

Discipling the Nation Through GK

I. Introduction

One obvious effect that Gawad Kalinga has brought our country and its people is that it has opened once angered, suspicious and closed hearts to become once again believing, trusting and loving to one another.

It is this restoration that has once again sparked hope for this land. Government now sees that its main task is not to deliver national development in its entirety, because that is really next to impossible without the full support of the population. Corporations now fully understand that their share of the work is in investing their resources for the huge task of carrying our nation to greatness. And the rest of the populace, both the haves and the have-nots now perhaps see better why the machinery on which they long have pinned the fulfillment of their dreams; cannot move because it is saddled with a task that we should all jointly take responsibility for.

Now, the three sectors are moving and the country is perhaps slowly, but surely- rolling its way to create a destiny, borne of the heroic acts, both big and small, of its peoples. Those with capacity to move small stones move these with their utmost strength, while who have the capability for bigger stones, move the same with their all and together, both are able to build. The result, 10,000 homes, which has given us the push for a bigger goal – 777 – 700,000 homes in 7,000 sites in 7 years.

II. The Task of Discipling

In the call to come together for Gawad Kalinga, God is about the mighty task of discipling His people. Discipling involves forming, molding, shaping into pupils, disciples.

In the five years of Gawad Kalinga, people have been talking about how this work has enabled them to see beyond their eyes – feel beyond their hearts and act beyond their hands and feet. They talk about GK areas as God's Kingdom, a place to experience God's loving ways, a place where the Spirit reigns, a venue where peoples give their best to one another.

a) Discipling Involves Submission

People come voluntarily to be disciplined by the Master. They submit. They yield. There is no external force. A personal decision is made. People come on their own volition. No one made them come. No one ordered them. No one pushed them. Somehow they say – they saw, they heard, they felt, they were lured by the Spirit, and so they came.

b) Discipling Involves Obedience

People who submit themselves to be disciplined by a Master come in obedience. They surrender their all and are completely under the Master's command. They are put wholly under His care. They have put full trust in His ways. Many who have come to find their fulfillment in GK, have cried unbelievably that this was the undertaking that they had so long, searched for and finally had found, that this was answer to their dreams, that this is where they had discovered God.

c) Discipling Involves Joy

Disciples experience deep joy in their discovery of God. All other externals, no matter their worldly lure, fail in comparison. The Lord truly is "More precious than gold!" The joy of discovering God is deep, it is not about meaning. The joy of discovering God is deep, it is about peace. Peace outside is elusive because peace is about standing face to face with God. This is the peace of GK and with it, comes real joy.

III. The Lord Disciples His People

The Lord disciplines only the people He loves. The Lord calls and He waits. He leaves us to decide to respond to His call. When people then respond, they come not out of curiosity or compulsion, but out of obedience and love.

a) Discipling the Leaders

GK has been instrumental in bringing this land's leaders to the Lord – whether in government or in the Church. We know all leaders bear a task for which they stand responsible and accountable to the Lord. The gifts of intelligence, language, wisdom, perception and

good sense all hail from God. God had truly made all His creation good. God had meant for these gifts to be used for the up-build of all. And then the leaders have more to answer for .

b) Discipling the Rich

GK has also been used by God to bring the rich to His feet. Many of the rich feel that they used their talents, they worked extra hard or that God will certainly be displeased, if they had just buried their talent and so they rightfully feel the produce of their effort is justly theirs – they who invested much of themselves into it.

He to whom much was given – He too indeed has much to show the Lord, who rightfully expects much. But this expectation is much beyond money – it is in the values of kindness, generosity, compassion, understanding and love.

c) Discipling the Poor

Most obviously and perhaps for the greater part, GK has also caused the poor to come before the Lord. Their being poor in terms of the world's goods has likewise caused them to be suspicious, resentful, angry, bitter, adulterous, quarrelsome, boisterous, lazy, wasteful and impossible – truly far-fetched from the virtues of patience, hard work, perseverance, industry, peace, team work, respectability, integrity, honor and justice that God had meant and which they also awe the Lord.

God intends to shape all of us, as the potter molds the clay so that we will truly take the form of God's true heirs.

Conclusion:

It was God's original plan in Eden that He create us to be creatures in His own image and likeness.

Unto this countenance, God forms us to this day. We Filipinos are blessed to see God's hands shape the destiny of our nation.

Gawad Kalinga has paved the way for this divine act to happen. God is truly discipling our nation.