



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 July 2022

What is an Agape Feast? How the early church grow in fellowship



During my 51 years ministry at PPCOC, I observed that many members do not attend Bible classes. Some just come for worship and leave immediately. By and large, these Christians are not active and do not contribute much – in time, abilities, or otherwise - to the church.

In the New Testament, there were such Christians, even those who forsook the assembly altogether (Hebrews 10:25). So how did the early church grow in fellowship?

Acts 2:46-47 tells us that right in the beginning, *Day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread at home, the early Christians took their food with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. The Lord added to the assembly day by day those who were being saved.*

This fellowship is referred to in Jude 1:12 as an 'agape feast'.

Here we find Christians enjoying a meal, getting to know one another, sharing and encouraging one another.

When I had opportunity to start a new congregation, these fellowship dinners were part and parcel of the plan. We have built a tight and active membership from the very beginning. Family and friends have enjoyed their time with us. Many visiting Christians make it a point to join us.

I want to thank our hardworking and generous members behind our agape feasts. It is a lot of work, but each gives cheerfully and wholeheartedly, adding a wonderful aspect to our weekly worship.



Fidelity is published weekly by the Household of Faith meeting every Sunday @6pm at block 67, #07-10 Ayer Rajah Crescent, Singapore 139950. Postal address: Pasir Panjang P.O. Box 27, Singapore 911121. Website: hofsg.com. Facebook group: Household of Faith, Supporters and Friends. For more queries, contact the minister, Henry Kong at henry.kong@yahoo.com. Mobile: +65 9326 0669.

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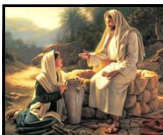
Introduction

Most Jews are dogmatic (assertive) about their faith

Jesus had a tender spot for people outside His race

This is because He is the Good Shepherd - John 10:16 *I have other sheep, which are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice. They will become one flock with one shepherd.*

1



Introduction

The Samaritans

The Samaritans lived in Samaria - an area north of Jerusalem.

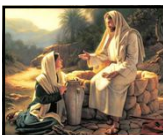
When Assyria captured the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. some were taken in captivity, and others left behind.

The ones left behind intermarried with the Assyrians.

They were half-Jews and half-Gentiles.

The Jews and the Samaritans did not deal with one another.

2



Introduction

The Samaritans

Luke 10:30-33 *Jesus answered, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*

By chance a certain priest was going down that way. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he traveled, came where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion...

3



Introduction

The Samaritans

Luke 17:12-16 *As he entered into a certain village, ten men who were lepers met him, who stood at a distance. They lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." It happened that as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks; and he was a Samaritan.

4



Introduction
The Samaritans

Text

Tonight covers most of John 4 – context and actual account

John 4:1-42 *Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself didn't baptize, but his disciples), he left Judea, and departed into Galilee. He needed to pass through Samaria.*

Good success

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Introduction
The Samaritans
Text

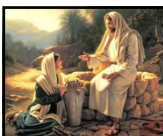
High Noon

So he came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son, Joseph. Jacob's well was there.

Jesus therefore, being tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

6



Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon

Living Water

The Samaritan woman therefore said to him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"

(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

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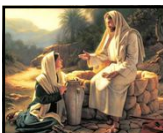
Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon

Living Water

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. From where then have you that living water?"

Are you greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, as did his children, and his cattle?"

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Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon

Living Water

Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I don't get thirsty, neither come all the way here to draw."

9



Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon
Living Water

You Are A Prophet

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

The woman answered, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You said well, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands; and he whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truly."

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."

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Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon
Living Water
You are a Prophet

Worship Everywhere

Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, will you worship the Father"

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Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon
Living Water
You are a Prophet
Worship Everywhere


Worship in Spirit

You worship that which you don't know. We worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews.

But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshippers.

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"

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Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon
Living Water
You are a Prophet
Worship Everywhere
Worship in Spirit

I Am the Messiah

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah comes," (he who is called Christ). "When he has come, he will declare to us all things."

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who speaks to you."

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Introduction
The Samaritans
Text
High Noon
Living Water
You are a Prophet
Worship Everywhere
Worship in Spirit
I am the Messiah


Change of Plans

At this, his disciples came. They marveled that he was speaking with a woman; yet no one said, "What are you looking for?" or, "Why do you speak with her?"

So the woman left her water pot, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything that I did. Can this be the Christ?"

They went out of the city, and were coming to him.

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Introduction
The Samaritans
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You are a Prophet
Worship Everywhere
Worship in Spirit
I am the Messiah
Change of Plans
What is Our Food

What Is Our Food?

In the meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

The disciples therefore said one to another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work."

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Introduction
The Samaritans
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You are a Prophet
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Worship in Spirit
I am the Messiah
Change of Plans
What is Our Food?

Fields Ripe for Harvest

Don't you say, 'There are yet four months until the harvest?'

Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and look at the fields, that they are white for harvest already.

He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit to eternal life; that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you haven't labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

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I am the Messiah
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Fields Ripe for Harvest

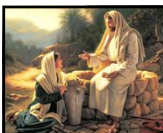
Personal Faith

From that city many of the Samaritans believed in him because of the word of the woman, who testified, "He told me everything that I did."

So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed there two days.

Many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of your speaking; for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

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Personal Faith

Conclusion

Do not have preconceived ideas engraved in stone

People who are overlooked may be the true seekers of God

We are all created in the image of God, so everyone is important and needs the gospel

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BACK PAGE NEWS



Happy Birthday

Goh Tik 7th
Goh Chee Keong 12th
Poon Philemon 21st



Clockwise: Best worship attendance since moving to current location with entire active membership intact; Eric presiding over contribution; Delicious dinner (sponsored by the Poons) and mango dessert (from Phai); Birthdays for July 2022.



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

10th July 2022



5th Anniversary Next Sunday



It is amazing how 5 years have passed since the first worship of the Household of Faith on 16th July 2017. A pictorial commemorative booklet has been prepared for next week's celebration. Here's a summary:

2017: Preparatory work and first meeting in May. Worship, care teams, Bible class for children and potluck begun at the Salvation Army Praisehaven premises at Hillview. Brother Paul Poon was baptised.

2018: Move to a central and spacious location at the Upper Room, Metropolitan YMCA at Stevens Road. Conducted the first missions retreat, home luncheons and cooking class. Brother Eric, sisters Kang Hwei and Chan Wai Yuen were baptised.

2019: Brother Goh Ah Moey was baptised. When the pandemic hit, we started live streaming as we were not allowed to meet.

2020: We strengthened our presence on the social media, launched a mobile-friendly website and continued to meet the needs of members by delivering communion, doing hospital visits and conducting funeral services.

2021: Since the pandemic is here to stay, we have learned to live with it and provide assistance through live streaming and close contact with members. Brothers Philemon and Peter obeyed the Lord during this time.

2202: The Household of Faith was officially registered and moved to new premises at the Launchpad when PPCOC was demolished for rebuilding. Members and visitors are returning to in-person worship, with fellowship dinners resuming.

We praise God for His protection and blessings during the past 5 years, half of which under the restrictions of the pandemic.

We also thank all members who have continued to support and stay faithful through good and difficult times.

We are now on a firm footing, stronger than ever. We are excited about where the Lord will lead us in the next 5 years.



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Women in the Gospel of John



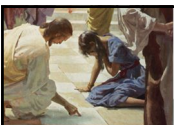
The Woman caught in Adultery



Introduction

Before we read the Bible text, helpful to understand 3 things from another confrontation of the Pharisee

Matthew 22:15-18 *Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how they might entrap him in his talk. They sent their disciples to him, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are honest, and teach the way of God in truth, no matter who you teach, for you aren't partial to anyone. Tell us therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites?"*



Introduction

Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how they might entrap him in his talk.

1. The Pharisees does not condone Jesus and want to erase Him from the landscape
 - A. They finally succeed with the help of Judas
 - B. This happened when Jesus gave Judas permission at the last supper - John 13:27 *After the piece of bread, then Satan entered into Judas. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*
 - C. Until then, no matter what they did, they cannot succeed against Jesus



Introduction

They sent their disciples to him, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are honest, and teach the way of God in truth, no matter who you teach, for you aren't partial to anyone."

2. When they confront Jesus, they know that He will play fair – so they entrap Him on His good nature

- A. This is why they want Him to give judgment on the woman who committed adultery
- B. Most be will just wiggle their way out - Proverbs 26:18-19 *Like the man who was found out when deceiving his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"*

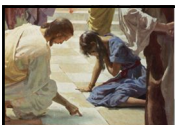


Introduction

Tell us therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites?"

3. Jesus is aware of their intentions

- A. They were wickedness
- B. It was a test
- C. They were hypocrites



Introduction

Text

John 8:2-11 Now very early in the morning, he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him. He sat down, and taught them.

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery.

Having set her in the midst, they told him, "Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act. Now in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such. What then do you say about her?"



Introduction

Text

They said this testing him, that they might have something to accuse him of.

But Jesus stooped down, and wrote on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he looked up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her."

Again he stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground.



Introduction

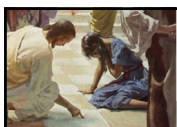
Text

Again he stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground.

They, when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning from the oldest, even to the last.

Jesus was left alone with the woman where she was, in the middle. Jesus, standing up, saw her and said, "Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord."

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more."

Introduction
Text

Jesus' Routine

John 8:2-11 Now very early in the morning, he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him. He sat down, and taught them.

Early Riser

Eager following

Pharisees know where to find Jesus

Luke 2:49 He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting
The Law
The Test
The Result
Summary

The Sting

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery. Having set her in the midst, they told him, "Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act."

I wonder how they found this woman in adultery, in the very act so early in the morning – something fishy

Especially when only 1 person was brought – how can it be adultery if only 1 person?

Looks like an inside job by the man

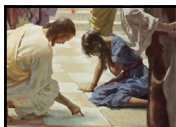


Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine

The Sting

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and said, "What are you willing to give me, that I should deliver him to you?" They weighed out for him thirty pieces of silver. From that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Matthew 26:59-60 Now the chief priests, the elders, and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus, that they might put him to death; and they found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting

The Law

"Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act. Now in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such. What then do you say about her?"

Leviticus 20:10 The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, even he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Jewish law on adultery is particularly heavy on the woman



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting
The Law

The Test

They said this testing him, that they might have something to accuse him of.

The trap:

If Jesus approves stoning – go against Roman law

If He does not approve – go against Jewish law



Introduction
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Jesus' Routine
The Sting
The Law

The Test

But Jesus stooped down, and wrote on the ground with his finger.

Jesus was teaching, they interrupted Him, so instead of creating a commotion, Jesus stooped down, doing His thing and let them do theirs

Remember it was their home ground

Would be interesting to see what Jesus was writing – but it would be equivalent to playing with the mobile phone today

It was Jesus' way of ignoring them



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting
The Law

The Test

But when they continued asking him, he looked up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her."

The Pharisees spent too much time hatching this scheme to be ignored

Again he stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground.

Playing along with the Pharisees



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting
The Law
The Test

The Result

They, when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning from the oldest, even to the last.

The majority present were those who rose early to seek Jesus in earnest

Jesus could have just got up leave when the last person left the scene, but He has a damaged goods soul to attend to

For Him it was not just winning a debate

Not just a black and white case – Jesus added mercy to judgment



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting
The Law
The Test

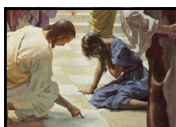
The Result

Jesus was left alone with the woman where she was, in the middle. Jesus, standing up, saw her and said, "Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord."

Jesus does not condone sin, so He said

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more."

Something tells me that this woman will return home wiser, having touched by the compassion of Jesus



Introduction
Text
Jesus' Routine
The Sting
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The Result

Summary

Jesus was challenged by the devil, priests, scribes and Pharisees

Every time Jesus showed compassion and understanding of scriptures

He never individually condemned anyone but always let the individual decide

The church would do well to follow the example of Jesus – stay on the scriptures with a dose of compassion: turning hearts back to God

BACK PAGE NEWS



*Invitation to our
5th Anniversary Celebration
6pm Sunday 17th July 2022*

**Please stay for
Fellowship Dinner
at 7pm**



The Household of Faith meets at block 67, #07-10 Ayer Rajah Crescent (Launchpad), Singapore 139950.



Opposite the one-north MRT

About 7-Minutes Walk from MRT



Car entrance



Clockwise: Most of the seats are now filled - let's keep on inviting and bringing our family and friends to our new location at the Launchpad; Brother Henry leading the Youth Care team with brother Paul Poon; Enjoying the delicious fried mee hoon and ota by sister June and fruits from sister Phai; Men to serve preparing for worship; Pick up the 5th Anniversary invitation cards before you leave.



17th July 2022



Household of Faith Is Back on Track!



Tonight we celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Household of Faith - half of the time affected by the pandemic. With God's protection, we have stayed intact, and are now back on track!

After 5 years, we are legally registered and have a meeting place of our own, opposite the one-north MRT.

With over 20 in attendance and breaking even with our expenses, we are now back to full activities while coping with the pandemic. The Lord willing, we are looking forward to good growth and outreach in the next 5 years.



5 Years in 5 Photos: First session, meeting at Salvation Army, Metropolitan Y, Missions retreat and baptisms of the Eric Yeos.




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5th Anniversary Celebrations
16th July 2017 to 16th July 2022

Looking Back

Joshua 4:20-24 *When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then you shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan from before you, until you were passed over,*

as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were passed over; that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty; that you may fear the Lord your God forever.

This Week HoF Celebrates Her 5th Anniversary





Looking Back

So important to remember – Handbook

5 year milestone

A quick journey down memory land







Looking Back

Moved to Metropolitan YMCA in 2018

Live-streamed from PPCOC during pandemic

Registered this year to move to the Launchpad





Looking Back

Regular Attendance: 15-25; Goal – over 20

7 baptisms: Uncle Goh, Aunty Koh, Eric, Kang Hwei and Poon brothers

Monthly: \$5,000 expenses; \$4,000+ Giving





Looking Back

Mission of Church



We are the church

John 20:21 Jesus therefore said to them again... As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.





Looking Back

Mission of Church

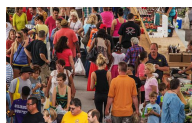


Do 'church', not be church

Feel-good activities

Insulated from world

Few non-Christian pals





Looking Back

Mission of Church






Looking Back

Mission of Church






Looking Back

Mission of Church

Too church/activity/building focused

Not enough marketplace emphasis

Need to be salt and light of the world

Matthew 7:21-23 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will tell me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?' Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'*



Looking Back


Mission of Church

Too church/activity/building focused

Not enough marketplace emphasis

Need to be salt and light of the world





Looking Back


Mission of Church

Not a club but a discipleship training

- Study Word
- Encourage one another
- Reach out to lost

Matthew 5:16 *Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

1 Corinthians 7:16 *For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?*




Looking Back
Mission of Church

What HoF is Doing

1. Teaching the Word of God - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work*

- Over 90% sermon content from scriptures
- Sermon printed in weekly bulletin
- Care teams recall and discuss



Looking Back
Mission of Church

1. Teach Bible


What HoF is Doing

2. Care teams and Agape Feasts

Acts 2:46 *Day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread at home, they took their food with gladness and singleness of heart*

Not a club but a discipleship training

- Study the Word
- Encourage one another
- Reach out to lost



Looking Back
Mission of Church

1. Teach Bible
2. Small Groups

What HoF is Doing


3. Freewill, heartfelt service

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

In 5 years: One member left; one family stopped coming

Mostly intact, giving and serving

God has kept membership largely intact during pandemic – half of our 5 years!




Looking Back
Mission of Church

1. Teach Bible
2. Small Groups
3. Freewill Service

Conclusion

Mark 4:30-32 *He said, "How will we liken the Kingdom of God? Or with what parable will we illustrate it? It's like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, though it is less than all the seeds that are on the earth,*

yet when it is sown, grows up, and becomes greater than all the herbs, and puts out great branches, so that the birds of the sky can lodge under its shadow."




Looking Back
Mission of Church

1. Teach Bible
2. Small Groups
3. Freewill Service

Conclusion

Currently:

1. Legally Registered
2. Central place to meet
3. Active Facebook group
4. Weekly Fidelity; quarterly Power for Today devotional
5. Updated mobile-friendly website




Looking Back
Mission of Church

1. Teach Bible
2. Small Groups
3. Freewill Service

Conclusion

Now back to normal:

1. Care Teams
2. Worship
3. Fellowship Dinner
4. Special events eg Missions Sunday
5. Pastoral care eg hospital visits



Looking Back
Mission of Church

1. Teach Bible
2. Small Groups
3. Freewill Service

Conclusion

Immediate goals:

1. Weekly attendance over 20
2. Members top up giving
- bring balance up
3. Bring our family and friends

Psalms 127:1 *Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.*



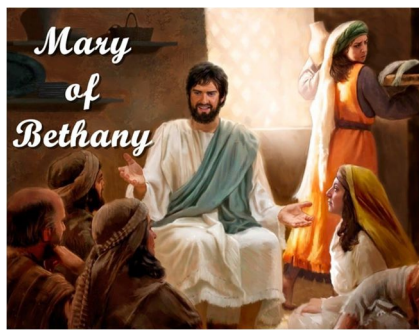
Call to Worship
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Congregational Singing
Communion & Giving
Exhortation
Invitation
Announcements
Closing Prayer



Fellowship Dinner (Group Photo)



Call to Worship
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Congregational Singing
Communion & Giving
Exhortation
Invitation
Announcements
Closing Prayer



Next Sunday



Call to Worship
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Congregational Singing
Communion & Giving
Exhortation
Invitation
Announcements
Closing Prayer



New Series Manual of Life

BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Our 5th Anniversary Cake for Tonight; Care teams in session; Men preparing to serve at worship; Members enjoying the fellowship dinner with fruits from sister Phai; Sister Elaine dishing out some delicious homecooked dinner which is well appreciated by all.



24th July 2022

Our First Goal: Over 20 Weekly **3 Goals for our next 5 Years**



We had a great 5th Anniversary celebration last Sunday. As we start on our 6th year, we are thankful that we are back on track and moving towards breaking even with our expenses by the end of this year.

To do so, there are 3 things we have to do. The first is to strive for a goal of over 20 in attendance each week.

We have 20 members - if everyone is present, the goal would be reached. Even if a few members are not able to be present, there are visitors and supporters to help us meet this target.

In 1 Samuel 20:18, we read, *"Then Jonathan said to him, Tomorrow is the new moon: and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty."*

In a small congregation like ours, even a few members makes a difference to the worship. Every member has to carry his or her own weight and not be absent even if others in the family cannot attend.

It is like the story of the African church that has no electricity. Every member has to come with a torch to light up the hut. When everyone shows up, the room is bright; but it gets darker with the absence of just a few.

Last Sunday, sister Lilian took the MRT when her son, brother Eric was on duty. She says that it is just a 5-minute walk from the one-north MRT, about the same walking distance when we were at the Metropolitan YMCA. Eventually, we will be judged individually for our actions and faithfulness.

To achieve our goal of over 20 weekly, we find the Biblical instructions in Hebrews 10:25 - *not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the Day approaching.*

1. We have to make up our mind to be present every week - not forsaking our own assembling together - prioritizing it over other activities.
2. We need to exhort one another - is there a member that needs encouragement or a lift? Keep them in your prayers.
3. When we see the day approaching, make calls and even schedule time together with our family and friends with the intention of attending church together.



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Introduction

Series on Women from the Gospel of John, focus on Mary of Bethany

Bethany: small village near Jerusalem

Family: sister Martha, brother Lazarus

Tradition: well-off family

Good friends of Jesus

Mentioned 3 times in the Bible; twice in gospel of John



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Introduction

Text

Luke 10:38-42 *It happened as they went on their way, he entered into a certain village, Martha received him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.*

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she came up to him, and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister left me to serve alone? Ask her therefore to help me."

Jesus answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the good part, which will not be taken away from her."



Introduction
Text

The Good Part

It happened as they went on their way, he entered into a certain village,

Scholars agree that it was Bethany

and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. She had a sister called Mary,

Also brother, Lazarus



Introduction
Text

The Good Part

who also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Way of discipleship

But Martha was distracted with much serving,

Task-oriented

Both loved Jesus but expressed it differently



Introduction
Text

The Good Part

and she came up to him, and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister left me to serve alone? Ask her therefore to help me."

Typical of sibling rivalry

Jesus answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Important lesson for us all



Introduction
Text
The Good Part

Death of Lazarus

John 11:1-45 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, of the village of Mary and her sister, Martha.

It was that Mary who had anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother, Lazarus, was sick.

The sisters therefore sent to him, saying, "Lord, behold, he for whom you have great affection is sick."

The urgent news was relayed to Jesus



Introduction
Text
The Good Part

Death of Lazarus

But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness is not to death, but for the glory of God, that God's Son may be glorified by it."

Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

When therefore he heard that he was sick, he stayed two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let's go into Judea again."

The delayed response of Jesus



Introduction
Text
The Good Part

Death of Lazarus

He said these things, and after that, he said to them, "Our friend, Lazarus, has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may awake him out of sleep."

The disciples therefore said, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he spoke of taking rest in sleep. So Jesus said to them plainly then, Lazarus is dead.

For Christians, because of the resurrection of Christ, death is but a sleep.



Introduction
Text
The Good Part

Death of Lazarus

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away...

Then when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary stayed in the house...

When she had said this, she went away, and called Mary, her sister, secretly, saying, "The Teacher is here, and is calling you." When she heard this, she arose quickly, and went to him...

Both anticipated the arrival of Jesus



Introduction
Text
The Good Part

Death of Lazarus

Therefore when Mary came to where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you would have been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews weeping who came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They told him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus wept. The Jews therefore said, "See how much affection he had for him!"

Solid bond



Introduction
Text
The Good Part

Death of Lazarus

Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?..."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He who was dead came out, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth...Therefore many of the Jews, who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did, believed in him.



Introduction
Text
The Good Part
Death of Lazarus

Anointment of Jesus

John 12:1-9 *Then six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, who had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. So they made him a supper there.*

Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with him. Mary, therefore, took a pound of ointment of pure nard, very precious, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair.

John 12:9 *A large crowd therefore of the Jews learned that he was there, and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.*



Introduction
Text
The Good Part
Death of Lazarus

Anointment of Jesus

The house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. Then Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples, who would betray him, said, "Why wasn't this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?"...

But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has kept this for the day of my burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you don't always have me."

Mark 14:9 *Most assuredly I tell you, wherever this Gospel may be preached throughout the whole world, that which this woman has done will also be spoken of for a memorial of her."*



Introduction
Text
The Good Part
Death of Lazarus
Anointment of Jesus

Summary

Mary was a good friend of Jesus

She sat at His feet to learn

She believed that Jesus could heal Lazarus

She gave generously to Jesus by breaking the alabaster box

Jesus loved her and was moved to tears

He made her anointment part of the gospel

2-Page Anniversary Pictorial Supplement



It was wonderful to see the worship hall full at our 5th Anniversary last Sunday.

Many came to celebrate and support the work that we are doing. We also enjoyed having many visitors with us.

Besides the anniversary cake, there was a commemorative pictorial booklet given to all attending.

It was good to end the evening with a fellowship dinner. Many went back for seconds and enjoyed the variety of nonya desserts. Thanks to all who helped in getting the food ready and cleared after eating.



BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Group photo; Cutting the Anniversary cake; buffet layout; Thanks to sister June for the Anniversary cake.



Good turnout at our 5th Anniversary celebration last week.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard, especially our supporters and visitors who graced the occasion.