

19 May 2019

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
www.lapcoc.org limahpincoc@gmail.com www.facebook.com/lapchurchofchrist

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY

9.30 am
Worship
(English)

11.15am
Bible Class
(English)

3.45pm
Bible Class
(Mandarin)

5.00pm
Worship
(Mandarin)

7.00pm
Worship
(English)

THURSDAY

7.45pm
Bible Class
(English/Mandarin)

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Elders

Bro Jimmy Lau
Bro Lee Tian Seng
Bro Michael Yeo

Deacons

Bro Benjamin Tan
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preachers

Bro Alvin Lin
Bro Ernest Lau

Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern

CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

"HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JESUS?"

Speaker: Lee Tian Seng
26 May 2019, Sunday | 9.30am |
20 Lim Ah Pin Road

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Sermon outline

Esther Standing In The Gap: A Lesson On Selflessness

Text: Esther 4:13-16

Sermon outline by bro Jimmy Lau

Introduction:

The book of Esther tells an interesting story of how one woman changed history. It is a study of courage—of how one woman's selfless act saved a nation— and of how one woman did what was best for others regardless of what might have happened to her.

Discussion

1. Who is Esther?

- i. A young Jewish orphan who grew up in a foreign country around 500 B.C.
- ii. She therefore, never lived in her homeland, never saw the temple of God where she would have been exposed to her religious heritage or participated in the sacrificial system at Jerusalem's temple.
- iii. She lived in a time when she was free to return to her homeland.
- iv. It is apparent that Mordecai and Esther had comfortably assimilated into the Persian way of life and chose to live in Persia instead.
- v. From this, we can better understand why Esther's faith was not something she practiced openly. Her nationality would remain hidden until the need arose for her to intervene for her people (Esther 2:10).

2. What it means to be "Selfless"?

- i. Definition: *"Concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own; unselfish"* (Oxford Dictionary).
- ii. The opposite is to be selfish which is to be concerned only with self.

iii. Examples of Selfish Persons in the Bible:

- a. Lot (Genesis 13:10, 11).
- b. Nabal (1 Samuel 25:10, 11).
- c. A Rich Man (Luke 16:21).

3. The Occasion that Calls for Action: Esther 4:13, 14

- i. **For such a time like this.** Mordecai believed that the providence of God had raised Esther to that dignity, that she might be an instrument of saving his people in the time of their distress.
- ii. Standing in the gap for a time like this. Will you make the difference? Rom 12:3-8

4. The Courage To Stand In The Gap: Esther 4:15, 16

- i. **If I perish, I perish.** The law of Persia states that no one was allowed to approach the king unless they had been summoned by him (Esther 4:11). Esther was fearless.
- ii. Standing in the gap certainly requires courage (Joshua 1:9). It's a commitment!

5. The Traits of a Selfless Person.

- 1. Selfless. God wants us to be selfless. Phil 2:4
- 2. Compassion. A Caring heart. Luke 10:30-33; Phil 2:19-22
- 3. Courage to make the difference. Neh 2:18
- 4. Sacrifice. It is a commitment that requires sacrifice. Phil 2:25, 26
- 5. Responsibility. It is a commitment that means responsibility. Eccl 9:10

NOTE: The reasons why some won't stand in the gap is the reverse of the points mentioned above.

6. Esther – A Christ-like Figure

- i. Her submission to God's sovereignty and self-sacrificial mindset. Matthew 26:39
- ii. Her desire to give her life for God's people Esther 4:16 and Matthew 26:42
- iii. She was Selfless just as Christ was Selfless. Philippians 2:5-11

NOTE: Just as God exalted Christ for His sacrifice, God will also exalt those who selflessly serve Him. Heb 6:10; Rev 2:10; 2 Tim 4:8

7. The SELFLESS Christian Guide. Philippians 1:27-30

- 1. Serving as an Example: **as it becometh the gospel of Christ** (v.27a)
- 2. Standing Strong together: **ye stand fast in one spirit** (v.27b)
- 3. Striving as Team members: **striving together for the faith of the gospel** (v.27c)

4. Surviving to the End: ***in nothing terrified by your adversaries*** (v.28).
5. Suffering for Christ's sake: ***to suffer for his sake*** (v.29)
6. Struggling with others: ***Having the same conflict*** (v.30)

Conclusion

- i. While Esther's physical beauty helped her gain the crown, it was her inner beauty that crowned her with favour, wisdom, honour and compassion.
- ii. To stand in the gap, you need to be SELFLESS.
"It's difficult to find common ground with others when the only person you're focused on is yourself." – John Maxwell
- iii. Will you stand in the gap?



ARE YOU READY TO RETIRE?

by bro Alvin Lin

"Life begins at forty" was a phrase made popular by an American self-help book of the same title written by Walter Pitkin in 1932, meaning that life tends to be better in one's middle age. However, just fifty years before, it would be more accurate to say "death begins at forty", as that was the life expectancy then. But at the time of the book's publication, the life expectancy had increased to sixty, and with medical and technological advances, the life expectancy today has increased to seventy and continues to rise. It is no wonder then, that for some, life begins at seventy, and they choose to go back to school or start a second career after they retire. Sadly, there are some who regard old age as a time to retire from God's service, having grown tired of serving God, or they do not think that they are of any use in serving God. In this article, we shall consider the example of Anna, one who is both willing and able to serve God regardless of circumstances in life.

Her situation

Anna was the daughter of Phanuel (Luk 2:36). In the Roman culture, women were regarded as 2nd class citizens, and the situation wasn't much better in the Jewish culture either, with women having to face male prejudices and biases (Joh 4:27). However, women have an important role in God's plan, evident in the life of Christ. While the apostles were a visible part of Jesus' ministry in preaching the gospel and healing the sick, various women supported and ministered to Him behind the scenes (Luk 8:2-3). Despite being a woman herself, Anna too was willing to serve God.

Anna was from the tribe of Asher (Luk 2:36). Asher was one of the ten northern tribes of Israel taken into Assyrian captivity for their sins (2Ki 18:11-12), and many of them turned to serve the idols of the pagan nations (2Ki 17:40-41). However, some from Asher heeded the appeal of Hezekiah to turn back to God and went to Jerusalem to keep the Passover (2Ch 30:11). Despite being in the minority herself, Anna too was willing to serve God.

Anna was a woman of great age (Luk 2:36-37). Even if we assume that she married at a young age of 15, this would mean that she lost her husband at 22, and would have been 106 when she saw Jesus, likely older. While some might have seen themselves as a burden by 80 (2Sa 19:35), others like Caleb had the same vigour to do God's will at 85 as when he was 40 (Jos 14:10-11). Despite being of old age herself, Anna too was willing to serve God.

Her service

Even as a woman, Anna served God as a prophetess, teaching others about Him (Luk 2:36,38). Besides Anna, other women have been used by God in His service, such as Miriam (Exo 15:20), Deborah (Jdg 4:4), Huldah (2Ki 22:14), and Philip's daughters (Act 21:9). Women can also serve God today in teaching the lost (Act 8:4), teaching men privately and informally (Act 18:26), teaching women (Tit 2:4), and teaching children (Pro 6:20).

Even as a minority, Anna served God in not departing from the temple, worshipping Him regularly (Luk 2:37). Besides Anna, other minorities have been used by God in His service, such as fishermen (Mat 4:18-22), tax collectors (Mat 10:3), and political

activists (Luk 6:15). The minority can also serve God today in being present in worship to stir up love and good works (Heb 10:24), and to encourage others (Heb 10:25). Even at an old age, Anna served God with daily fastings and prayers (Luk 2:37-38). Besides Anna, other aged have been used by God in His service, such as Moses and Aaron (Exo 7:7), Caleb (Jos 14:10), Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luk 1:7), and Simeon (Luk 2:26,29). The aged can also serve God today in helping others by praying for them (1Ti 5:5), and doing good works (1Ti 5:10).

Anna was willing to serve God despite being a woman, who is a minority, and of a great age. Not only was she willing, she was also able to serve God in teaching, in worshipping, and in helping others. Do we allow gender, status, or age to hinder us from serving God? Even as we grow old, there remains much work for us to do (Jos 13:1). Our time of retirement will come, but only when God decides that it is time for us to go home to Him, but we have to be ready by being diligent to enter that rest (Heb 4:11), for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Gal 6:9).



Lunch Celebration

To celebrate Kaius' turning one month old, lunch will be catered for everyone next week, courtesy of bro Nicodemus & sis Christine.

Travelling (*Pray for safety*)

1. **Sis Sarah** will be travelling to Melbourne from 29 May till 2 June
2. **Sis Naomi** in USA till 21 May
3. **Sis Stephanie and baby Theophilus** in the Philippines till 30 May

Guests last week

1. Bro David Lee (*Jurong COC*)
2. Sis Jenny (*Lavender COC*)
3. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
4. Stephanie Gostelow (*bro Martyn's wife*)
5. Kelvin Kuan (*sis Eunice's friend*)
6. Joyecelin Tok (*bro Gideon's friend*)
7. Lawrence Sia & family (*sis Stephanie's friends*)
8. Lay Lay (*sis Lydia's helper*)
9. Emily Esconde

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

Agape Lunch

Date & Time: TODAY @ 12.30pm

Venue: LAP Church Building

Bring some food and enjoy a heartwarming & wonderful fellowship together over lunch!

Youth Fellowship

Date & Time: 9 June, Sun @ 1.30pm

Venue: LAP Church Building

More details will be published next week!



FELLOWKIDZ 2019

1 JUN, SAT • 11 AM TO 5 PM

• SIS CHEE MING'S HOUSE •

**Blk 84 Edgedale Plains #07-09 The Terrace
Singapore 828737**



Am I Standing In The Gap?

Date: 10th - 13th June (Mon - Thurs)

Venue: Berjaya Waterfront Hotel

Registration starts now!

Collection of fees starts 7th April

Fees:
\$200 (Adult-twin sharing), \$170 (child with bed), \$100 (child w/o bed)
*child - age 4-11

"Making Disciples of Christ" – A Practical Learning Session

Date: 16 Jun, Sun

Time: 1.30pm to 3.00pm

Session Facilitator: Peter Chin

The Great Commission of our Lord is for every Christian to be involved in making disciples for Christ. Have you been thinking about how to be an effective soul winner?

Combined Youth Gospel Meeting

Date: 29 Jun, Sat

Time: 10.30am – 3pm

Venue: Jurong COC (120 Boon Lay Drive)

Theme: Science & Scriptures

Mark the date in your calendar and invite your friends to come and hear!



Thursday Bible Class
"Mixed Reactions to Jesus"
(John 7:25-53)
by bro Ernest Lau

Next Sunday Sermon
Have You Considered
Jesus?
by bro Lee Tian Seng

Birthdays this week
 20 May (Mon) – Diana
 22 May (Wed) – Constance
 23 May (Thu) – Jonathan



Please send any news &
 prayer requests to
limahpincoc@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rezoning

We are presently in the process of applying to have our premises rezoned for worship. Please pray for the success of this project!

Overseas

- **Bro Kenneth Liong and sis Iris** in San Francisco
- **Bro Jonathan & sis Joan, bro Siang Yee, sis Farah** in UK
- **Sis Shuan Kwee** in Hong Kong
- **Bro Kevin** in New York for studies

Health

- **Sis Suan Kiang's & sis Linda's** health
- **Bro Wee Sin's** recovery from surgery for his right shoulder tendon
- **Sis Shu Fang's father's** recovery from angiogram
- The health of **Justina** (sister-in-law of sis Tuan Sang)

Pregnancy

- Sis Mae (May'19), sis Deborah (Aug'19)

NSF

- Bro Wei Jie, bro Benedict, bro Titus, bro Shawn

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

| Morning Worship @ 9.30am | | 19-May-19 | 26-May-19 | 2-Jun-19 |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Song Leader | | Benjamin Kwan | Joel Lee | Benedict Yo |
| Opening Prayer Leader | | Timothy Ng | Lim Poh Teng | Victor Lee |
| Preacher | | Jimmy Lau | Lee Tian Seng | Ernest Lau |
| Lord's Supper Text | | Php 2:5-11 | 1 Cor 11:23-29 | Mar 14:22-25 |
| Lord's Supper Servers | <i>Scripture Reader</i> | Leonard Chia | Nicodemus Oey | Gavin Cheah |
| | <i>Prayer: Bread</i> | Dave Tapiru | Chua Kian Hong | Jerry Cheong |
| | <i>Prayer: Fruit of Vine</i> | Ling Leong Dak | Reuben Lim | John Goh |
| | <i>Prayer: Offering</i> | Cornelius Lee | Isaac Chua | Martyn Gostelow |
| | <i>Assistant</i> | Zachary Ling | Alvin Foo | Jose Cardoza |
| <i>Foundation Class</i> | | Ng Wei Jie | Lau Jeng Sang | David Sum |
| Announcer | | Ernest Lau | Charlie Teo | Michael Yeo |
| Greeters | | Mary Ann Catalos Ellen Hernandez | Naomi Leow Christine Phang | Jonalyn Balagot Ludina Carrido |
| Evening Worship @ 7pm | | | | |
| Song Leader & O.P. | | Timothy Ng | Jeshua Lin | Benedict Yo |
| Speaker | | Henry Leow | Ernest Lau | Andy Lin |
| Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P. | | Jerry Cheong | Farand Lim | Lim Poh Teng |
| Thursday Service @ 7.45pm | | | | |
| Song Leader | | | Benjamin Kwan | Ernest Lau |
| Opening Prayer Leader | | | Low Chong Ping | Henry Leow |
| Teacher | | | Ernest Lau | Alvin Lin |
| Closing Prayer Leader | | | Gavin Cheah | Charlie Teo |