



Sukdulang Biyaya!

EXABABALL GRACE

FCI Faith Group Program

March 3, 2024

SAFE PLACE (BY ZACH BUNYE)

- **John 20: 19-23** – Christianity started when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples.
- One of the first words of Jesus after He rose from the dead is **verse 21** “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
- And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (**verse 22**) This is significant as **Genesis 2:7** – Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils **the breath of life**, and the man became a living creature.
- So when Jesus breathed into the disciples, what Jesus was showing was that this is a new era! This is a new beginning. A new life.
- Why is this important? Because Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament. He who knew no sin died on the cross so that we can be intimate with God. So that we can have a direct line to God through Jesus.
- Christianity started with an event where the dead Christ is now alive.
- **Verse 23** – “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” – This doesn’t mean we have the power to forgive.
- **Verse 23 in The Passion Translation** – “I send you to preach the forgiveness of sins – and people’s sins will be forgiven. But if you don’t proclaim the forgiveness of their sins, they will remain guilty.”
- So our first assignment from Jesus is to proclaim the forgiveness of their sins. In other words, we are to show them and teach them GRACE.
- Jesus has called us to share to the people you are already forgiven so just receive it. And believe in Jesus Christ the one that paid for it all!
- Once you have received the forgiveness of Jesus and put your faith in Him, automatic *na sa ‘yo na din ang* Holy Spirit!
- And once you have the Holy Spirit, you are now a Safe Place for people.
- **Safe Place** – “A place or environment in which a person or category of people can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment or any other emotional or physical harm.” In other words, *ito ay isang lugar kung saan tanggap ka at* no judgment.
- In **1st Corinthians**, Paul said our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- So God has called us to be a Safe Place for people who don't know that they are already forgiven, and even to Christians who are having doubts about God, and who are struggling with certain sins in their life!
- How can we be a Safe Place for others? Show them the love that Jesus has shown you, *gayahin lang natin si* Jesus.
- Jesus was a friend to sinners, he would eat with them, spend time with them, and even heal them. Jesus was their Safe Place in a time where people saw them as dirty sinners. Jesus even protected them from others.
- **John 8:4-5,10-11** (Story of woman caught in adultery) – This is how Jesus treated sinners, this is how Jesus treated us before when we were in our sins. He never condemns us!
- How about people who doubt? Ex. Thomas. In **John 20:24-29** – Jesus reassured Thomas.
- Having doubts don't disqualify you of your faith. Jesus will meet you in your doubt.
- *Ganito din dapat tayo. Wag natin silang i-condemn. Ang kailangan lang nating gawin* is to keep on sharing the Word to them. Because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

- So this is how we are to be, a safe place to people who don't know that they are already forgiven. A place where they can open up and not feel like they will be judged just because of what they have done. Even in their doubts they will still feel welcomed and loved.
- **Importance of a Safe Place – Mark 2:1-5** – Jesus being a safe place said: “My child, your sins are forgiven.” (No condemnation at all)
- It's important to surround ourselves with people who are filled with the Holy Spirit. So that we can edify one another.
- **Edify:** To build up, encourage to establish.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** – Because of this, encourage the hearts of your fellow believers and support one another, just as you have already been doing.
- Following Jesus is a lifelong Journey.
Panghabang buhay.
There will be moments *kung saan magkakamali tayo.*
May magagawa tayo na hindi dapat.
Where we will feel shame and guilt.
- In moments when you feel that God is so far away, when you start doubting God, that is the time to surround yourself with people who will encourage you and remind you that God has forgiven you!
- God is not mad at you! God is madly in love with you!
- As image bearers of God, we are called to be a safe place *para sa mga taong pagod na sa takbo ng mundo.* So that we can lead them to Jesus.
- **Matthew 11:28** – Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”
- So as we share the gospel, bring them the gift of no condemnation. Show them rest. True rest is only through Jesus Christ.

*We are to proclaim the forgiveness of people's sins.
In other words, we are to show them
and teach them GRACE.*

*As believers of Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit,
we are now a Safe Place for other people.*

*A safe place is a place where we accept others
without judgment, without condemnation.*

God has called us to be a Safe Place.

We can do this by showing the love of Jesus.

Let's keep on sharing the Word.

*Let's surround ourselves with people who are filled with
the Holy Spirit so we can edify one another.*

*As image bearers of God, we are called to be a Safe Place
so that we can lead people to Jesus Christ.*