



Fidelity

Let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:10

3rd December 2023



In Loving Memory of the late Sister Nat Kong

By June Dhanabalan

My mother, Nat was born in Thailand. She was one of a large family of nine. Mom, Dad and I visited her home town of Chiang Mai at least once every year. Mom had a rural, poor childhood. Her father died when she was a child, and she was raised by an indifferent stepdad. She went to school hungry and most days, hid in the toilet because she did not have money for lunch. On good days, she had plain rice and chilli.

Mom was ambitious and a hard worker at school. Her performance and personality led to her winning a scholarship to study at the Four Seas College of Bible and Missions in Punggol, Singapore. Upon landing in Singapore, Dad was part of her receiving party, attracted by word that a pretty girl was coming to Singapore. They met, he was smitten, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Their courtship was short, and my parents were married in January 1968. Dad was 21, and mom, 24. In September, right on cue, I popped out, on the way to KK Hospital, in a Peugeot driven by my grandfather. Grandad said he never worked so hard cleaning the car before that day!

Although my parents did not have much, I never wanted for anything. Mom took on work as a Thai teacher and interpreter to make sure I was tortured with piano and ballet lessons and tuition just like my peers in school. In addition to supplementing the family income, her work at the subordinate courts and Registry of Marriages was leveraged to bring many of her contacts to Christ. Many of the couples whose weddings she interpreted for ended up being some of her closest, most loyal friends. As a Thai teacher, she taught senior government officials, soldiers, law enforcement officers, and others. She was never

embarrassed to talk about God. She was unselfconsciously evangelical and her openness to talk about her faith, reinforced with authentic care and concern made her an effective soulwinner.



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She was a wonderful supporter to my father's ministry. Visiting homes, hospitals, attending wakes, were part of my life growing up, with mom at dad's side as he ministered to those in need. She was a mentor to many, particularly when our church was starting out in the 70's and many of our members were young people in their teens and 20's.

Our house was never quiet even though there were only 3 of us. She was the consummate hostess –there were the infamous roast chicken Sunday lunches - an opportunity to extend hospitality to church members and visitors, we frequently hosted church meetings in our home, and whenever we had overseas guests, she would insist on vacating the master bedroom for them, because it was the best room in the house, the only one with an ensuite bathroom.



Chinese New Year Open House was a full day endurance event, with hundreds trooping in and out of our home, expecting to be fed her delicious homemade food. She was always gracious and animated under pressure and loved having people come through our doors.

Even though she became a pink carrying Singaporean citizen, her heart was always close to her family. Out of her legion of siblings, she was the second oldest and took it upon herself to look out for her younger siblings, especially one particular sister who was handicapped. She would send money home, visit several times a year to check on them, and even brought her niece to live with us for several years, to complete her education in Singapore.

I have received many touching texts with memories of how mom has made a difference in your lives, made you feel special or cared for. That



is what she did best. She always looked out for the outsiders, foreigners, the sick, the heartbroken, and befriended them. I do not recall an unkind word ever escaping her lips about anyone.

Her way with people was evident in how she reached out to my grandparents, in particular my grandfather in his later years, and how she initiated a routine of having dinner with him after my grandmother passed. Her care and consistency was instrumental in his return to church and igniting his faith. He became a regular church goer after that and looked forward to Sundays.

In 2012 she was diagnosed with dementia. It first started with forgetting everyday words like 'chopstick' and 'rain'. Her driving started to





become erratic and she often forgot directions, and even how to use the car. Her condition continued to worsen and she had to give up work. Then she stopped recognizing dad. There were heartbreaking moments when she was frightened by the strange man in the house, or chased him out, waiting for the 'real Henry Kong' to come home.

Despite her cognitive decline, she retained many of her key traits for some time – she was still strong willed, independent-minded and energetic. I recall having to run after her when she bolted from the house on numerous occasions. By the time my parents were preparing to move out of Astrid Meadows, mom was already no longer able to bathe herself.



When my parents moved back to Holland Village in 2020, mom lost the ability to move around independently. Her quality of life had also declined, and she required help with all the activities of daily living – feeding, moving about, toileting, and so on. It was taxing on my father and aunt Kong Lay, whom I salute for their tireless and devoted care. I often wondered what God's plan was in all this.

Now, from the many messages I've received, it is clear that many of you have been inspired by the example my dad has shown in ministering to his beloved, or 'dearly', his favourite endearment for her, in sickness and in health. I also know that this health crisis brought my family closer together. In her final months, her good friend Phai brought her great joy, spending time with her engaging her in her native Thai, and singing songs to her. Her appetite improved during this time.

On the morning of Friday, 24th November, just before 6, my aunt called me to say that mom was not breathing and not moving. A doctor and our two dear doctor friends, the Oois, who have looked in on mom for the last 12 years concluded that it was likely a cardiac event, a heart attack. I'm so grateful that she didn't suffer long, and that she was spared the end-stage of dementia which often involves tube feeding and a dismal quality of life.



I feel privileged to have had 55 years of observing and learning from the example of a vibrant, compassionate, and generous mother, who taught me the value of doing things with quality – "If anything is worth doing, its worth doing well" was one of her mantras.

One of the best ways we can honour her memory is to love others.

Without judgement, without exception, and without limits.

She loved people, and we loved her right back.

Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.

By their fruits you will know them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree produces good fruit; but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit.

A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit.

Every tree that doesn't grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.

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World is full of false prophets – how many TV evangelists can you trust



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Introduction

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Introduction
Matthew 7:15-20

Luke 8:5-15


*The farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell **along the road**, and it was trampled under foot, and the birds of the sky devoured it.*

*Other seed fell **on the rock**, and as soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture.*

*Other fell **amid the thorns**, and the thorns grew with it, and choked it.*

*Other fell **into the good ground**, and grew, and brought forth fruit one hundred times."*

As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" ...



Introduction
Matthew 7:15-20

*Now the parable is this: The **seed is the word of God**.*

*Those along the **road** are those who hear, then the devil comes, and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved.*

*Those **on the rock** are they who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; but these have no root, who believe for a while, then fall away in time of temptation.*

*That which fell **among the thorns**, these are those who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.*

*That in **the good ground**, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it tightly, and bring forth fruit with patience.*

Sermon Mount

Introduction
Matthew 7:15-20
Luke 8:5-15

A good tree produces good fruit

Colossians 1:10
So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;



Sermon Mount

Introduction
Matthew 7:15-20
Luke 8:5-15

A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit.

Every tree that doesn't grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.

Luke 13:6-9 *He spoke this parable. "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it, and found none.*

He said to the vine dresser, 'Behold, these three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and found none. Cut it down. Why does it waste the soil?'

He answered, 'Lord, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it, and fertilize it. If it bears fruit, fine; but if not, after that, you can cut it down.'"

Sermon Mount

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Matthew 7:15-20
Luke 8:5-15
A good tree produces good fruit

Christian Journey is not a sprint


Hebrews 12:1-3 *Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,*

lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us,

and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him who has endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, that you don't grow weary, fainting in your souls.



Introduction
 Matthew 7:15-20
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 A good tree
 produces good
 fruit


Matthew 16:24 - *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

1 Peter 2:21 - *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

Matthew 7:21-23 - *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'



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2 Timothy 4:10-11 *for Demas left me, having loved this present world, and went to Thessalonica...*

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministering.

John 6:64-68 *But there are some of you who don't believe..." He said, "For this cause have I said to you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father."*

At this, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You don't also want to go away, do you?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.




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Conclusion

Are you a good tree that bears good fruit?

Are you laying treasures in heaven?

What is the legacy you will leave behind?



BACK PAGE NEWS



Photos Clockwise:

Men, Ladies and Youth Care teams - good attendance since moving to morning worship; Paul leading songs and June sharing the eulogy at the wake of Sister Nat last week.



Tng Huat - 25th
Catherine See 27th

**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS!**