

## **Text Message Christians**

You might not know this but the Philippines is the text-message capital of the world. First of all, everyone has a cell phone in the Philippines . . . they are more ubiquitous than flies on the Fourth of July. Even the poorest of people have cell phones and they are constantly using them.

But because of limited resources, most of them cannot use the phone for talking, that is way too expensive. So they end up text-messaging one another. . . . constantly. It is very common to see people waiting or walking anywhere, feverishly punching in their messages with some elaborate code and sending them off to all their buddies.

Text-messaging has even hit the Catholic church hard here in the Philippines. It seems that instead of going to the priest in church to confess their sins, many Filipinos had found a new and more time effective way to confess their sins. They text-messaged their sins to the priest! The priest would then send the absolution back with the appropriate penance. While it was convenient, the church was justifiably horrified and issued a stern edict to stop the practice.

While we might chuckle a little bit at this convenience store method type of religion I am just wondering how many of us are "text-message Christians?" Do we try to squeeze religion into our lives in order to meet the minimum daily requirement or do we fit our lives around religion and seek Him afresh everyday with a personal devotion that is earnest and heartfelt?

I am so glad that God is not a text-message God. He sent Jesus personally. He didn't just punch in a few letters and hit the send button. He sent the very best so we might be inspired to give our very best. May we all give our very best to Him today and everyday.