

“Practical Christian Living: ”

Today, Christians may experience a wilderness of the soul: grief, illness, disillusionment, and temptation, lost of a loved one or the consequences of sin. The question is not, “How long will we be in this wilderness/desert experience?” but “What will we do while we are there in that desert experience?” The Bible tells us stories of people who spent days or even years in the desert. Moses, Elijah, Jesus and Paul retreated to solitary places in various times in their lives

Desert Experience in life of:

Great Leader Moses
The Children of Israel
Prophet Elijah
Lord Jesus
Apostle Paul

Exodus 2:11-4:20
Numbers 32:13
1 Kings 19:1-18
Matthew 4:1-11
Galatians 1:15-18

Other helpful Scriptures for your Desert Experiences:

1. Psalm 55:16-17, 22

But I call to God, and the LORD saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice... Cast your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you, he will NEVER let the Righteous Fall

2. Psalm 94:19

When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought joy to my soul

3. Psalm 121:3

He will NOT let your foot slip - He who watches over you will NOT slumber

4. Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in Perfect Peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in YOU

5. Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

6. Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sometimes we find it difficult to see our past problems. When that happens, we need to look actively for God's blessings and to “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” read 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Announcements

1. Our 2nd anniversary thanksgiving celebration is on 20.09.2009 from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. Next week Sunday Morning Service is on as usual from 10.30am to 12.30noon followed by lunch.
2. Kindly confirm your guests who are coming to our 2nd anniversary thanksgiving service. All LG members, please let your LG leaders have your guest list to facilitate the preparation of door-gifts as well as high-tea catering. Non-LG members, please let sis Jane have your guest list. Submit your guest list to Pastor David Kerk by latest 18/09/2009. Thank you. Do uphold this thanksgiving service in your daily prayers before our Lord.
3. Attention all brethren. Please stay behind for a briefing from 2.00pm to 3.00pm follow by a rehearsal of the full-program.
4. Please plan for your annual leave for our 1st Annual Bible Camp in March 2010. Please register early to avoid disappointment. Look out for further details in the SundayTimes

OUR COLLECTIONS

Mark 12:43-44;

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Aug 2009 Collection: : S\$13,892.60
 Sep 2009 Collection up to 06 Sep 2009 : S\$ 8,927.00
 Church Building Fund : S\$30,080.00

*If you are making out a cheque, kindly mark
 “Church of Sengkang Ltd”.*

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Church of Sengkang

Is called by God to be *welcoming* and *prayerful* community filled with and led by the *HOLY SPIRIT*

THE SUNDAY TIME

SUNDAY SERVICES TIMES:

13th September 2009

10.30am to 12.30pm

THANK YOU

Your expression of LOVE towards our LORD
 is shown by your
 PLEDGE Commitment.

On behalf of the leadership, we thank our Lord for your continued support for the ministry of reconciling the precious souls of sengkang/punggol to our Creator God. As mentioned in our last few weekly issues of the Sunday Times, your financial pledge will go to support the evangelism cause, pastoral care ministry, rental of present premises, transport and other operating expenditure. If you have yet to submit your PLEDGE card, do approach the ushers. As for those who have submitted your signed PLEDGE card, please quote your reference number on the envelope marked ‘OUR PLEDGE’. Depicted below is the total cards we have received as at last sunday:

Pledge No.	Monthly Commit	One Time
1	2000	0
2	200	0
3	0	1000
4	0	200
5	50	0
6	50	0
7	50	0
8	1200	0
TOTAL	3550	1200

True FAITH Goes Into Operation when there are NO Answers..... Elisabeth Elliot

The word Faith is defined as the trust in God and in His promises as made through Christ and the Scriptures by which humans are justified or saved. As easy as that might sound, we tend to divert away from the mere existence of faith when the storms of life overwhelm us. When one is asked to believe in Jesus Christ and His goodness, it is not a surface believe, it is not a knowledge believe, it is a total heart and soul believe that God is asking for. In Matthew 8:28, even the demons acknowledged and believed in the existence of Jesus. So if we just believe in God via a "knowledge believe" then how different are we from Satan and his minions?

When you ask a love one to believe in you, you are asking for his total trust, you are asking for him to still be there when things do not seem to be working out in the way the both of you wanted, you are asking for him to stand by you physically and emotionally and you are asking for him to not walk away when things become dry and difficult.

How then should we react when our lives are starting to crumble? Do we still pray to God and believe that He is our healer or do we seek for a visible comfort? When our family is experiencing hell on Earth, is Jesus still Lord or a 3rd party might be your worldly form of a solution? The interesting thing is this, people complain about their painful times but they do not realize that without these times of testing, faith is redundant. Think about it, do you need faith for your finances when you are already a multi-millionaire? Do you need faith for your health when you are already 100% healthy as certified by your doctor? It is only when in times of trouble; there your faith can be tested to the fullest extent. It is said: "Faith isn't faith until it's all you're holding on to"

Faith is a very powerful thing. Faith heals (Matthew 8:10), faith brings forgiveness (Matthew 9:2), faith is a doorway to the miracles in your life (Matthew 14:31), faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20) and faith can save you (Luke 7:50). Then what are we waiting for? If we are told that the coffee shop downstairs our home is giving away free chicken rice, we will most likely flock to it like vultures to a corpse. How about faith? It is free too, and it sure tastes way better than chicken rice.

Let us begin to exercise our faith, in our own walk individually, let us have faith that God will strengthen our spiritual lives and our families. Corporately, let us have faith that God will work His mighty wonders on our 2nd Anniversary Celebration commencing in 7 days time! I believe we, as a family, are an army of faith warriors for Christ!

With love,
Bro Roy Tan

Today's Sermon

Speaker: Pastor David Kerk

Title of Message: Our LORD Wants To Be Loved

Scripture Text: Jeremiah 2:11-3:24

Key Verse:

Jeremiah 2:13

For My people have committed two evils:

They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Introduction:

Just like our Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in John 4:1-14; God's conversation with Jeremiah expresses His anger and futility of His children. God borrows 2 images that of (a) angry parents (b) a jilted lover to express His pains of a compassionate God towards His children.

Main Points:

1. God's Conversation With His Faithless Children
- Expressed His Anger

Jeremiah 2:13 My people have forsaken me, the spring of living water and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

1:1 Forsaken ME v13a: Deserted the LORD

1:2 Dug their own cisterns v13b: changed gods v11

1:3 Appalled, Shuddered & Desolated v12: Selfless Love Wasted

1:4 Like any Parents: God Wants to be Loved by His children

Pause To Reflect:

We forsake Our Lord, Spring of Living Water when we become our own cisterns by substituting our lives with a lesser god. The result - life lacks freshness, stagnated & never satisfied. Watchman Nee once said "I have never met a soul who has set out to satisfy the Lord and has not been satisfied himself"

- 2: God Committed Himself to His Suffering Children
- Expressed His Pleasant Moments

Jeremiah 3:19-20 Then I said, "How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation" I thought you would call me "Father" and not turn away from following me. But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O House of Israel"

2:1 God Recalled the Past: Brought them out of hostile desert

2:2 God Provided Them: Food & Water

2:3 God Prospered Them: Fertile Land of prosperity

2:4 Like any Parent: God Wants to Be Loved by His children

2:5 Like any Husband: God Wants His Wife to be Faithful

2:6 Forever He Is Faithful: What about You & I?

Pause To Reflect:

Have our personal & private affections taken over His Lordship or His faithfulness & Blessings faded away into only memories. Or have enjoyed His blessings & forgotten the Source of our blessings? Have our personal preferences replace Him. Is Our Lord still in the "driver's seat"? Beloved, remember Him because He has not forgotten you!

3. God Pleads For His Children To Return

- Expressed His Willingness To Heal

Jeremiah 3:22 RETURN, O faithless sons "I will cue you of backsliding" "Yes, we will come to you for you are the LORD our God."

3:1 God's Love Is Consistent: UnConditional

3:2 Immatured Children: Thirst Is Quenched - Go Away

3:3 God's Matured Children : Old Fashioned Love For HIM

Pause To Reflect:

Again and again, God is shocked by the behavior from His children where they only cling unto Him when they are unwell. Soon memory of His goodness fades away when they are healthy, wealthy and well. Beloved, come rain or shine, let's remain steadfast in Him.

Reflection On This Message:

Only 4 words: Think About His Love !