

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 20 March 2022

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Matthew 4:13-17

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“THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

The Lord Jesus Christ strenuously preached the Gospel of the Kingdom in His ministry in earth.

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,
¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:

¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:13-17

That the Lord Jesus emphasised the Kingdom of God was evident.

1. It was necessary to proclaim the Gospel

- a) So many were in darkness
- b) They were living in the shadow of death

2. It brought needed Light

- a) Only Light can dispel darkness
- b) The Light of the Gospel must be proclaimed

3. It was an invitation to enter into the kingdom of heaven

- a) Many did not know that they could enter into God's kingdom

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

- b) They needed to be informed
- c) They needed to be invited
- d) Many turned from darkness to Light

THE FULFILMENT OF SCRIPTURE

The Lord Jesus Christ was fully aware of the prophetic Scriptures.

- 1. They need to be fulfilled
- 2. He was determined to fulfil them
- 3. He was deeply committed to do what He knew was His Father's Plan and Will

DO WE SHARE THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM?

It is important that we are deeply moved to share the Gospel of the Kingdom too. The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He would make them fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). Let us determine to share the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven as committedly.

The world is a very dark place. Let us share the Light of world, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May our understanding of God's Kingdom increase more and more!



SPECIAL SENIORS PROGRAM THIS WEEK

1. Tuesday, 22 March 2022
9.30am- 11.30am

2. Thursday, 24 March 2022
9.30am-11.30am



NEXT WEEKEND

1. Saturday, 26 March 2022

a) Catechism Class
1.00pm

b) Youth Worship
3.00pm

2. Sunday, 27 March 2022

a) Morning Worship
Main Sanctuary
10.00am

b) Chinese Worship
Level 4 Auditorium
10.00am



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY (1973-2023)

Bethany's 50th Anniversary Publication
A Note from the Editorial Committee

Dear Brethren,

We will be celebrating our 50th year as a Church in 2023!

One of the things we plan to do is to produce an Anniversary Publication. We have seen how the Lord wonderfully built His Church and blessed us these 50 years. Rather than a history book, the publication will seek to record the great works of God, which are studied by all who have pleasure in them (Psalm 111:2-4).

As the Church - "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Corinthians 12:27) - we would like to involve you in capturing the Lord's works and who He is through your personal testimonies. Whether you have been here from the beginning or joined us in more recent times, you are part of the story of God's work in Bethany!

What do you think makes Bethany who we are; what has sustained us for the past 50 years? How do you see the future of Bethany?

Over the next few weeks and months, the Editorial Committee made up of Li Yen, Swee Keng, Shiwen, Jarrod, Min Li and myself and guided by Pastor, will be approaching you to seek interviews. We hope that you will be excited to share your reflections of our great God and His works in the context of Bethany.

Last but not least, we humbly seek your prayers for the Lord to lead and bless the project, that we may be able to somehow capture the Lord's glorious work in our Church, and to give Him all honour and glory!

Love,
Hong Suen
On behalf of the Editorial Committee

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:143-144

¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have overtaken me,
Yet Your commandments *are* my delights.
¹⁴⁴ The righteousness of Your testimonies *is* everlasting;
Give me understanding, and I shall live.

1. Trouble and Anguish
 - a) They are a part of life
 - b) They can threaten to overwhelm
2. Victory over problems in life
 - a) Understanding of God's word can help us immensely
 - b) God's commandments can bring such delight

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 20 March 2022

Text: "To know the mysteries of the kingdom" Matthew 13:11

He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."

1. There are "mysteries" in the Scriptures
 - a) They can be hard to understand
 - b) But they contain wonderful truths
2. Who may understand these mysteries?
 - a) Disciples who are keen about learning
 - b) The Lord will reveal great truths to us

NEXT SUNDAY: 27 March 2022

Text: "The righteous will shine forth" Matthew 13:43

Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He

POETRY CORNER

1

IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH

It is a terrible thing to dwell in great darkness;
There is an overpowering sense of hopelessness.
One cannot see Hope amidst dreadful dismay;
The Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached today.

The Gospel of the Kingdom offers Light;
It reveals truths that bring deep insight.
The Darkness may sap our will to live;
By faith, the Gospel, we must receive!

The Lord Jesus could not have picked a dark place;
Galilee of the Gentiles needs to know God's grace.
The Lord Jesus came to offer everyone Salvation;
Anyone who believes will receive redemption.

How wonderful to walk out of Darkness;
And into the Light of God's Righteousness.
The Lord Jesus has power and authority;
To all who come to Him, He grants mercy!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Matthew 4:13-17

POETRY CORNER

2

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Our lives were once filled with darkness.
We walked in sin and unrighteousness.
We were ruled by the power of Satan,
The end would have been destruction.

But God has saved us from this plight,
He offers hope and gives us His light.
He forgives us of our iniquity and sin,
And cleanses us deeply from within.

God has also made us His children,
And brought us into His kingdom.
His light enlightens so that we can see,
We are born again to live differently.

In this kingdom ruled by our great King,
We have a tender sense of belonging.
May we always cherish this citizenship!
Before our King, we bow and worship!

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: Colossians 1:12-14

POETRY CORNER

3

Rich in Faith and Heirs of the Kingdom

God made a wonderful promise to believers,
That runs contrary to what the world offers.
We can discover richness of the kingdom of God,
And meaningfully live out our faith in the Lord.

The plan to be rich in faith is through discipleship,
Where Christ teaches and equips us with all we need.
Beatitudes reveal God's intended blessings within,
His work of making us fishers of men begins.

The journey of a disciple is most personal,
As one responds to God's choosing with love.
To build a strong faith that can weather storms,
Depth of application is needed, the Lord informs.

While most aspire to be filled with worldly riches,
Let's instead be driven by James' word to us.
We can be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom,
If we follow the Lord daily and choose wisdom.

Jonas Tan

Inspiration: James 2:5, Luke 6

POETRY CORNER

4

“BLESSED ARE YOU POOR”

When down and out, a pauper;
One would naturally wonder.
How can a ‘blessing’ possibly render;
Poverty and hardship to suffer?

But it is when humbled to the core;
That faith and trust come to the fore.
Therein the Lord says ‘Blessed are you poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God’;
Have we given what the Lord says any thought?

The contrast between the poor and the rich is stark;
The former seek knowledge urgently, the latter may be smug.
From knowledge comes wisdom which enlightens the meek;
And gives hope for a future seemingly bleak.

The poor, both in spirit or in physical need;
Can not fret but rest in the Lord indeed.
But first let us seek to walk in the way as set out in the Beatitudes;
Our reward is the kingdom of Heaven which has no substitute.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Luke 6:20-26; Matthew 5:3-10

POETRY CORNER

5

Blessed Are The Poor

Blessed are those who take up the cross to follow Jesus
To seek treasures in heaven forgoing man's desires willingly
Their states of poverty, hunger and sadness for God are
but temporary sacrifices
They have set their sight on the kingdom of God and His glory
Experiences of poverty and sorrow engender humility of the heart
The humble perpetuates wisdom knowing that
earthly life is a transient moment
May we look towards things that are unseen as the Lord imparts
Acquiring richness in faith and for our sins make atonement
Jesus taught not to measure wealth in terms of material possessions
He turns the world on its head challenging
our value system and plebian wisdom
Call upon the Holy Spirit to help absorb His teaching
and facilitate our transformation
To accrue spiritual assets instead as the key to God's kingdom
Let us build our character to reflect the character of Jesus
Cultivate behaviour worthy and acceptable
to the standards of the Lord
That we may be welcomed into His kingdom with open arms
When we can unashamedly claim our inheritance due from God

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Luke 6: 20-23; 2 Corinthians 4: 18

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

INVOCATION

MESSAGE

“To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God”

Text: Luke 8:10

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

