

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 19 July 2020

MICA (P) No.: 048/10/2019

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Deuteronomy 8

VITAL LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

VITAL INSIGHTS GIVEN

Moses sought to teach Israel by giving them important insights about faith and life. If these lessons were learned well, then the nation would be greatly blessed indeed.

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. The commandments of God

- a) They were to be understood
- b) They were to be obeyed Deuteronomy 8:1

2. The place of the Word of God

- a) Man shall not live by bread alone
- b) Man must live by the word of God given Deuteronomy 8:3

3. There were things to be remembered

- a) They were to remember how God led the people for 40 years
- b) They were to remember all the lessons God had taught with humility
 - i) He fed them with manna
 - ii) Their garments did not wear out
 - iii) Their feet did not swell Deuteronomy 8:2-4
- c) God's power and protection
 - i) In the terrible wilderness
 - ii) There were fiery serpents
 - iii) There were scorpions

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MEDITATION

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iv) There was scarcity of water

v) God provided for them

Deuteronomy 8:15-6

4. God's testing and chastising

a) To humble the people

b) To learn how to relate to God as their Father who chastens
Deuteronomy 8:5

5. The danger of forgetting God

a) God can be forgotten amidst the blessing of wealth

b) His word can also be forgotten all too easily
Deuteronomy 8:11-14

APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

This is so very necessary. If we have been so blessed, we must make appropriate response!

1. We must bless the LORD

Deuteronomy 8:10

2. We must actively remember God

Deuteronomy 8:2, 18

3. We must keep His laws

Deuteronomy 8:6a

4. We must walk in His ways

Deuteronomy 8:6b

5. We must ever fear Him

Deuteronomy 8:6c

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

Welcome to the Lord's House. Let us be glad that we can worship the Lord together, albeit only 50 of us at the present.



GRADUAL REOPENING OF CHURCH

1. This is our 3rd Sunday
2. Thank you for your compliance to all safety measures
3. Let us continue to honour the Lord and all the guidelines given to us to be safe.



CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A BOY!

Heartiest congratulations to Si Yu and Yi Yong on the gift of a 3rd child.
Paul Ho was born on 16 July 2020. Both baby and mother
are doing well!



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 114:3-8

³ The sea saw it and fled;

Jordan turned back.

⁴ The mountains skipped like rams,

The little hills like lambs.

⁵ What ails you, O sea, that you fled?

O Jordan, that you turned back?

⁶ O mountains, that you skipped like rams?

O little hills, like lambs?

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

At the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ Who turned the rock into a pool of water,

The flint into a fountain of waters.

1. God's Power

a) The crossing of the Red Sea

(Moses' time)

b) The crossing of the River Jordan

(Joshua's time)

2. God's Presence

a) The mighty mountains trembled

b) The Presence of God is truly awesome

3. God's Provision

a) He provided water from a Rock

b) The hard flinty Rock provided an ample supply of water

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 19 July 2020

*Text: Psalm 41:1 Blessed is he who considers the poor
Blessed is he who considers the poor;
The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.*

1. Concern for the Poor

This was well taught (Deuteronomy 15)

2. Compassion for the Poor

This must be cultivated

3. Commendation from the Lord

He will bless all who have shown kindness for the poor.

NEXT SUNDAY: 26 July 2020

*Text: Psalm 119:1-2 Blessed are the undefiled in the way
¹Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
Who walk in the law of the LORD!
²Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart!*

A TESTIMONY

Thanksgiving for all the goodness from Bethany

Hi Bethany,

I am Intern Pastor Simon Nagaraj. I thank God for the three wonderful years of training in Bethany (from 2017 to 2020). God gave me a wonderful privilege to study in Bethany and learn many deep and life-changing lessons from our Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Charles Tan. I thank God that I had a wonderful time of fellowship with all of you. God helped me to complete my three years of training in Bethany. I was commissioned to serve as an Intern Pastor on the 12th of April 2020 in Bethany. After I was commissioned, I planned to go back to my home in India and start my ministry at Sathiyam, one of the Churches in IPC India but unfortunately, I could not get my flight to go back home because of a lockdown issue. I waited for two months then I got my flight and flew back home on the 6th of July 2020. God has blessed with journey mercies through His wonderful grace and your valuable prayers. I thank God that I reached my home town Chennai safely. I am deeply moved and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Pastoral team, Session Members and Church people of Bethany.

God is so good to me in my life. When I came to Bethany in 2017, I had no idea about ministry and I was spiritually blind but I came with a desire to serve the Lord and His people. God taught me so many precious lessons from our Senior Pastor and the Pastoral Team. God has changed my life through their teaching. Their teaching greatly instructed and impacted me in my heart, mind and spirit for the past

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A TESTIMONY

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three years. Their exemplary life, commitment, devotion and special love for the Lord and His Word are deeply encouraged me. By the grace of God, I learned the lessons have shaped my life and ministry.

I learned many important lessons from the Bethany Pastoral Team. I want to share with you the three lessons that I want to practice in my ministry.

1. Relationship
2. Humility
3. The spirit of Bethany

I learned that "relationship" is very important in the ministry of God. Firstly, I must have my time with the Lord every day. Even though I went back to my home, I must keep in touch with all of you especially with the Pastoral team. I do not want to go back to my old ways. I want to look for Pastor's spiritual guidance in my ministry continually.

"Humility" is a very important thing in the ministry. I have come to know that I cannot serve the Lord without humility. As I am going to serve the Lord at Sathiyam with Pastor Baskaran, I must be humble and practise being poor in spirit in my ministry. The Bethany Pastoral Team is a wonderful example for me how to serve the Lord with a humble heart.

In these three years of my training, I saw and experienced what "Bethany's spirit" is. You all have the same spirit of faith and oneness among you. You all care and love each other. My challenge is to serve

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A TESTIMONY

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the Lord with the spirit of Bethany too in my India ministry.

I thank God for your wonderful fellowship in Christ Jesus. You all showed your precious love to me. Your fellowship and love have brought such a wonderful joy in my heart. You all related to me like my own family members. You all prayed for my three years training and for journey mercies too. You all encouraged me that you will always be there for me to support and pray for my future ministry in India. Your kinds words indeed encouraged my heart and made me very happy. Leaving from you all is a bittersweet for me but I must focus on the Lord and my ministry. I will not forget your love and support especially, which I received for the three years. I have your sweet and wonderful memories with me. It will stay with me to the end of my life. I want to be faithful to God and Bethany until end.

I thank very much our Senior Pastor, the Pastoral Team, all the Session Members and all the Church people for their goodness, support, love and precious teaching.

I want to keep in touch with all of you.

Thank you.

C. Simon Nagaraj

POETRY CORNER

1

YOU SHALL BLESS THE LORD YOUR GOD

If we would only take time to remember God's blessings;
Our hearts would be truly filled with great thanksgiving.
His hand of love and mercy is wonderful and spectacular;
But our sinful hearts often fail to register and remember.

If we would only take time God's word to recall;
We would surely see that our souls are enthralled.
He has led us unerringly each step of the way;
His hand of power is evident every single day.

If we would only take time to learn our lessons deeply;
We would know how He can guide our hearts wisely.
The lessons we learn in life may sometimes be painful;
But with insight, we would know that God is faithful.

Let us make sure that we take time to bless the LORD;
There is truly no one like our great and glorious God!
Let us bow the knee to a God who deserves our praise;
He has given to us infinite mercy and matchless grace!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Deuteronomy 8

POETRY CORNER

2

A Meaningful Love

A meaningful Christian Love must be given in all thoughtfulness.
Human love may come from the heart and not within consciousness,
But this Christian Love is elevated when breadth and depth is a feature,
This Love draws on the clear example of Jesus Christ our teacher.

A meaningful Christian Love is given with heart full of compassion,
An affection that enables one to 'feel with' on these occasions.
A prayer must be said for our Love to abound more and more,
Knowledge and discernment must accompany this Love for it to soar!

A meaningful Christian Love has an eye to see what is excellent,
Cloaked with sincerity and honesty that becomes so evident.
And through Christ do we then bear the fruits of righteousness,
So as to bring glory and praise to the Lord in the Highest!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang
Inspiration: Philippians 1: 8-11

POETRY CORNER

3

Let Us Look to God

Our perpetual resolve to “turn over a new leaf”
deservedly belongs to the realm of fairy tales;
As sin in our lives invariably makes such resolutions fail.
God knows there is no way anyone can realize a sinless life;
For the latter is only possible with the Lord Jesus Christ.

But God is He who has planted our ears and our eyes;
He knows our hearts and the secret thoughts in our minds.
He will reward us if righteousness is what we seek;
He will deliver us from our predicaments in our time of need.

If we only took time to reflect on what the Lord has done in good times and in bad;
We would realize how often from calamities we have been spared.
Mankind’s fallibility makes for our need to constantly look to God;
To fester in sin and plunge deeper into transgressions we must not!

Blessed are we that the Lord has heard our voices and the
supplications we have made;
He will bring us deliverance from the scourge of suffering and offer shade.
The Lord will judge us according to how we seek to follow
and obey His commands;
May we not fail Him in faithfulness despite life’s many competing demands!

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: Psalms 94:9-11; Psalms 18:20-24; Psalms 116:1

POETRY CORNER

4

Spiritual Blessings

How gracious and merciful is our Lord;
He forgives our transgressions despite our consistent repetition.
Such bountiful blessings generously showered on us by God!
Delight in His Word and give thanks to show our appreciation.

Let us not hide and keep silent about our sins;
For its weight can be agonizing and destructive.
Of paramount importance is our willingness to be honest from within;
Confess our sins, repent, then only will there be relief.

When we feel the weight of the Lord's heavy hand;
Know that it is a blessing bestowed to provide guidance.
We need to reflect on His message to understand;
Which path we are being directed to tread in abidance.

It is yet another blessing when His hand is uplifted;
We have been pardoned and imputed with righteousness.
Fellowship with the Lord has been restored and reinstated;
And we can build our relationship with God in faithfulness.

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: Psalm 32)

POETRY CORNER

5

THE BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS

The problem of sin cannot be taken lightly,
It can hurt our relationship with God badly.

If sin is ignored, it will keep growing,
A person, sin may end up destroying.

In God's grace, our sins can be fully forgiven,
Because of a great blessing from heaven.
The weight of our iniquity was laid on Christ,
For unworthy sinners, He sacrificed His life.

Through Christ, we are restored to God,
We can pray and draw near to the Lord.
Amidst challenges, we need not be fearful.
Our help comes from God who is powerful!

God will instruct and teach the humble,
He will personally guide the teachable.
God's mercy will surround the righteous,
He will bless him with joy and gladness!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Psalm 32 and Ephesians 1:7-8

BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 st floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 th floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 nd floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 th floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 rd floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Home Bible Study	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd Fri	7.30 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
Young Married Group		Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor	
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor

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