

TITLE: Epaphroditus: Never Too Insignificant [Hindi ka Bale wala]
TEXT: Philippians 2: 25-30
DATE: November 21, 2021

Introduction

- Most of the first century believers are unknown to us. They came to faith in Christ, made their contributions, died and were forgotten to all but God. **Karamihan ng mga Kristiyano sa unang siglo ay hindi natin kilala. Sila ay nanampalataya kay Kristo, gumawa ng mabuti, namatay, at lubusan nang nakalimutan ng lahat maliban sa Diyos.**
- One of these was a man named Epaphroditus. His story and the selfless service he gave for a Christian friend, illustrate the power of witness of Christ amid human suffering. **Isa sa kanila ay si Epaproditus. Ang kanyang istorya at di makasariling paglilingkod sa isang kaibigang Kristiyano ay nagpapakita ng kapangyarihan ni Kristo sa gitna ng pagdurusa.**
- Apostle Paul was under house arrest in Rome, and the church in Philippi desired to send Paul what we might call a “care package.” The Philippian believers gathered supplies and sent them to Rome through one of their own, a man named Epaphroditus. **Nakakulong noon si Pablo sa Roma at ang simbahan sa Filipino ay nagnais na magpadala sa kanya ng isang tinatawag na ‘care package’. Ang mga taga Filipino ay nangalap ng mga gamit at ipinadala ang mga ito kay Epaprodito.**
- Epaphroditus faithfully delivered the gift from his home church. However, he became seriously ill and almost died. **Dinala naman ni Epaprodito ang mga ito subalit siya ay nagkaroon ng malubhang karamdaman na muntik na nyang ikamatay.**
- God graciously granted Epaphroditus health, and Paul sent his friend back home with the newly written book of Philippians. **Pinagaling ng Diyos si Epaprodito, at pinabalik na ni Pablo ang kanyang kaibigan daladala ang bagong sulat na aklat para sa mga taga Filipino.**

Significant Characteristics Of A Humble, Christlike Disciple **Mga mahalagang katangian ng isang mapagpakumbabang Disipulo**

I. He Matures Proportionately [v.25] Pantay o Balanse Ang Kanyang Paglago

- Balance is a challenge in our Christian lives. We are prone to focus on one area of our Christian walk to the exclusion of other areas that are as important. (Example: Focusing on fellowship and good time over spiritual development). **Mahirap magkaroon ng balance sa buhay ng isang Kristiyano. Kadalasan, tayo ay nakatuon lamang sa ilang bahagi ng buhay Kristiyano kung kayat nakakalimutan ang ibang bahagi nito.**
- When a Christian gets out of balance, he brings reproach upon the cause of Christ. **Kapag nawawala ang balanse sa buhay ng isang Kristiyano, nagbibigay ito ng hindi magandang pagtingin sa mga gawain ni Hesus.**
- Notice the areas of maturity in the life of Epaphroditus: **Tingnan natin ang ‘maturity’ sa buhay ni Epaproditus”**

A. His Walk As A Son (belonging to the same family) Ang Kanyang Paglakad niya bilang anak

- Paul calls him “**my brother.**” This term refers to those who are “members of the same family.” Paul is saying: “Epaphroditus and I are brothers in Christ!” **Tawag ni Pablo sa kanya ay kapatid. Ibig sabihin ng katagang ‘kapatid’ ay kabilang sa**

parehong pamilya. Sinasabi ni Pablo na sila ni Epaproditos ay magkapatid kay Kristo.

- There is no place in the Christian family for division and strife. **Walang lugar sa pamilya ng Diyos ang pag-aaway at pagkakawatak watak.**
- Love among the family of God should be the hallmark of the church- John 13:35. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **Ang pagmamahalan sa loob ng pamilya ng Diyos ang palatandaan ng isang simbahan.**

B. His Work As A Servant (laboring toward the same goal) **Ang kanyang gawain bilang lingkod.**

- Epaphroditus was a “fellow worker” with Paul. **Si Epaproditos ay ka-manggagawa ni Pablo.**
- He was not lazy, who let others do the work for him. **Hindi nya pinagtatrabaho ang iba para sa kanya.**
- V.25 tells us that he was a “messenger” and a “minister.” He was sent by the church at Philippi with a gift for Paul. **Sinabi sa v.25 na siya ay isang mensahero at ministro. Siya ay pinadala ng simbahan sa Filipos dala dala ang isang handog para kay Pablo.**
- God didn’t save us to fellowship only. He saved us to get to work for His glory. **Hindi tayo naligtas upang magsamasama lamang. Tayo ay naligtas upang magtrabaho para sa Kanyang kaluwalhatian.**
- Epaphroditus loved to fellowship but he was also involved in the physical ministry of service. We need to have the same kind of attitude today. **Mahilig din sa fellowship si Epaproditos ngunit sya ay marami ding nagagawa sa ministerio ng Panginoon.**

C. His Warfare As A Soldier (sharing the same trials) **Ang Kanyang pakikipaglaban bilang sundalo.**

- When Paul calls this man a “fellow soldier,” he is talking about a man who is “an associate in the spiritual conflicts of the Christian life.” **Ang pagtawag ni Pablo sa kanya bilang kapwa sundalo ay patungkol sa isang tao na kasamasama sa mga spiritual na tungalian sa buhay Kristyano.**
- The term “fellow soldier” tells us that Epaphroditus fought alongside Paul. **Ibig sabihin nito ay magkasabay na lumalaban si Epaproditos at Pablo.**
- They are one in advancing the Kingdom of God and do battle with the same enemy. **Sabay nilang sinusulong ang kaharian at nakikipagtunggali sa parehong kaaway.**
- Where do you stand in these areas today? **Saan ka tumatayo ngayon patungkol sa mga bagay na ito?**

II. He Ministers Passionately [vv. 26- 29] **Taimtim Siyang Naglilingkod**

A. His Passionate Pursuit [vv. 26-27a] **Ang kanyang masigasig ng pagtugis.**

- Epaphroditus became gravely ill to the point of death. **Nagkaroon ng malubhang karamdaman si Epaproditos na halos ikamatay nya.**
- When learned that the they had heard he was sick, he became burdened because they were worried about him. The phrase “is distressed” comes from the same word

used of Jesus when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane. **Nang malaman nya na nagaalala ang mga taga Filipos sa kanya, nabagabag sya. Yung salitang ‘nabagabag’ ay katulad ng naramdaman ni Hesus sa Hardin ng Getsemane.**

- His focus was not on his own condition but rather on others and their welfare. **Nakatuon sya sa iba at hindi sa sarili nyang kalagayan.**
- When we put the needs of others first, we will be careful to ensure that others are edified and encouraged before we think of ourselves. **Kapag inuna natin ang pangangailangan ng iba, sinisuguro natin na sila ay nabibigyan ng pampatibay ng loob higit sa ating sarili.**

B. His Passionate Produce. Ang kanyang bunga

- Epaphroditus was a people centered person, he brought joy to the lives of others. He was the kind of person who made you feel important and loved. **Si Epaproditus ay makatao, nagdadala ng kasiyahan sa buhay ng marami. Siya ay nakakapagbigay ng pakiramdam na ikaw ay mahalaga at minamahal.**
- Be an encourager instead of a critical complainer. **Siguraduhing tagapagpalakas ka ng loob, hindi taga reklamo.**

C. His Passionate Persistence. Ang kanyang masigasig na pagtityaga

- v.30 [“...because he almost died for the work of Christ.”] seems to indicate that the sickness Epaphroditus endured was the result of his labors for the Lord Jesus Christ. **Ang v.30 ay nagpapahayag na ang pagkakasakit ni Epaproditus ay sanhi ng kanyang pagpapagal para sa Panginoon.**
- In other words, he put everything on line for Jesus, in order to fulfill the Great Commission. **Ibig sabihin, ibinuhos na nya ang lahat lahat para kay Hesus para magampanan ang Dakilang Paghayo.**

CHALLENGE: HAMON

- Verse 29 tells the Philippian church to welcome Epaphroditus “with honor.” This phrase means “to prize and consider precious.” **Sabi ng v.29 sa mga taga Filipos na bigyan ng parangal si Epaproditos.**
- People like Epaphroditus are like fine gemstones. They are rare and of great value! **Ang mga taong kagaya ni Epaproditos ay parang mga mamahaling bato, pambihira at mamahalin!**
- It doesn’t mean that they are perfect human beings but you can see the fire of the Gospel burning in their heart. **Hindi man sila perpekto ngunit makikita mo ang apoy sa puso nila para sa Ebanghelyo.**
- What the world needs right now are people who will commit themselves to be like Epaphroditus! **Ang kailangan ng mundo natin ngayon ay mga taong kagaya ni Epaproditos.**

DISCUSSION

1. Do you know of anyone who is like Epaphroditus? Describe that person. **May kakilala ka ba na gaya ni Epaproditos? Ilarawan sya.**
2. Do you want to be like Epaphroditus? How will you accomplish that? **Gusto mo ba na maging katulad ni Epaproditos? Paano mo ito gagawin?**

