about concerts, retreats, etc. Instead, Christianity is about a person, Christ Himself, who is the way to the Father. Let me emphasize it. Jesus does not show us the way to the Father, but instead He Himself is the way. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 NLT). This is a type of way we are in communion with Jesus and what helps us see Him in a new way. We do not follow Him because of His miracles, but because of who He is. His person is a communion of life. We need more of that communion!

We live in hard and challenging times for our faith and belief in Jesus. According to some social scientists, we are living in the era of post Christianity. The Judeo-Christian values have been relativized.



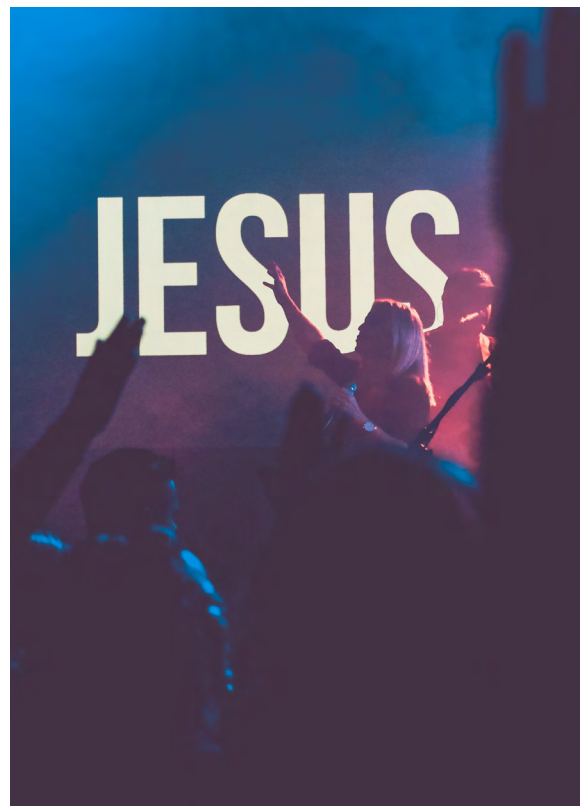
"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

However, the Christian faith was born in a world similar to this XXI century, where religious pluralism and relativism were normal, even if they were not known by these names. Primitive Christians found a very hostile world to practice their faith. But the faith Jesus asks for is faith that can be lived in a hostile world. What kind of faith did Jesus ask yesterday and what kind does He ask for today?

Jesus asks for faith that means trusting Him, even if fear takes over our lives. But He promises to make shelter and fellowship with us (14:1-2). He promises a secure future with Him in a place that He has prepared in Heaven (14:3). That is why He says, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home" (14:1-2a NLT). The invitation to believe showed up at the beginning of chapter 14 in verse 1 and at the final section of verses 10-11. Jesus knew that faith would change the disciples focus about the revelation of God and the way they would approach Him.

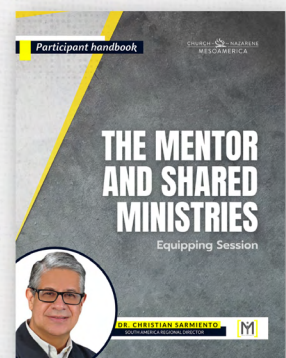
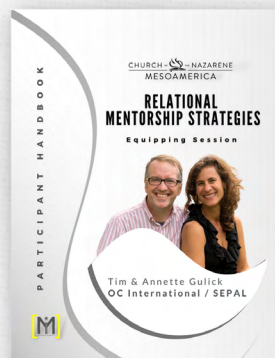
To believe means to accept in relation, but it isn't faith in faith. Faith is a relational concept. It is about believing and trusting in a person called Jesus Christ. This implies a certain orientation in life. Like in Matthew 6:33, walking a path in one direction, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously" (NLT). In the Gospel, faith or believing (*pritis* in greek) is directed towards Jesus' person. "So that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NLT).



There isn't anything bad in feeling or experiencing Jesus' presence in a worship concert or a public service like that young man. But what we must do is take our minds and hearts to Jesus Christ's person who is subject of our worship, and we must have faith in Him.



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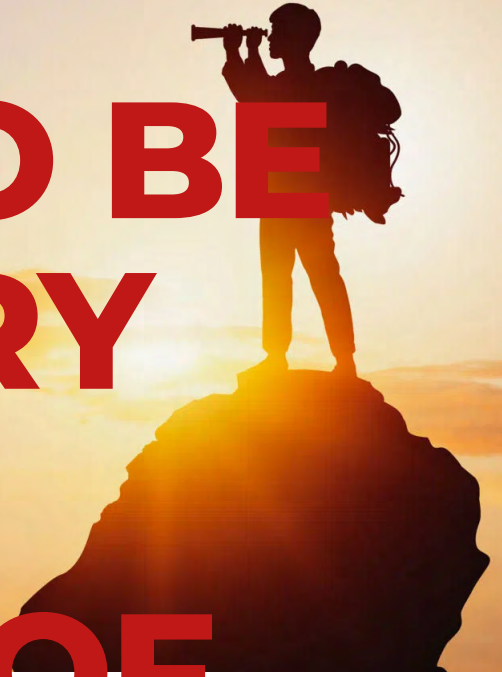
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SEEKING TO BE A VISIONARY LEADER IN THE STYLE OF JESUS



BY MILTON GERARDO GAY NOVOA

Vision... is a word and concept we often hear in business, personal and political environments. I have heard this subject for more than 10 years, but recently at 25 years old, I have reached an understanding of the relevance of such a word and it is not something complicated. To clearly explain it, I will refer to it as "the capacity to imagine a preferred future." However, I consider we have an issue. We have not given it enough importance looking for that vision.

With this, we make the mistake of letting years go by, living without a purpose, without a vision to guide us to fulfill the mission. Let me tell you something. It is not that time goes by fast, instead we let time pass by. Let's observe our Lord and Savior. Jesus ever since being a child had a clear purpose, his vision and mission.

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" - Luke 2:41-49

Jesus ever since he was 12 years old, still being a young kid (as the word calls Him) had already a clear idea of what He had to do. Doesn't this impact you? It surely does to me. What were you doing at 12 years old? I would play Nintendo, do sports, watch cartoons, I'd enjoy my toys or hang out with my friends. Our Lord had a vision given by the Father. Now, I cannot blame you for not having a vision at 12 or 15 years old, but how old are you now? Do you have purpose and a vision? Or, do we live just to live? We don't dream, or imagine a better future. We get caught up in the present. Jesus had set up his mind before the year 2,000. The vision the Lord gives will always be towards eternity.

Now, let's get practical. I hope the previous text helped understand the importance of having a vision. Let me give you five keys to obtain a vision for eternity, not for business or work, as this is ephemeral. Universities and the internet already teach those kinds of visions. Let's try to have one that is towards eternity.

FIVE KEYS TO RECEIVE A VISION FOR ETERNITY:



Understanding who I am working for. It is not about me, but about God

1

It is not my intention to discuss personal development. If you think that with this you will receive a vision that focuses on money or possessions, you would be wrong. As said in an article of the previous magazine (which you may read), being Christian implies suffering for Christ. We must renounce ourselves and that way we can receive the vision in the best conditions. However, we must recognize that God calls however He wishes to do so. Think about in Paul's, Moses' or the disciples' case.

Request the vision to the only one who can give it

2

God has eternal plans for you, which is why you must request the vision, beg, shout and cry for it. A way to request it is through personal or group spiritual retreats with people you know or you lead who share the same desire. Once the vision is defined in your community, you could be feeling like God has given you a vision. Write it down and share it with a group of close friends, polishing it together so that they nurture it and share how they perceive it to clarify it.

Receive the vision and let the Holy Spirit use you

3

Once you receive the vision, get ready! Thirty years later, most of the disciples Jesus left to expand the church had been martyred as a consequence of sharing the gospel. Take a moment and think the church continues to exist, and this is because the disciples renounced their lives to the total control of the Holy Spirit, who trains us and gives us the power and peace to endure any obstacle and attack in action.

Know how to identify God's approval

4

If God gives you a vision, he will also give you the tools and resources

necessary to reach it. This way you will know you're on the right track and that the vision you have isn't human but it originates from God. You will be surprised in the ways God places all the pieces together when you show practical faith.

Learn how to deal with failure of achieving the vision

5

There are many things we learn in school, and one of them is how to deal with failure.

We have the wrong idea when we think a leader must have victory after victory from the start. This is a false idea. Winston Churchill said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." When you start taking action towards a future you wish to reach, there will be falls, some more than others. But we must not be discouraged, we must ask to have Christ's character and attitude to say, "Lord, I cannot continue, but if it is your will I will."



Christ has clear what he wants to do with his creation. This is that **EVERYTHING** is made new, a new sky, earth and of course new creatures. The question continues to be, what is our role in the process of his eternal vision? It is time for you to find out. Do not waste any second of your life living without a purpose. Start now. Amen.



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THE LEGACY OF OF GOD THE KINGDOM



BY MAGDIEL MARTÍNEZ

We all have chosen to admire and imitate someone. Some have chosen athletes, others magnates and the ones who succeed in some areas. Yet, some of us have chosen writers, speakers, preachers, theologians or pastors; and that is normal, it is part of how we assert our identities, as we are called to imitate, to be like, to follow the steps. However, it would appear that we have declined our calling, as our desire to be like the one almighty being has stopped. We have left Jesus out of and we use his divinity and our humanity to excuse ourselves. But there is the invitation, to first be like Him and second to imitate the ones who imitate Him.

If it is a challenge to be like other men and women, being like Jesus is a much bigger challenge, but it is one that we are called to take. However, we must truly understand that this imitation that is our calling is not one that calls to imitate him in shape, such as dressing like Him, or growing a beard and wearing long hair. Our Lord was a Jew, but we are not called to convert to Judaism, or imitate Jewish practices and traditions. This is since in the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15 and Paul's letter to the Galatians) this affair was put to rest.

So, in what ways do we imitate Jesus? The answer is in His vision, His spirituality, His values, interpersonal relationships and priorities. This could be delimited with the expression <THE INTERESTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD>. It is Paul the Apostle who presents us with the challenge and hope to continue following the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ when he writes "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" 1 Corinthians 11:1.

The Apostle Paul was, without a doubt, big on his faith, but we must not forget he was a human being with contradictions, weaknesses and in a constant process of transformation (Philippians 3:13). Remember Paul's not so little discussion with Bernabe (Acts 15:38), or his differences to Pedro (Galatians 2:11-15). However, his biggest interest was the Kingdom of God. In other words, just as his Lord Jesus renounced being like God, having a divine figure to turn into a human and hold a life of humiliation and that way benefit every sinner human being, paying with His holy life for the humanity that was apart from God.

Paul also ready to renounce everything that keeps him from gaining the most lives, imitating Jesus, shares it with everyone who is close in his life, so as to gain a soul for the Kingdom. The Apostle wrote just like this.



*"EVEN AS I TRY TO PLEASE EVERYONE
IN EVERY WAY. FOR I AM NOT SEEKING
MY OWN GOOD BUT THE GOOD OF MANY,
SO THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED" (1 CORINTHIANS 10:33 NIV)*

What have you renounced so that others can be saved? How are you expressing the interests of the Kingdom of God in your life? A seed can not produce fruit unless it dies and rots. How are you dying?

*IF THE INTERESTS
OF THE KINGDOM
ARE NOT YOUR
BIGGEST **PRIORITY**,
THEN WE HAVE NOT
YET UNDERSTOOD
WHAT IT MEANS TO
IMITATE CHRIST.*



TEACHER'S LEGACY OF LOVE AND HUMILITY



BY DR. MILTON GAY VALENCIA



Jesus is the most extraordinary being in this world, His model and His mission are our legacies and you as a citizen of the Kingdom are commissioned to continue the saving work.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a small town in the humblest conditions according to the promise, from a very young age, at 12, He began to teach and preach in the temple and all who listened to Him were amazed at His knowledge.

When He began His ministry he was about 30 years old, He did it under the disciplines of fasting and prayer, He overcame as a man all the temptations that the enemy provoked and did not sin and after winning He chose and called common men to be with Him, He trained them along the way in a relationship of affection and brotherhood, He finally empowered them and sent them on a mission to be the salt and light of this world. Mark 3:13;14

When He was baptized He heard a voice from heaven saying: "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17. Incredible statement and sense of belonging later Jesus would also affirm in His disciples. John 13:34

Matthew 4:23 says that He immediately called them, He went around the city teaching, preaching, and healing all diseases and above all showing His infinite love for all humanity, a love that was capable of taking our place on a cross and thus being able to save them from eternal condemnation for being sinners.

The hypostatic union shows us His two natures as Divine and as human. As God, He did miracles, turned water into wine, walked on water, raised the dead, and calmed the storm, but also showed His humanity by crying for a friend, having compassion for others, being hungry, feeling sadness and anger, and suffering the abandonment of His people.

The night in Gethsemane He experienced pain, abandonment, and betrayal; He was beaten and crucified for you, for me, and for all humanity to reconcile us with God and give us the place that He would prepare for us by His side.

Jesus lowered himself to the utmost, by becoming a man like us He humbled Himself and teaches us the following principles that we must emulate in our lives:

1. If you are with me, feel the same thing, the same love.
2. Be humble, and consider others as superior.
3. Look out for the needs of others.
4. Take a servant attitude and serve others.
5. Be obedient to death and be ready to die for me.

For this passage to be fulfilled, there has to be a search in real and community life with my brother next to me, because the life of holiness is social both vertically and horizontally.

EVERYTHING THAT JESUS TAUGHT HE ALSO MODELED AND THAT IS WHY GOD GAVE HIM A NAME THAT IS ABOVE ALL NAMES SO THAT IN THE NAME OF JESUS ALL THE KNEES OF THOSE WHO ARE IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH SHOULD BOW.

WHAT PRINCIPLES ARE YOU WILLING TO EMBODY IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT ARE YOU READY TO DO TO CONTINUE THIS LEGACY?

WITH WHOM WILL YOU PUT IT INTO PRACTICE? WHEN WILL YOU START?

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THE PREACHING IN JESUS MINISTRY:

A LEGACY FOR THE MODERN PREACHING



BY DR. JORGE BAÑOS

When addressing the preaching ministry in the New Testament and its role in the church, it is necessary to start with the excelled preacher, the teacher of teachers, our Lord Jesus Christ, who can be found as we open the pages of the Gospel, and who is the central figure of the whole New Testament.

Some questions come to mind. Why was the preaching always in the arena and it was a high point in Jesus' ministry? What elements made Jesus' preaching different and contextual? What methods did Jesus employ during his preaching? These questions will be the axes for this article.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING IN JESUS' MINISTRY

The Lord had a clear purpose for his arrival. He came to complete his Saving work in the world (John 3:16-17), and the preaching would have an important role in his ministry. There are two Biblical verses that are the most important in the Gospel to make reference of the beginning of Jesus' preaching ministry. Mark 1:38 says, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." In Matthew 4:12 and 17, we read, "When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which

was by the lake... From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'"

It is most definitely Christ who gives direction and meaning to life, who makes men and women see their life conditions. That is what Jesus did in a city that lived in darkness like Capernaum. But not only was this city going to experience the arrival and the presence of the light of Christ, but also that light for the whole world. This is indicated in a few verses in John 8:12 and 9:5, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life," and "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John Piper

writes about what Christ does in the life of a person who comes to Him, "Jesus gives us vision to see who we are in Him. Only the light of the world can show us who we are and guide us responsibly through life."

If for Jesus this work and task was of critical importance and that is how He handled it during his earthy ministry, this attitude has to teach to the life of the church and its ministers and preachers. Therefore, it is necessary to assume the preaching ministry with great importance within the church. It is through this ministry that more bridges are getting built between God's Word of salvation and millions of people who need to find the Savior of the world.

DISTINCTIVE ELEMENTS OF JESUS' PREACHING

Preaching was not a new ministry in Israel. The Old Testament reports that some prophets implemented this ministry of speaking about God's message to the Jewish people. John the Baptist made use of this ministry at the beginning of the New Testament (Mt. 3:1; Mark. 1:4; Luke. 3:2-3). And we can see a few similar elements in Jesus' preaching.

THE ORIGINALITY OF JESUS' PREACHING

What does the originality of Jesus' preaching mean? Leonardo Boff gives a clear and asserted opinion about what the originality of Jesus' preaching is:

When we talk about the originality of Jesus, we must clear out a mistake. Original is not a person who purely and simply says something new. Neither is original a synonym of rare. Original comes from origin. Whoever is close to the origin and of what is original, and for their life, words, and works brings other people to the origin and to the original of oneself, that one can be called, with priority, original. In that sense, Christ was original. Not because he discovered new things, but because he spoke things with absolute immediacy and sovereignty. Everything He says and does is diaphanous, crystalline, and evident. In contact with Jesus, we each can find oneself and the best things within.

It is from this perspective that His messages are categorized as contextual because on each one of His teachings, there were reflections of the human condition: "The intimacy of moral and religious life of what I keep insisting; the universality of God's kindness and consequently, the men's duty that he ordered; the security of the forgiveness of sins He offered; the faith in God's grace that the men required. All of this are examples of the originality of His teachings."

The originality of Jesus' preaching also had to do with the different ways of presenting the Word. His styles were adopted according to the circumstance and needs of His listeners.

Where was it that Jesus' preaching was original? Blackwood gives the answer to this question. "He fed His own life on God, drinking from the Holy Scripture." This was the key in Jesus' person and life. His life was a constant closeness to His Heavenly Father, an intimate communion day by day. From moment to moment.

How original is the preaching that you hear in the church's stand? Not only is the originality mentioned in the diversity of topics or styles when preaching a message, but also the originality in the sense of intimacy and communion that the preacher has with the Lord, of filling their life with God.



THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS' PREACHING

Another key element that is considered of Jesus' preaching is the authority on how he spoke and presented the word of God. The synoptic Gospels recorded precisely this element of Jesus' preaching. Mark 1:22 narrates Jesus' first teaching in the Capernaum synagogue, "The people were amazed at His teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law" This same comment is registered in Matthew 7:28-29 about the public that listened to the Sermon on the Mount, "When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."

Somebody wrote about the amusement of the public who was listening to this sermon, "The largest and most famous sermon... the Sermon on the Mount, left the listeners astonished and impressed. Jesus the Lord left the audience in a prolonged astonishment because on what he said and how he said it." Luke 4:32 reports the same story of Mark; Jesus preaching and teaching at the Capernaum synagogue on Saturdays, "They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority."

When reading the three previous Biblical texts, it begs the question. Where was Jesus receiving this authority? There are two valid responses to answer this question. The first one and the principal one, Jesus received this authority from the Father. John Stott mentions, the Son of God spoke with the absolute authority of His Father." In Matthew 11:27 Jesus declared the following, "All things have been committed to me by my Father." By His own words, Jesus shows to have a deep and strong relationship with the Father, who has given Him authority. It is for this reason, that there is no doubt that Jesus preached, cast out demons, healed the sick, raised the dead, and forgave sins by the authority of His Father.

Secondly, there is another argument that does not explicitly appear in the Bible, but it is valid. The person acquires authority as a product of an impeccable moral conduct that has a correct teaching, an authentic personality and is a life example: "what Jesus has is an authority without coercive power. It is what before we would call moral authority. It is the authority of truth, of authenticity, of exemplarity." This fact could have been possible in Jesus, since in the Scripture it teaches about the character and perfect personality of Jesus.

THE ATTRACTION IN JESUS' PREACHING

The Gospel gives testimonies of how multitudes were following Jesus to the point that people from various cities were following Him as it is narrated in Matthew 4:25, "Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him." Luke mentions the joy people had when receiving Him, "Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him" (8:40). Because of these stories, a few questions are raised. Why was Jesus followed by multitudes of people? What did He have that made people follow Him? Why did Jesus have a connection with His audience? It is likely, as someone mentions, that people followed Him for various reasons. "Some followed Him for His miracles, others for food, and others because they were fans. They were fascinated to see the things Jesus said and did at that place."

In regards of the intimate relationship that the preacher must have with God, this is an important point and delicate, since of this communion the attraction the preacher has with the audience is dependent. How they are seen in their lives and in their ministry with Jesus.



THE RELEVANCE IN JESUS' PREACHING

It is without a doubt that Jesus' preaching was always in the frame of reality and the situations that surrounded the multitude daily. It was within this outlook that His messages appealed and were relevant to the needs of His listeners. What is understood by relevant is the following, "The word, as it is, comes from the Latin, *pertinentia*, which means 'convenience,' 'that of what belongs to someone,' of which it is derived the term pertaining. Relevant is something that comes on purpose, what is appropriate or congruent with that of what is expected. The relevance is the opportunity, adequacy and convenience of a thing.

His messages, His teachings, His questions and miracles were the answer to the needs and dangers of the moment, the interests and the abilities of His listeners. Jesus always looked for the ways to respond to the adverse circumstances of each listener.

His preaching and teachings were appropriate and timely. They were never vague or trivial messages, but instead serious and timely. All that fell into the lives of many people, which He guided to the way of restoration and salvation. "For this proceeding in His ministerial actions, He achieved that His message and teaching was of high relevance or pertinence for the audience, and ceased to be trivial like other religious leaders of that time."

THE METHODS OF JESUS' PREACHING

When talking about the different methodologies that Jesus used to teach and preach, we are talking about the Teacher of the Word. In the words of one of the most popular pedagogues of Brazil, Paulo Freire, could not have described Jesus better, "I often say that, despite the Christian position I always tried to stand on, Christ will be for me, as He is, an example of a pedagogue... what fascinates me about the Gospel is the indivisibility between His content and the method He used to communicate it."

Why is Jesus the current role model to preach? What did He have that people enjoyed listening to Him? Hernández and others mention that people enjoyed it because His word and teachings transformed the lives of the ones who were with Him: "Jesus was a role model as a person, who through His language, he charmed and transformed those who had a personal encounter with Him." That is what a preaching aims for, an encounter and change for the listener. If the life of the listener is not touched, broken, and transformed by the Word, it is difficult to think that this is an adequate ministry of the Word during that time and that it is fulfilling the purpose of why the Word of God is preached.



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THE USE OF SCRIPTURE IN JESUS' PREACHING

To understand this subject, we must refer that by that time of Jesus' ministry, there was only the Scripture of the Old Testament, which He knew very well since He would use it very frequently. Someone indicates the following,

It was evident that Jesus had ample knowledge of the Bible and could cite it with certainty. In the story about temptation (Luke 4:3-12), the Lord responds the devil's requests with three citations of the Bible. In other cases, when He was asked something, His responses were, "What is it written in the Scripture? Or What do you read in it? (Luke 10:26-28). Jesus shows His authority when presenting the Scripture as a guide, and reproaches those who do not read it (Matthew 21:23, 42)...

It was the typical style of the teacher. If there is doubt, the answer will be found in the Scripture.

It is interesting that when studying Jesus' life and ministry in the Gospel, we realize that He made use of it a lot. He lived the Word. That is why He spoke with the authority that the Word gave Him.

Why did Jesus make use of the Scripture in the preaching ministry? There is an element that we must pay attention to. First, Jesus used the Scripture in His preaching because He lived the Word. This indicates that first he would focus the teaching on the Scripture. This gave major authority to His life and ministry.

The pastor of this time needs to be Biblical in their preaching ministry, having the Word in their ministry in all the senses. But before all, they must live and feed from Scripture themselves.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude with this topic about Jesus' preaching ministry, there are three things to highlight. Firstly, Jesus had it clear that preaching was fundamental in His ministry. Only through His person and message the light has come to the world to bring forgiveness, transformation, and salvation. This was the light that illuminated in Capernaum and the neighboring cities in Galilee. This light continues to illuminate thousands of people without Christ.

Secondly, the preaching and teaching of Jesus was attractive to the audience of the time. In it there were elements that fascinated and attracted multitudes of people. The generation of that time had never heard someone speak the Word with the originality, authority, and relevance like Jesus did.

Lastly, Jesus knew how to combine His ministry, His gift of preaching and teaching, with novel methodologies for that time to present in the best way the teachings about the Good News of Salvation.

The modern preacher is called to walk through the Teacher's steps, who must be their only role model in this ministry. If you wish to enjoy of a fruitful ministry in the preaching of the Word, they must have in first place the conviction that God has called them to this ministry, besides being innovative in the content, also in the delivery of the message. There is an audience that week after week meets around the Word to listen to the message through its messenger.

Caribbean Challenge

Greetings to all the Mesoamerican region; we would like to gladly share with you that from January 26th to 29th of the current year we held the "Caribbean Challenge" training in the offices of this region. Caribbean superintendents, pastors, church planters, Evangelism coordinators, and members of the evangelical boards were present with the purpose to achieve a paradigmatic change, a change of direction and thought so the Church of the Nazarene as a whole will take evangelization as a task for everyone and not just for a few or none.



In a training that is named "Philip Model," emphasis was made on the task of fueling the flame of Evangelism on every leader, equipping them with different strategies and tools to carry on this task, as well as we gave away Bibles to evangelize new believers.

National leaders were trained with new Church Revitalizing programs and tools (an evaluation and diagnostic of local churches to determine whether these are in a prime state to reproduce adequately), and Lightstream (a completely new tool to evangelize the entire Caribbean using technology).

Additionally, we were able to plan a strategy: VPT - Vision, Plan, and Time. Every participant designed their own plan to train local district pastors and board members. Another point delivered was the importance of the District Superintendency and the Evangelism Coordination leadership in the evangelism activities of the local church. We were able to talk openly about the planting of churches leading for new generations and how it is necessary that the youth become the new propellers of the gospel, where many do not wish to follow Christ. The final night was dedicated to evangelize in a public space, a touristic site where many people were able to listen to the gospel through music, a sermon and prayer. For the glory of God, many people received the Lord as their savior.



Without a doubt, it was a wonderful time where we were in search of God's presence and it was shared among other Nazarene brothers and sisters from all countries that are part of this region. Our vision is to continue sharing the Gospel everywhere and at all times to reach everyone.

Our deep thanks to the Regional Evangelism team, to Dr. Milton Gay for the shared vision, to Dr. Ramon Sierra who facilitated the training, Dr. Alphonso Porter's team for supporting evangelism in the Caribbean region, proclaiming the Gospel, you all did an incredible job.

Get ready for when this congress reaches your region's district and you experience a paradigm change and it fuels the flame in you. We have faith that God will do extraordinary things through everyone who decides to accept the challenge. And you? Do you accept it?



Milton Gerardo Gay Novoa

Communications team Evangelism Mesoamerica

The New church type Mission "Vida Eterna"



La Nueva MTI "Vida Eterna" in the suburb of Santa Cruz, in the San Mateo del Mar municipality, Oaxaca District. The past 28th of January of 2023, Pastor Nicolás Ríos Guzmán along with his wife, Sister Tabita Avendaño and Brother Antonio Ruiz, secretary of the advisory board, gave faith before our Almighty God of a newly born Church-type Mission, sharing the funding group and our new members.

In addition, a group of children who joined this CTM after work of evangelism during the months of December 2021 to December 2022, which ended with a children's evangelism campaign (who are currently receiving discipleship), where the brothers and sisters of this new CTM along with the Planter (América E. Reyes Hdez.) and now the new minister with a local license, Rubén Baloes Iturrigaray (And the group of brothers and sisters. Very committed), they did God's work, resulting in this CTM for the glory of God.



The brothers and sisters of De Santa Cruz are part of the first Church of the Nazarene in San Mateo where, by the grace of God, my husband ML Guillermo Garcia Morales (head pastor) and yours truly Pastor Adriana Aldana Garcia, have been called to serve in February of 2019. We started visiting and getting to know the place where the church is located as well as its sociocultural background due to a very difficult even that occurred; the death of 18 people. Reason why we saw and learned why the church is in various suburbs. This also because this is a marginalized community with extreme poverty, material and of their customs. They have a curfew, where for their assemblies, very often, they cannot meet in one suburb only, in this case the mother church located in the capital, San Mateo del Mar. We understood why the church hadn't evangelized for many years, so then an opportunity presented of using evangelist resources and tools in a suburb where we did not have any signal and the electricity would constantly not work. The team was excellent for this place and all the training we received has helped us develop our gifts because we want to do it with excellence for our Lord.



We still have a lot to do, but we are motivated to continue. So that this CTM "Vida Eterna" can be the light that this suburb needs because there is a huge need that the Gospel reaches their homes.

(This is a little of what we have seen)
(In other two suburbs, they meet in the same way, and we are training more leaders to evangelize. The short-term goal is that they become CTM and churches in the longer run)

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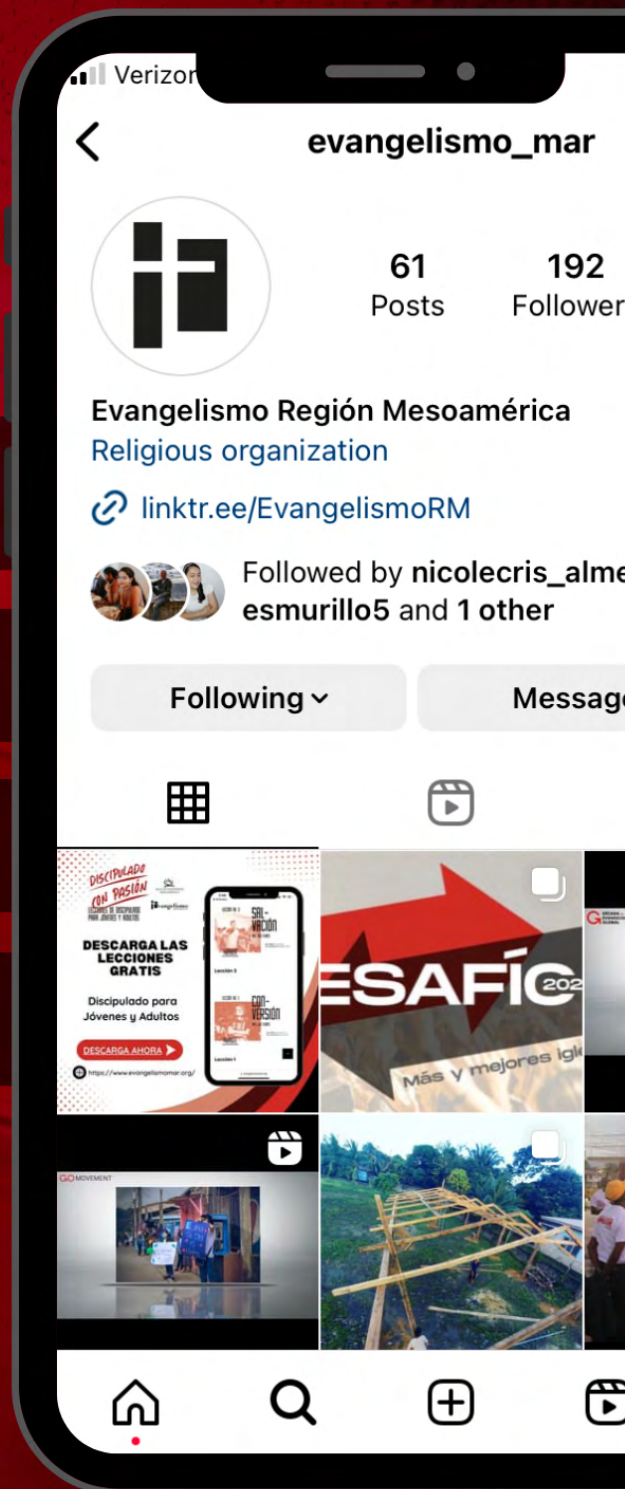
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