



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

31 May – 6 Jun, 2020

Grab the Opportunity, part 2

**‘Be very careful, then, how you live—
not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity,
because the days are evil’ Ephesians 5:15, 16 (NIV)**

Grab the opportunity of your problems to show God’s glory

- † Saint Paul says the problems in the disciple’s life produce perseverance, which in turn produces God’s approval and God’s approval brings hope **(Rom 5:1-5)**
- † Hold on during difficult times, while spreading the hope, with confidence that the outcome will be great, just as the resurrection was the outcome of the crucifixion
- † Joseph passed from one problem to the other
 - betrayed by his brothers **Gn 37:18-35**
 - becoming a slave **Gn 37:28**
 - torn from his father and home **Gn 37**
 - falsely accused by the wife of Potiphar, to whom he was loyal **Gn 39:16-19**
 - unjustly imprisoned and ignored **Gn 39:20**

Grab the opportunity of your problems not to compromise

- † Without compromising, Joseph grabbed the opportunity of every problem as a means to show God’s glory
 - *‘I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life’* **Gn 45:4b-5**
 - *So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, ‘It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace’* **Gn 41:16**

- † Joseph held until the end, and that is when God's glory was shown through him *Gn 45:18*. *'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord'* *2 Cor 3:18*

Grab the opportunity of your problems to reveal Courage

- † Reuben made his own plans, and tried to outsmart his brothers. The outcome was not what he expected. His strategy failed and he joined his brothers' evil plan *Gn 37:21-30*
- † He is, like Pilate, a man of authority, but went with the flow
- † He wanted to throw Joseph in the pit and then rescue him from the hands of his brothers. He wanted both worlds, which does not work

Grab the opportunity of your problems to reach victory

- † When one problem ends in our life, another rises up. Saint Peter says not to be surprised that suffering is always there. However, deal with it hand in hand with Christ (*1Pet 4:12-16*)
- † Grab the opportunity to reveal that Christ has overcome the world, not only on the Cross, but in every problem we encounter
- † The apostles trusted God, being the Almighty, even when all things went wrong
 - In the prison, they preached the Gospel and outside the prison they did, to the extent that the authorities got confused whether to keep them imprisoned or to set them free

Grab the opportunity of temptations to fight (*Eph 6:10-20*)

- † *'Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him'* *Js 1:12*
- † *'Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand'* *Eph 6:13*
- † For those who love the Lord, temptation is no more than a reminder to fight the continuous spiritual warfare courageously
- † The truth is that Christ and His followers are the conquerors. *'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them'* *2 Kgs 6:16*
- † *'Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might'* *Eph 6:10*

Grab the opportunity to put on the armor of God

- † *'the whole armor of Christ is the Savior Himself. It is He Whom we are asked to put on. It is one and the same thing to say 'Put on the whole armor of God' and 'Put on the Lord Jesus Christ' Saint Jerome*
- † *'The first art in tactics is to know how to stand firmly. From this firmness all else follows' Saint John Chrysostom*
- † Put on the Truth as the belt girding on all other pieces of our armor
- † Righteousness as the breastplate protecting the heart from any injury. Righteousness is accomplished by faith. *'The just shall live by his faith' (Hb 2:4)*
- † Readiness of our feet to spread the Gospel. *'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news' Is 52:7a*
- † Faith as the shield which is the victory over the world, its temptations and desires
- † Hope of salvation as our helmet keeping our senses intact
- † Word of God as the sword, sharper than a two-edged sword. *'Once it has made us dead to vices, it causes us to live to God and flourish in spiritual virtues' Saint John Cassian*

Grab the opportunity to be always joyful

- † *'Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!' Phil 4:4*
- † *'I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation' 2 Cor 7:4*

Bibliography

1. *'The Letter Of St. Paul To The Ephesians'* June 4, 2008. Accessed May 25, 2020. <http://chnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/DIS-060408.pdf>
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might' Ephesians 6:10

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ Christ gave us Himself?

My reaction

✝ Am I putting on the armor of God all day?

✝ Am I revealing God to others through my clinging to Him?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Catholic Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس إسمك
ليأتي ملكوتك
يتكلم مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا خطايانا
كما تغفر نحن
لنمن أساءة لبنا
ولا تُدخِلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير.
آمين

قانون الايمان

أؤمن بالله واحد
أب ضابط الكل، خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق، مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في
الجهر، الذي به كان كل شيء، الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء، وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء وتأنس، وصلى
عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي، وتآلم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما في
الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الأب، وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي، المُنبت من الأب، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
مُسجود له ومُمجَّد، الناطق بالأنبياء
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية، وأُعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة
الخطايا، وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي. آمين