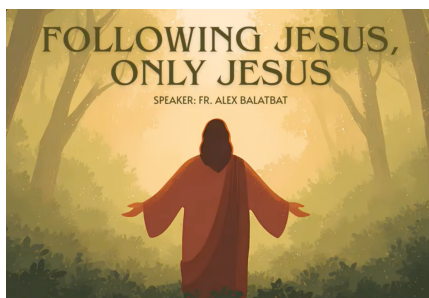


FOLLOWING JESUS, ONLY JESUS

A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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We choose to follow Jesus, only Jesus, because we trust His love, embrace our crosses with faith, and believe that He walks with us even in our darkest moments. Through the Cross, we encounter God's saving love and discover that we are never alone. No matter what challenges we face, let us remain committed to following Him, trusting in His grace, and walking in His ways.



1. THE CROSS IS BOTH OUR IDENTITY AND OUR INVITATION.

- 1.1. Whenever we make the Sign of the Cross, we proclaim that we belong to Christ. The Cross, once a symbol of shame and death, became the means of our salvation through Jesus' sacrifice.
- 1.2. As followers of Christ, we are invited not to run away from our pain and suffering but to surrender them to God, allowing Him to transform us to our best.
- 1.3. When we surrender our suffering to Christ, He can use even our most difficult experiences to help us grow in faith and become more like Him.
- 1.4. Many saints endured suffering, and through those hardships, they came to know God more deeply.

2. WE ENCOUNTER GOD IN OUR BROKENNESS

- 2.1. The Filipino word "*Salamat*" expresses gratitude, often for God's goodness. Interestingly, it also contains the word "*lamat*," meaning cracks or broken parts. This reminds us that even in our brokenness, we can encounter God, who can bring good out of our suffering.
- 2.2. When Jesus embraced humanity, He entered our suffering, sorrow, and pain. He experienced death first, so we can find comfort in knowing that He understands our struggles and carries us through every season of life.
- 2.3. Our brokenness can become an opportunity to experience God's presence, deepen our faith, and grow closer to Him.

3. OUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED BY SUFFERING

- 3.1. Suffering does not mean God has abandoned us or that we are not blessed.
- 3.2. Blessings do not mean the absence of crosses; conversely, carrying our crosses does not mean the absence of blessings. Even in suffering, we can experience God's grace, love, and presence
- 3.3. God uses our struggles to strengthen our faith, deepen our dependence on Him, and draw us closer to His heart.
- 3.4. Jesus endured the suffering and shame of the Cross, embracing it in obedience to the Father. Through His sacrifice, we received the gift of salvation.

4. WE CAN QUESTION GOD IN OUR SUFFERING WITHOUT GIVING UP ON HIM.

- 4.1. When we are hurt, we may begin to question God. It is acceptable to ask questions; our queries are part of our struggle to understand our pain and circumstances.
- 4.2. However, we must not give up on Him. God remains with us during our struggles and pain. When we feel weak and hopeless, we are invited to remember who we are in Christ. Let us turn to Jesus, find comfort in His presence, and draw strength from His unfailing love.

5. FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS LEADING OTHERS CLOSER TO HIM.

- 5.1. Our faith is not meant to be kept to ourselves. As we follow Jesus, we are also called to guide those who are lost and help others encounter His love.
- 5.2. By remaining faithful and serving others, we become witnesses to Christ's presence and love.

CONCLUSION

Let us choose to follow Jesus, only Jesus, because He is with us through every struggle. Even when carrying our crosses gets tough, let us trust His love, rely on His grace, and keep moving forward in faith. Even when life is not easy, let us keep holding on to Jesus, walking in His ways, and leading others closer to Him.

REFLECTION:

How can you allow your brokenness, and painful experiences deepen your relationship with Jesus?

SCRIBES Ministry

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