

"Though the fig tree does not bud & there are no grapes on the vines ... though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour."
Habakkuk 3:17-18



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A WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

28 November 2021

CHRISTMAS CHEER FUND: Share the Lord's blessing! The Christmas Cheer Fund will be made to our Church missionaries, workers, and the various Christian workers and organisations. We will also be giving our Church missionaries and workers their annual bonus. You can place your "Cheer Fund" into the offering box behind the church main hall or via PayNow (with code CCF). Thank you for your generous gifts.

BAPTISM CLASS: Today, 10:15am over Zoom

Lesson 3: Significance Of The Lord's Supper

Instructor: Elder Paul Chan

Those who are interested to attend the class, please WhatsApp to Susan at 81261986 for the class link.

LADIES' PRAYER MINISTRY: Sunday, 5 December, 10:15am over Zoom

Theme: Praise and Thanksgiving

All ladies are welcome to join us for a time of praise and thanksgiving. We will also be sharing with you an exciting calendar on our Ladies' Prayer Ministry and Ladies' Ministry for 2022.

The meeting link will be broadcast on Saturday, 4 December.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Saturday, 25 December, 9am over Zoom and on-site

Topic: Jesus – Why Do You Search For Him? (Matthew 2:1-12)

Speaker: Mr Quek Tze-Ming (Biblical Graduate School of Theology)

Chairman: Deacon Simon Wong

BAPTISM SERVICE: Sunday, 26 December, 5pm over Zoom and on-site

Speaker: Mr Lam Ching Yet (Cru Singapore)

Chairman: Deacon Dr Douglas Chan

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

Via PayNow

Log in to your mobile banking app. Make transfer to UEN: 195000088K or scan the QR code.



Bank Transfer/ATM

UOB A/C No. 388-314-965-1

By Cheque

Crossed cheque made payable to "Bethesda (Katong) Church".

For all giving, please specify the purpose as follows:

General Fund (GF);

Missionary Fund (MF);

COVID-19 Support Fund (CV);

Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) or

Christmas Cheer Fund (CCF).

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Lessons On Faith Even In The Provision Of Manna And Quail

In the second month after leaving Egypt, at the Desert of Sin, more than two million Israelites faced a technically insurmountable food shortage problem. There, despite their grumbling, God graciously provided manna and quail. Indeed, "The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us" (Billy Graham). We can draw some lessons through the contrasting responses of Moses and the Israelites when tested.

Faith looks forward and presses on. Facing the possibility of starvation, the faithless Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron. But that was grumbling against God, who is sovereign and holds the broad events and the details of our lives in his hands. They looked back to the days when they sat around pots of meat in Egypt. Despite dealing with a rebellious bunch, Moses remained focused on God's mission for him. True faith is forward looking. Looking back causes us to lose sight of God's future and purpose for us. The apostle Paul says "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13b-14). Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

Faith acts. Faith is proven and strengthened when exercised. "A faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted" (Adrian Rogers). God was working on the Israelites to grow them in their faith but they repeatedly failed to act by faith, so their faith did not take root. In contrast, their attitude brought out Moses' faith and confidence in God. From the time God called Moses at the burning bush, his faith continued to be strengthened as he responded by faith and in obedience to God each time.

Faith rests. Faith rests in the assurance of God's presence. Faith is not obeying without fear but obeying despite fear. God's presence had been with the Israelites as he led them through the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night and he even heard their grumbling (Exodus 16:11). The glory of the LORD also appeared in the cloud when Aaron was speaking to the Israelite community (Exodus 16:10). Moses and Aaron rested in the assurance of God's presence and ever-present help. This is also evident through another later occasion in the wilderness, when Moses said to the LORD, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here" (Exodus 33:15). Moses would not want to be where God's presence was not going to be with him and the Israelites.

Faith trusts. Faith trusts and takes God at his word. Moses and Aaron took God at his word and relayed God's promise of meat and bread to the Israelites. No "double confirmation" needed. And God provided manna and quail, graciously and unexpectedly. Faith trusts in God and his word.

God said he will rain down bread from heaven and test the Israelites to see whether they will follow his instructions (Exodus 16:4). Even through the provision of manna, the Israelites would be tested! This shows how God is intentional in growing our trust and faith. Daily, how aware are you that God wants to test you and grow you in your faith? Through small or big things, success or failure, through changes or daily humdrum, crisis or celebrations. Are you going about life like the Israelites who did not allow faith to take root and grow? Will you choose to be like Moses who grew from faith to faith because he was aware and acted in obedience?



FOCUS ON PRAYER

The praying church grows by worshipping God and serving people

1. TODAY'S SPEAKER

LEOW THENG HUAT: Pray for Dr Leow Theng Huat (Trinity Theological College) who gives us today's ministry message on the topic "**Quail And Manna**" (**Exodus 16:1-15**). Pray that we will have attentive hearts to this message given to us.

2. THE LORD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED

Adapted from Exodus 16:1-15

Dear LORD,

We often fail to look to you in trust for our daily provision. Yet you provide us not only the essentials but even more than we imagine. May we remember that it is you, the LORD our God, that has provided all these things for us. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

3. SENIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pray the following for our Senior Sunday School (SSS):

- * Thank God for watching over the scholars and for nurturing their faith.
- * Pray for new teachers to join the ministry, especially for the upper/post-Secondary class.
- * Pray that the scholars will take the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord during the school holidays.
- * Pray for opportunities for relationships to be built even as classes remain virtual.

TODAY

Quail And Manna
(Exodus 16:1-15)

SPEAKER

Dr Leow Theng Huat
(Trinity Theological College)

SERMON NOTES

THEME

Living Faithfully In Times Of
Trouble

VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Exodus 16:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses,

¹² "I have heard the
grumbling of the Israelites.

Tell them, 'At twilight you will
eat meat, and in the morning
you will be filled with bread.

Then you will know that I am
the LORD your God."

NEXT SUNDAY

Trusting God For Your Manna
(Exodus 16:16-36)

SPEAKER

Elder Khoo Teng Cheong