

YOUR COUNTRY: A BLESSING OR BURDEN?

If God gives you the chance to choose kung saan ka ipapanganak, what country would you choose? Would you still choose the Philippines? Or would you choose a country that would give you a better chance of achieving your greatest potential?

Did you look at the mirror this morning? If you did, tinanong mo ba sarili mo kung bakit ka pango? You can deny it, pero maski mas matangos ang ilong mo kumpara sa akin, pango ka pa rin kumpara sa mga Amerikano! So, obviously, God did not give you the chance to choose the country of your birth. But why did He put you in a country where it is very difficult to prosper.

Bakit ka ginawa ni God na pango? Bakit hindi puti ang balat mo? If God wanted to, I believe He could have made you an American or European from birth, pero bakit hindi Niya ito ginawa?

Kasi, He believes that you are the best person to take care of this country—for Him. Kaso lang, as I said in an earlier message, unless you see something as a blessing you will never enjoy it as a blessing. This is why many Filipinos have chosen to seek a better future elsewhere.

Please do not get me wrong. I believe it's not a sin to migrate to another country or work overseas. In the Bible, God told certain people to move to a land that He chose for them, and I am sure God spoke to a few Filipinos to move elsewhere. But I am not sure if He told all the 2.3 million OFWs to sell their land in the Philippines to work abroad or the millions who changed their citizenship.

The Parable of the Talent tells us that God has entrusted us with His possessions according to our abilities. The possession that He entrusted to us is situated in a country of His choosing, just like the way He entrusted the land of Canaan to the Jews. We are Filipinos because God believes that we would be the best stewards of this country.

In farming, I would always say that every seed has the potential to become a fruitful tree, but you need a farmer to bring out that potential. In the same way, I believe every country has the potential to become prosperous, but it needs faithful citizens to bring out the nation's full potential. God made us Filipinos because He wants us to take care of

this country so that we can make the Philippines a blessing to the world. Sana we would all start to see this country as a blessing and not as a burden.