

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 4 July 2021

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Exodus 1-3

THE MAKING OF A GREAT LEADER

MANY SIGNIFICANT LESSONS

In the annals of history, secular or spiritual, great leaders are hard to come by. One of the most outstanding leaders of all time, was the man called Moses! If anyone wishes to be a leader of any significance, it would be vital to study the life of Moses and

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MEDITATION

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to take note of how he became "the servant of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 34:5).

COMMON OPINIONS ATTRIBUTING SUCCESS

There are common opinions that are generally made as to why people become great leaders. Some of those suggestions may be true when it comes to secular leadership. But when we look at spiritual leadership, these common thoughts may not be very applicable.

Some of the common suggestions include the following:

1. An illustrious family background
2. A great educational background
3. Superb innate intelligence
4. Powerful connections
5. The age factor

None of the above applied to Moses! His success as a great spiritual leader cannot be attributed to any of the above!

OUR INTRODUCTION TO MOSES

Our introduction to Moses was anything but inspiring! But the Biblical record was very candidly written (Exodus 1-3).

1. He was a son of Hebrew slaves, living under the tyranny of Egypt
2. He was an adopted son of the Pharaoh's daughter
3. He killed an Egyptian official and had to flee for his life
4. He was a humble shepherd for the next forty years of his life
5. He was out of touch with the children of Israel for the past four decades!

How could any of the above factors have caused Moses to become a great leader?

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MEDITATION

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KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY

Moses would have some knowledge of God as he grew up. But a general knowledge of God would not do him much good at all. He needed to know God personally.

1. God became real to Moses

"I am the God of your father- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Exodus 3:6

a) This was the starting point

b) Theory becomes Reality!

2. God's Presence in the life of Moses

"I will certainly be with you." Exodus 3:12

a) This will be a life-changing factor

b) The Presence of God will be evidenced in Power from God in life and ministry

c) Moses' greatness is entirely attributed to the LORD's presence with him

OUR CHALLENGE

Let us examine our knowledge of God. A relationship must be established with the Lord. It may begin very simply. But as we discover God in our life, we must look at how He will impact and change our life. Greatness may not be an immediate possibility. But life and ministry must commence with God as a Living Reality.

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that we are able to resume public worship at 301 Upper Paya Lebar once again. Thank God for His safe-keeping in the last month and a half when we were unable to worship on site. Thank you for choosing to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us, physically or virtually! May the Lord bless as we gather for worship!



NEW SERIES OF PULPIT MESSAGES

We begin a new series of messages today. The focus is on the need for another generation of spiritual leaders to arise. This series of messages would conclude with the ordination of IP Moses Kwek and Eugene Seow on 29 August 2021.



CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 40+8 ANNIVERSARY

Thank God that we can celebrate 48 years of ministry. One of the significant ways of celebration is to help other churches in other countries. Thank God for the tremendous support shown in giving towards the development of a church in Embu, Kenya. May we always count it a privilege and joy to help others and to extend the Lord's kingdom further.



ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

For a thousand years in Your sight
Are like yesterday when it is past,
And *like* a watch in the night.
Psalm 90:4

1. Time and Age

- a) We measure life in terms of life and age
- b) Empires and kindness are measured differently

2. A thousand years

- a) Empires decay all too quickly
- b) They never last 1000 years

3. The reality of Time and age

- a) Everything becomes “the past”
- b) It is always too short as we look back
“Yesterday” was too short
- c) A watch in the night
 - i) In the more ancient past a watch in the night was about 4 hours. There were therefore 3 watches
 - ii) In the days of the Romans, there were 4 watches, each one lasting 3 hours
- d) The watch may seem very long, but it is not
- e) Life is always “too short”

Let us be deeply challenged to make full use of our short life on earth!

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

Dear Pastor

My family and I would like to thank you, the Pastoral Team, Session Members, the AVA Team and Bethany brethren for ministering to us and the love shown to us in the recent passing of Dad. We would also like to thank you, Pastor for the two poems {"The Lord Is My Shepherd and "I Will Dwell In The House Of The Lord Forever") that were penned by you and shared with us during the Memorial and Funeral Services.

We thank God for His wonderful Grace and Mercy in Dad's life. From how impossible it seemed in the beginning for Dad to accept the Lord as his Saviour to how Dad was a strong testimony of faith in the Lord during the last stretch of his life, even in the midst of illness and pain. I pray that this gives hope to others who are still trying to reach out to their parents.

We also give thanks that Dad's testimony of God during his last days have caused some family members to ponder about this Great God that meant so much to Dad. May they seek and find faith like what Dad had done and experience God's grace and mercy in their lives too.

In His Love,
Michelle, Chee Meng and the Lim Family

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 04 July 2021

Text: Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked with God

And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

1. We have a good example to emulate in Enoch
2. He walked with God faithfully till the day he was taken home to heaven
3. May we learn to walk faithfully with God too!

NEXT SUNDAY: 11 July 2021

Text: Genesis 6:8 Noah found grace

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:69-70

*⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie against me,
But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.*

*⁷⁰ Their heart is as fat as grease,
But I delight in Your law.*

1. Struggles in life

- a) Proud enemies who lie
- b) They had “fat hearts”
(Hinting that they are wealthy)

2. Seeking to understand God’s precepts

- a) Determining to keep His precepts
- b) Delighting in His laws

POETRY CORNER

1

I WILL CERTAINLY BE WITH YOU

Moses could not imagine becoming a great leader;
He had failed in Egypt; he had become a murderer.

Forty years later saw Moses as an old man;
But he fitted right into the Lord's divine plan.

God called him when he was in the desert tending his flock;
He had never heard God's voice before; it was quite a shock!
The conversation God had with Moses ended with his commissioning;
Moses was to say to mighty Pharaoh, that Israel, he should be releasing!

Moses was overwhelmed by the sheer size of the task assigned;
He tried to convince God that he was not the man to be consigned!
He was not eloquent, nor knowledgeable, he was unequal to this work;
God answered all the objections of Moses; the Call he must not shirk!

"I will certainly be with you," was the word of assurance given;
Moses need not fear anyone, being backed up by God in heaven!
The humble shepherd of Midian would become a great servant of God;
He would succeed in fulfilling his sacred Call, empowered by the LORD!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Exodus 3

POETRY CORNER

2

Praise the Lord

To each his own unique meditative process;
King David discovered it during sleepless nights.
We were blessed to be given its ideation;
May we accept the challenge to begin meditation!

Meditate not only when the soul is dry;
Develop meditation on the splendour of God to glorify.
To enable a faith deep and profound;
Where dynamism in life abounds.

Practise meditation till it blends into life seamlessly,
And begins to define a person evidently.
Determined to declare the greatness of the Lord;
Make known to sons of man the mighty acts of God.

Praise and bless Him forever and ever;
All who call on Him, He does not sever.
His dominion endures from one generation to another;
His saints shall speak of His mercy and power.

Jessie Quek
Inspiration: Psalm 145

POETRY CORNER

3

THE VALUE OF MEDITATION

The greatness of God is unsearchable,
His goodness to all is immeasurable.
Meditating on Him benefits us greatly,
It helps us fathom Him more deeply.

God's works are awesome and mighty,
Meditation helps us appreciate His majesty.
As we ponder His ways which are righteous,
We stand amazed at He who is glorious!

How great it is to be in God's kingdom!
Meditation helps us behold His wisdom.
We have a gracious King who truly cares,
He draws near and hears all our prayers.

As we dwell on God and His greatness,
We cannot but praise Him with gladness!
With joy, let us seek to meditate each day,
It will enrich our lives in marvelous ways!

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: Psalm 145

ORDER OF WORSHIP



CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

INVOCATION

SPECIAL ITEM

“Your Name Will Be Praised”

Youth Choir

MESSAGE

“The Conclusion of Life and Ministry”

Text: Numbers 27:12-14

BENEDICTION



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