

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 5 September 2021

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Isaiah 5

A SONG OF THE VINEYARD

AN ANCIENT SONG

Isaiah the prophet was very gifted.
He was an accomplished speaker and writer.
He was well respected as a servant of God.
He was also a gifted song writer.

¹ Now let me sing to my Well-beloved
A song of my Beloved regarding His vine-
yard:

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MEDITATION

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My Well-beloved has a vineyard
On a very fruitful hill.

²He dug it up and cleared out its stones,
And planted it with the choicest vine.
He built a tower in its midst,
And also made a winepress in it;
So He expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes,
But it brought forth wild grapes. Isaiah 5:1-2

1. A Composition to be sung to the LORD

- a) Isaiah had a very close relationship with the LORD
- b) He called God "My Well-Beloved"
 - i) He had a great heart of love for God
 - ii) The more he learned about God, the more he loved Him

2. The Vineyard of the LORD

- a) Isaiah compared Israel to a Vineyard
- b) He wrote about how God had planned for His Vineyard to be very fruitful
 - i) The ground chosen
It was on a very fruitful (fertile) hill
 - ii) Preparation
God had dug the ground, clearing it of stones

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MEDITATION

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iii) Choice variety

God had chosen the best strain of grape-vines

iv) Building a tower

This was built so that the guards can spot foxes that may enter the vineyard and affect it adversely

v) A winepress

This was built in close proximity to the Vineyard so that the quality of the harvested grapes would be retained!

The Lord had done everything possible to make sure that the Vineyard would be successful and fruitful.

WILD GRAPES

Sadly, instead of good grapes, wild grapes appeared! This was a classic short-story that Isaiah told! There was an unexpected ending to the song!

A FRUITFUL VINEYARD

God has provided everything we could possibly need to succeed! Let us pray and make sure that we would be that successful and fruitful vineyard of the LORD!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus with us today! May your heart be uplifted through worship!



COMMENCING OUR 40+9 YEAR

We commence our 40+9th year of Ministry! Let us seek to be a fruitful Church always! May the Lord bless the year ahead of us!



SATURDAY, 11 September 2021

1. Catechism Class
1.00pm
2. Youth Worship
3.00pm



CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A BOY!

Heartiest congratulations to Qingyang and Yuanli on the gift of a baby boy. Baby Dariel was born on Thursday, 2 September, 2021. Both mother and baby are doing well!



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Ms. Joanna Yam on the home-calling of her mother, Mdm. Wong Tik Kuen. She passed away on Thursday, 2 September 2021. She was 93 years old.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Autumn Cakes for Seniors

We would like to specially remember all Seniors in Bethany as we celebrate Mid-Autumn this year. Though we may not be able to have a Mid-Autumn event this year, we would still like to give Mid-Autumn cakes to our Seniors. This is Bethany's expression of affection for all those aged 65 and up in our church.

Collection will be in Bethany's Cafeteria (Level 1) on Sunday, 19 September 2021 (12noon to 3pm).

Family members and next-of-kin are encouraged to collect on behalf of Seniors.

Please register with Eugene Seow (eugeneseow@bethanyipc.sg), Moses Kwek (moseskwek@bethanyipc.sg), or Jonathan Jacob (jonathanjacob@bethanyipc.sg) for collection arrangements.

IPC FAMILY

1. Sathiyam IPC

7 September 2021

a) 32nd Anniversary

b) Ordination of IP Simon Nagaraj

2. Bethel IPC

27th Anniversary

12 September 2021



ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

*Let Your work appear to Your servants,
And Your glory to their children.
Psalm 90:16*

1. God's work

a) May this become clear to His servants!

b) May we rejoice in His work!

2. God's glory

a) God's work always has His glory embedded

b) May that glory be seen by the children (the next generation)

TEACHER'S DAY APPRECIATION

Happy Teacher's Day to all our Pastors, and Sunday School teachers! Bethany is truly blessed to have a strong team who are involved in the teaching of God's Word to both young and old.

On this special occasion, the Sunday School Superintendents would like to express their deep appreciation to you for faithfully teaching our Sunday School students week after week, helping them to piece together the lessons so that their hearts would be enriched, and challenged to grow deeper in their walk with God. Thank you for running alongside your students and helping them to develop a stronger faith-relationship with God. This is despite the challenges and adjustments you face, during this last 18 months of the Covid-19 pandemic. By God's enabling grace, you have made a difference in the lives of your students, whether in big or small ways. So, let's press on, knowing that your effort is not in vain! Let's seek to be outstanding teachers.

If we recall, during our study of the Book of Ezekiel at our Sunday School Teacher's retreat in January this year, Pastor taught us what it takes to be an outstanding Sunday School teacher. Here is a summary of the key points: -

How to be an outstanding Sunday School Teacher

- ♦ *Stand on your feet* – Be alert to God's voice. Pay full attention or God will not speak to us (Ezekiel 2:2)
- ♦ *Seek the filling of the Holy Spirit* to empower us (Ezekiel 2:2; 3:24)
- ♦ Eat and fill your belly with God's Word. *Digest God's Word till it is sweeter than honey* (Ezekiel 3:1)
- ♦ *Be creative* – make your lessons come alive (Ezekiel 4:1-3)
- ♦ *Identify with your students* – understand and feel with them (Ezekiel 4:4-6)

Sunday School Teacher's Retreat, 15-16 January 2021

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TEACHER'S DAY APPRECIATION

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Pastor highlighted three things that we should seek to be conscious of - The hand of the Lord, the word of the Lord and the glory of the Lord. It is only when our students see the glory of God that they will respond to the Lord and His Word. Let's seek to catch a glimpse of God's glory and hear His still small voice, as we prepare our Sunday School lessons each week. Let's pray for a renewed sense of appreciation for the glory and profundity of God's Word.

May this be our constant prayer ..."Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distil as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass. For I proclaim the name of the LORD" Deuteronomy 32:2-3a

Thank you once again for your effort, prayers, as well as your time and commitment in planning the weekly lessons. May the Lord continue to enable to teach His Word with impact! Let's be constantly reminded that we are God's watchman to our students!

Happy Teacher's Day!!

*By Deonna Tham on behalf of Bethany Sunday School Superintendents
(Creche, Beginner Sunday School, Junior Sunday School, Intermediate
Sunday School, Senior Sunday School 1,2,3 and Special Needs Sunday
School)*

THANKSGIVING

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry". 1Timothy 1:12

Dear Senior Pastor, Pastoral Team, Session Members and Believers of Bethany,

Greeting to you all in the most precious name of Jesus!

As I am going to be ordained as a Pastor on Tuesday September 7 at Sathiyam Church, my heart is deeply moved to give thanks to the Lord and Bethany.

Serving the Lord as a Pastor is my great privilege and joy in the ministry. I am indeed humbled to God for His loving-kindness. Even though I was born in Hindu family and an idol worshipper, the grace of our Lord is exceedingly abundant in my life. I am not worthy for His calling but I obtained mercy because of His grace.

For the past three years (2017 — 2020) of my Pastoral training at Bethany God has helped me to learn vital lessons from our Senior Pastor and Pastoral Team. Those lessons have changed my life and molded me in Christ Jesus. I have learned from Pastor one of the important lessons which I need to practice in my life and ministry. It is "faithfulness". The servant of God has to be faithful in all things. The great Servant of God Moses was faithful to God and in His entire house. I am deeply committed as I am going to serve

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the Lord at Sathiyam as a Pastor, I must be faithful in all things.

God has also helped me to experience the love of Bethany. I am amazed how Bethany is concerned for me. The Pastoral Team and Bethany's support, prayers and encouragement are awesome. They have deeply touched my heart to learn and practice the life lesson in my life. My challenge is to be concerned for others, especially Sathiyam people whom I am going to serve.

I am so grateful to all of you. Please continue to pray for my Ordination and my ministry over at Sathiyam.

In His Grace,
Simon Nagaraj

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:87-88

*⁸⁷ They almost made an end of me on earth,
But I did not forsake Your precepts.*

*⁸⁸ Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,
So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.*

1. The wicked

- a) They can threaten our life!
- b) But they need not succeed

2. The Righteous

- a) Let us not forsake the Lord's word out of fear
- b) Let us seek Revival that we may keep God's word

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 5 September 2021

Text: Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Against such there is no law.

1. We have a Cluster-of-Nine Fruit of the Spirit
2. These are expressive of what the Spirit would want us to cultivate in our life
3. May we seek to be fruitful in these things!

NEXT SUNDAY: 12 September 2021

Text: Ephesians 5:2 Walk in love

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

POETRY CORNER

1

A SONG OF THE VINEYARD

With great love, God made great plans;
He planted the seed by His own hand.
The ground was chosen, a choice Hill;
This was all done out of His loving will.

With great care, God planned for success;
A Tower was built, and even a winepress.
Nothing was left unthought of, or neglected;
Stones were removed, nothing taken for granted.

The Song of the Vineyard was written in sadness;
Israel was that Vineyard that enjoyed blessedness.
God waited to see how Israel would respond to blessings;
Sadly, Israel did not bear the fruit that God was expecting.

The Song of the Vineyard has applications for us today;
We need to check and see if we have gone astray.
The Blessings of God must cause us to be fruitful;
This will bear testimony of a God who is wonderful!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Isaiah 5:1-2

POETRY CORNER

2

Man of God's Right Hand

How glorious it will be when the Lord's radiant face shines on us
Only Jesus the Man of God's Right Hand can cause it to happen
Known also as the Son of Man from Satan's dominion He will deliver us
Through Him we will be restored by grace to the Lord and our relationship deepened

Woe betide us when we incur the wrath of the Lord
Let not tears be our food and drink as He refuses to interpose
Restore us O Lord so that people do not abuse us and the church of God
With You on our side no one can inflict harm and blows

When we please the Lord He will smile upon us
With His care and nurture we will be strong with roots deep into the ground
Let not sin cause a rift between our heavenly Father and us
For we will then be weak, worthless and hopelessly wandering around

May the Man of God's Right Hand continue to bless Bethany IPC
With Pastor Charles shepherding the congregation over the past 48 years
By His Grace further spread the boughs and multiply Bethany IPC
And continue its growth to the far corners of the world and frontiers

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: Psalm 80)

POETRY CORNER

3

Restoration

Many relationships commence on a sound footing;
Be they amongst family, friends or nations which are neighboring.
Then the enemies begin to stir up misunderstandings;
Resulting in animosity and trouble, when they were meant to be blessings.

Our walk with God similarly starts most blissfully;
With the realization that He is both Father and Saviour to us; How heavenly!
But soon Sin creeps in and our fellowship with God is destroyed almost irreparably;
How we need restoration from the Lord most desperately!

Never to be taken for granted is the Church's oneness and unity;
Identifying chosen men of God to lead us must surely be a priority.
Only then would continual revival and restoration of the congregation be a surety;
And lost souls be sought and led to God's kingdom for eternity.

"Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine";
That we may once again Your strength and leading find.
Forgive us our sinful hearts and foolish minds;
Help us to be faithful and towards Your ways be inclined.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 80

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

INVOCATION

MESSAGE

“The Fruit of the Spirit: Love”

Text: Galatians 5:22-23; John 13-16

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

