



Witnessing without Stumbling

John 16:1-11 (NKJV)

¹"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ²They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. ³And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. ⁴But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. "And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵"But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Introduction

The Bible teaches us that God is love and He is merciful, but He is also just and will allow sufferings and persecutions. These themes usually collide with one another, and many were misled to accept either one of them. Some focus on teaching about how to have prosperity and

health, while others focus on suffering continually even to poverty, believing that the more they suffered, the better their faith is. These extreme teachings are not Biblical and false.

These are some verses:

Acts 14:22b

"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Matthew 16:24-26

²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

But Jesus says these words to prepare us.

v. 1 - "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.

Jesus promised the believers:

- The world hates you, but I love you.
- The world is your enemy, but I am your friend.
- The world gives you trouble and

anxiety, but I give you My peace.

- The world will cause you sorrow, but I give you My joy.
- The world may kill you, but I give you eternal life.
- The world is under Satan's power, but you will have the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you.

A. Face the difficulty of the task: you will be persecuted and you may get killed.

Jesus spoke these things so that the disciples would be kept from stumbling or falling away when they encountered the opposition of the world.

The literal meaning is to be caught in a trap or be taken by surprise.

Our role is to go to the world (a self-seeking, pleasure-oriented world) and proclaim that the Holy God is going to judge all sinners, and He has provided the way of salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

continue on page 9 >>



Rev. Dr. James C. Sy
Administrative Pastor



UCA FRIENDSHIP DAY

CELEBRATING LOVE THROUGH FRIENDSHIP DAY

UCA kicked off its first event for the school year by celebrating Friendship Day last June 19, Friday. This day highlights the importance of loving one another as God loves us, an important message that strengthens relationship with one another.

Friendship Day provides a wonderful opportunity for students to connect to old classmates and to form new friendships in which Christ is the center. All students are thrilled to play the games and have a chance to bond with their new found friends. UCA fosters a culture of care and love in the community, of which students adapt as they grow in this friendly environment.

Indeed, it was an amazing way to start the school year with joy and excitement in their hearts.



Presentations

Hearts are lifted to the Lord as the students fill the room with songs of praises and thanksgiving. God-inspired songs from UCF Gospel Music composed by His servants echo along the hallways and speak message of hope to those who are listening.



Preschool



Every word in the songs is a reminder of the love and joy we share as one big family in UCA.



Grade 1

Nothing warms our hearts more than seeing parents join hands with their kids, cheering them in every step of the way, and supporting them with pure admiration of their developing talents. Their love and support make Friendship Day even more special and unforgettable.



Students and parents also had a chance to listen to Rev. Dr. William Sy as he sing his original composition from the UCF Gospel Music.



Grade 3

Every beat and every smile show just how much fun Friendship Day truly is. Arms are lifted to the heavens in joyful adoration and love to the Lord.



The stage came alive as our talented performers brought rhythm, energy, and graceful steps!



Grade 4

Today is not just a celebration of friendship, but most importantly, it is knowing that we have a friend in Jesus!



Grade 5



Grade 6

Truly, it is good to praise and give thanks to our good Lord! The whole UCA family is filled with joy, hope, and love that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ.



Grade 7

These fresh and meaningful memories stir excitement among the students for the many activities that are yet to come this school year.



Grade 8

How amazing it is to have programs that do not only boost students' confidence, but also give glory to God!



Grade 9

The lyrics of each song give greater depth to every performance as they convey the truth of God's Word.



Grade 10



Grade 11 & 12

As they sing and dance for the Lord, their beaming smiles and bright faces are reflection of the joy from the Lord that overflows from their hearts.



ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

Distance learning students still had fun dancing with their classmates online, proving they can make friends despite great distance. They gladly danced to gospel music composed by our pastors, lifting up the name of our Lord Jesus Christ altogether.



Through meaningful choreography and hand gestures, students express their love for the Lord, knowing that they have a friend in Christ Jesus.



GAMES

Laughter and joy filled the room as students, as well as parents and guardians, enjoyed their time together playing games to know one another.



The ice breaker activities encourage students to engage with one another in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. These games play an important role in helping everyone feel comfortable, at ease, and wholeheartedly welcomed in the loving family of UCA.



PHOTOBOOTH

No celebration is complete without a photobooth to capture all the smiles, joyful poses, and unforgettable moments! These pictures will create lasting keepsakes from a memorable Friendship Day. Few years from now, they will look back on this day and beam with wide smiles as memories of this joyous day rush in.



This Friendship Day is a great way to start the school year. They not only get to know and bond with their classmates, but they also found friends from different grade levels. This shows that UCA will always be a home where students experience love from everyone.



The relationship built upon the love of the Lord is what students, parents, and school staff experience. The UCA family is where they truly belong.



Parents and guardians also have fun posing for photos with their children. Their love is shown through their presence in every event.

PAGMAMAHAL SA MGA AMA



Tunay na isang pagpapala mula sa Diyos ang mga haligi ng tahananang nagmamahal, nagtataguyod at nagsusumikap para sa kanilang pamilya. Bilang pagpapakita ng pagpapahalaga sa kanila ay isinagawa ang espesyal na selebrasyon ng *Father's Day* sa Mt. Tabor Church Re-Creation Center noong Hunyo 21, Sabado.

Sa isang masayang salu-salo at pagbibigay ng mga *token* sa mga ama sa UCF, hangarin ng bawat isa na maipadama ang buong pusong pasasalamat sa kanilang pagpapagal, dedikasyon at sakripisyo.

Higit pa sa lahat ay nagbigay din ng parangal ang gawain sa Diyos. Ama na Siyang lumikha at unang nagmamahal sa atin.

Fellowship

Malugod na nagsama-sama ang bawat isa upang makiisa sa selebrasyong ito. Magmula sa paghahanda hanggang sa pagsa-salu-salo ay naroon ang nag-uumapaw na kaligayahan sa kanilang mga puso, higit lalo ang mga ama, na siyang binigyang pugay sa gawain.



Hindi maisusukat ng anomang bagay ang pasasalamat at pagpapahalaga ng bawat isa para sa kanilang mga asawa at ama.



Bukod sa masasarap na pagkaing bumusog sa kanila, nadama rin ng mga tatay ang pagmamahal na nagpataba sa kanilang mga puso.



Kasama ang Panginoon, nananatiling matatag ang mga ama sa pagtaguyod sa kanilang pamilya bilang mga haligi ng tahanan.



Photobooth

Lubos ang kasiyahan ng mga pamilyang nakidalo at nagbigay ng kanilang pagpupugay sa ating mga ama. Kaya naman kanila ring binisita ang photobooth kasama ang kanilang mga mahal sa buhay.

Tunay na mabuti ang Panginoon sa mga buhay ng ating mga amang kinatagpo Niya at idinako Niya sa pamilya ng UCF.



Pagkakataon rin ito upang ang ilan sa kanilang mga kapamilya ay maimbitahan at maipakilala sa pamilya ng UCF.



Lubos na pasasalamat ang narapat sa ating Diyos Ama sa patuloy na patnubay at kalakasan sa ating mga tatay.



Patunay na ang panambahan ay binubuo rin ng masasayang okasyon upang magsalo-salo at magbigay ng pasasalamat sa Panginoon.



Giving of Tokens

Natapos ang selebrasyon sa pagbibigay ng munting regalo para sa mga haligi ng tahanan upang ipadama kung gaano sila kaespesyal sa panambahan ng UCF. Nawa'y kalakasan at kapayapaan mula sa Panginoon ang patuloy ninyong maranasan.

Ang kagalakan sa puso ng ating mga ama ay tunay na ayon sa pag-ibig ni Hesu Kristo, pag-ibig na walang kapantay at katulad.



Higit sa anomang regalang natanggap, kagalakan sa mga tatay ang pagmamahal at respeto mula sa kanilang mga pamilya.

Witnessing...

>> from page 1

This message is sure to stir up mockery and hostility. Just as the people in Noah's day rejected his message of righteousness and the people in Sodom thought that Lot's warning must be a joke, so sinners today will not respond favorably to a message about sin, righteousness, and impending judgment.

The more surprising truth is that the greatest persecution comes from those who are religious.

v. 2 - They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

Even the apostle Paul thought

that he was being faithful to his Jewish faith by imprisoning and killing Christians. But Jesus stated the heart of the problem.

v. 3 - And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

The key to enduring persecution is to trust in the Lord Jesus.

v. 4 - But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

He knows the future. He knows the trials that we will face as we serve Him, and He warns us in advance so that we will trust Him.

B. Focus on the Lord's glory, not on your own needs.

v. 5-6 - 5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

When the disciples heard Jesus saying, "I go away to Him who sent Me," they became sorrowful thinking about what would happen to them when Jesus leaves. They were not thinking about Jesus returning to His Father in glory, but rather on their own needs.

This is like a boy who becomes disappointed when his parent suddenly has an emergency meeting cancelling a fishing trip. When that child asks, "Where are you going?" or "Why are you leaving?", he is not asking

because he is interested in his parent's emergency meeting, but rather in his own disappointment. He is unconcerned about his parents' affairs; he is worrying about himself.

So, although the disciples asked about where Jesus was going, they were just self-absorbed in their own loss at His leaving them.

To be an effective witness in this hostile world, we need to take off our focus on our feelings and needs, and focus rather on the Lord's glory through the spreading of the gospel to all peoples. Even if we are persecuted, His glory should be our aim.

continue on page 10 >>

Witnessing...

>> from page 9

C. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

v. 7-8 - ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

We may think, "It would have been better if Jesus never left." But if we trust Jesus' words, "It is to your advantage that I go away," then let us invite the Holy Spirit, our Helper. He lives within us to comfort us, to encourage us, and to empower us to bear witness for Christ.

John 14:15-17

¹⁵"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 15:26

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when

the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

We must understand that the Holy Spirit will not convict the world automatically because the great commission was given to us (His disciples). We must be the one to proclaim the gospel to the world. When the world hears the gospel, then the Holy Spirit through us (because He empowered us) will convict those who hear and will open their eyes to see the light.

Conclusion

v. 9 - of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Jesus identified the root of sin when He said, "Because they do not believe in Me."

When the Holy Spirit exposes your sin, you can hide from the light trying to escape, or you can come to Christ, the Light, to save you.

If you truly believe in Him, you will begin a lifetime of acknowledging or confessing your sin when the Spirit convicts you through God's Word.

John 3:19-21

¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest

his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.

When Paul witnessed a Roman governor, he spoke to him about faith in Christ Jesus, along with righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come.

Acts 24:24-25

²⁴And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now;

when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

To be effective witnesses for Christ, we need to recognize that many people will not like our message and therefore, they may not like us.

- Face the difficulty of the task: you will be persecuted and you may get killed.

- Focus on the Lord's glory, not on your own needs.

- Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Our task is to witness in the power of the Spirit to a hostile world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

SERMON NOTES

Write the points to remember from the sermon as you seek God in your life.

SHARE HIS WORD



CONTACT US

Tel. No. 8-429-8325 (PLDT)
7-954-7527 (Globe)

FOLLOW US



VISIT US

UCF SANCTUARY
17 Highlight St., Area 4,
Fourth Estate Subd., Parañaque City
UCF MT. TABOR CHURCH
Purok 1, Brgy. Casile, Cabuyao, Laguna

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM (Parañaque)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
3:00 PM (Cabuyao, Laguna)

HOUSE OF PRAYER
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

HOME BIBLE CHURCH & STUDY
Wednesday to Friday - Laguna
and Cavite Areas
Thursday - Parañaque

Scan these
QR codes to listen and
to watch the songs from
UCF Gospel Music



Facebook



YouTube