

Sermon Title: **Humility - with the movie, The Mission (1986)**

Bible: Psalm 131 & Philippians 2:1-11

Where & When: Sunday Service at Gilroy UMC on August 4th, 2019

Audience: about 35 English-speaking Church Members

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we are looking for your presence in this time and this community. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. But in this difficult time, we are looking for your love. We want to feel, see, and touch your love. Please cover us with your love and grace. I am trembling. In Jesus' name. Amen.

1. Gabriel's Oboe in the movie, The Mission (1986)

In summer, our church has three movie nights. The first movie was "The Mission." Today's message is the second message related to this movie. I hope that many of you have watched this movie now. The reason why I chose for us to watch this movie together is because of the music. There was a piece of music that played when the missionary and the tribe met each other for the first time. Father Gabriel's oboe was the first language of love. Even though he was trembling, he played the oboe with faith and love. The movie was released in 1986, but later, in 1998, Sarah Brightman released "Nella Fantasia" in Italian, and "In My Fantasy" in English, with beautiful lyrics set to Gabriel's oboe. The lyrics start like this, "In fantasy, I see a right world. There all live in peace and honesty ..."

2. Nella Fantasia & God's Kingdom

What fantasy do you have? What dream do you have? What kind of God's kingdom do you hope for? We confess the Lord's Prayer, every Sunday, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Our faith, our hope, and our love cannot be limited to our own souls. We care about our community and our society. I believe that that's why our hearts broke when we, Gilroyans, experienced the tragedy last Sunday night. Thankfully, we are safe. But our souls are not okay, because we care about others and our community. God's love is not only for us, but also for this community. God's hope and our hope should be for this community, beyond this church and beyond ourselves.

3. God's Kingdom and Christ's Humility

Because God's kingdom is not mine, not ours, but God's, I do not know exactly what it looks like. I just taste heaven, when I love and I am loved. What I know is how to get there. It is downward. It is not upward. Jesus Christ shows this mind and this way through His life on earth. According to the scripture that we read, even though Jesus is God, He emptied Himself, He humbled Himself, and He became obedient to the point of death. Jesus' love reaches downward. Jesus' love is with those who suffer, with those who cry, and with those who are most marginalized. Jesus ate with tax collectors, outsiders, and sinners. What Jesus cares about

is beyond what we do. Jesus' grace is unconditional. Jesus sees who we are. We are all God's children. That's why Jesus emptied and humbled Himself to be with us anytime and anywhere.

In the movie, both Father Gabriel and the colonial army climbed up above the tremendously high waterfall. Both of their ways are upward. But if we see their internal feelings and motives, we see that Gabriel went up to be with the tribe and to love them. However, the army went up to destroy them. Who goes downward? Who are the humble? Who has the love and the hope? Nothing can stop God's love! Nothing can stop God's hope! With God's love, with God's hope, let us empty ourselves. Let us humble ourselves. Who is trembling? Who is mourning? Whose souls are not okay, even though they say they are okay? Let us go down and be with those who are mourning and with those who are trembling. There is where God is. There is where God's love is overflowing. When we go down with Jesus' love, God will lift us up with Jesus! That is how I see Jesus' cross and His resurrection.

4. Closing Music

I would like to close my message with the song "Nella Fantasia." The first verse is like this; "In my fantasy, I see a right world where everyone lives in peace and honesty. I dream of souls that are always free, like clouds that float. Full of humanity in the depths of the soul."

I tried to find a Youtube version that displays the English lyrics. I hope that all of us hope in God's kingdom together in this community, even in this tragedy.

<https://youtu.be/CvfmvW1P0dk>

Possible Qs.

1. Who are the most marginalized in the tragedy?
2. Where is God in the tragedy?
3. How is God in the tragedy?