



Discipleship TRAINING CENTRE

Newsletter

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MICA (P): 043/03/2013 CRN: 578/71E 33A Chancery Lane S309554 Republic of Singapore T: 6256-3208 F: 6256-2705 E: disciple@singnet.com.sg W: www.dtc-singapore.org

‘Please Show Me Your Glory’

Message given during the 44th Thanksgiving and Valedictory Service

by Dr. Hwa Yung, Bishop Emeritus, Methodist Church of Malaysia

I have chosen to speak on Ex 33 because of its timeless relevance to the Christian life. The focus is on the presence of God in our life and ministry; with the title coming from v. 18. The point is: *If God’s presence is with us, that is all we need. If God is not with us, even if we have everything, we still have nothing!*

This is a theme that is often forgotten, especially when everything is going smoothly and under control, life is comfortable, and the things of this world blind us to our need of God—even if we are Christians, even if we are supposed to be church and pastoral leaders! The fact is that the more affluent life is, the easier it is to lose sight of this truth!

The context is the Exodus from Egypt. God had set Israel free through a wonderful manifestation of His power and glory. But while Moses was away in Sinai to meet with God to receive His commandments, Israel turned from God to idolatry. Only because Moses pleaded with God was Israel spared judgment (cf. Ex 32).

We see three movements in this story, with the third as the climax.

Knowing the fear of the Lord (vv. 1-6)

How does a holy God respond to sin? Answer: as petrol is consumed by fire, sin is consumed by God’s holy wrath! Hence, ... ‘let us offer to God acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire’ (Heb. 12: 28b, 29). This is something that modern men and women find difficult to accept. They find such a God old-fashioned. They find the idea of God acting in judgment not pleasant or even acceptable at all. They prefer a God made in their own image, a God who we can control and only do what we want. We much prefer a God who is like Santa Claus!

‘I will not go up among you’ (v.3). From one perspective, this is an act of mercy on God’s part. ‘[L]est I consume you on the way.’ From another perspective, sin drives God away. We grieve the Holy Spirit.

Sin in whatever form, whether big or small, drives away the presence of God. If we want God to be with us, then we must ask God for grace and strength to live humble and godly lives.

Desiring the Presence of God (vv. 12 -16)

For a man who is used to meeting with God ‘face to face’ (v.11), an angel is no substitute for Moses. It is like a man telling his girlfriend: ‘Sorry! No time to take you for dinner tonight. I will ask my assistant to take you out instead!’ The thrust of Moses’ words to God, especially in v.15, is: ‘You don’t come, I am not going!’

There are two important lessons here. First, how much God must have been delighted in Moses’ prayer. I remember the joy I felt in my heart when my daughter when she was 10 or 11 years old pulling me and saying, “Pa, come with us!” Those who really desire God are those who will touch His heart!

Second lesson is, without God, we have nothing; with God, we do not need anything else.

John Sung was the greatest Chinese evangelist of the 1st half of the 20th century. Some 100,000 came to Christ through his ministry, thousands healed and hundreds of churches revived. When he returned to China in 1927, he saw that the church was not growing—despite 120 years of sacrificial mission work, thousands of missionaries, and

with some of the best orphanages, hospitals, schools & universities.

As he waited upon God, he came to realise that there were two problems with the church: missionary control on the one hand and Chinese dependency on western funds on the other. In both cases the dependence was not on God.

Asked before he died about the future of the Chinese church, John Sung revealed that God had showed him that a great revival was coming. But the missionaries would all have to leave first!

Five years after Sung’s death, the Communists took over China. All the missionaries had to leave. Everything was taken away from the church. Only then did revival come! The rest is history!



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44th Thanksgiving & Valedictory Service

16 May 2013

Excerpts from Leaving Students' Testimonies

Sothea Bich

"Don't be afraid" occurs at least 365 times in the Bible and it seems to suggest that every day God would want to affirm you and me, "Go and don't be afraid." I am my own worst enemy. I inflict fear onto myself in my thoughts. Because God is present with us, I should be less fearful increasing rather in the fear of God only. I like to thank those whom God sent to make me feel less fearful; but also to those who induced some fear in me so that I might learn something new. Thanks to DTC, because of you, I gain more confidence... Although I am graduating, one never graduates in Christ's school of discipleship. Discipleship is my life-long journey.

Ryoko Yamaguchi

One of the major lessons God taught me is to be a Japanese as I live with people from different Asian countries. Through various subjects that I studied, a mission trip to Indonesia, and visits to several war museums, my eyes have been opened to what the Japanese did during the last world war. My country's history is part of who I am. After struggling with this for over a year, I can only respond by obeying God, living with integrity, and growing in maturity in Christ. Now I can humbly yet freely serve my Asian neighbours because of the cross. Even so, I should be sensitive and not forget what my neighbouring countries and people have lost in the past and how they feel about it

Eden Malait

One word best describes my experience at DTC— SHARPENING. 1) Sharpening of *Disciples*. I learnt that to be a disciple is to bear the mark of Christ's suffering manifested in a life of humility and selflessness. 2) Sharpening of *Theology*. I came to DTC with a somewhat negative attitude towards God. In DTC I experienced His love and kindness through the love and kindness of a grace-filled community. 3) Sharpening of *Character*. In a small community like ours, I learnt to love and to be sensitive to each other's feelings, moods, and needs.

Caleb Mah

Janet and I have been serving in Cambodia among the unreached people group for eight years with OMF. I want to thank God for enabling and providing for me to take the sabbatical studies at DTC. I am also thankful for the opportunity to do a writing project. Thanks to Jeanette Hui, my supervisor, for her help and guidance in my Bible studies project. I was able to read books that helped me to understand again discipleship, as well as spiritual formation and spiritual disciplines. These have greatly prepared me as we return to Cambodia to minister among the Unreached People Group.

Victor Tan

During my stay here, there are many life lessons which I learnt. One of the first lessons was servanthood- how we serve each other in the community and how everybody shares responsibilities. The example of the faculty members left a strong impression on me, especially when I first saw that the dean had to do the dishes and chores together with us. I also learnt the importance of rest. This is so counter-cultural to me as my culture equates work with productivity, ministry with holiness. I learnt to stop doing my school work on Sundays, not switching on the computer, amidst pressure of deadlines. I am thankful that God just helped me the following day to complete what I have planned initially.



From left - Sothea, Ryoko, Eden, Caleb & Victor

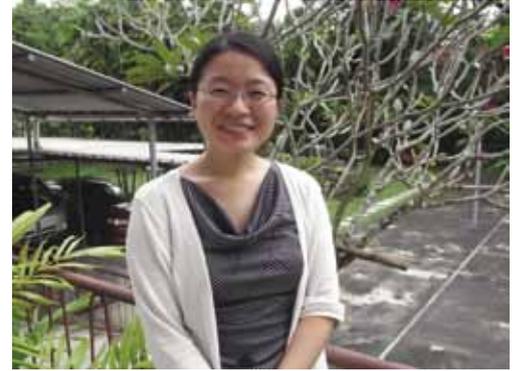


44th Thanksgiving & Valedictory Service at Bartley Christian Church.

Welcoming New Students

I welcomed Jesus to my heart when I was 8 years old having been born and raised in a Christian home. After my medical training to become an Obstetrician and Gynecologist in Japan, I was led to work for a rural hospital in a south Asian country. It was there that I desired to study in a Bible college to equip myself to reach out to people as a Christian professional. I thank God for the opportunity to study at DTC with brothers and sisters from all over Asia.

Sakae Matsumura (Japan)



Although I grew up in a Christian home, I only accepted Christ as my personal Savior when I was in high school. After Bible college I served in church ministry and in missions mobilization. I returned to my home city when my father passed away. That started the journey back to southwestern Mindanao to minister among an unreached people group. A year before home assignment I prayed about how I should spend it and God led me to apply to DTC. The programme/course description exactly matched the kind of training I needed.

Loida Domingo (Philippines)



I grew up with the idea that I could not change my fate and was told my fate was in the village and farm. Somehow I managed to finish high school and passed the entrance exam of one of Cambodia's best universities! There was a time in my studies that I just wanted to quit if not for my English teacher who led me to Christ. I grew in my faith through Campus Crusade and the experience of a loving and accepting Christian community. As I prayed to go to seminary to be more equipped, the Lord opened the door for me to study at DTC with the approval of, and support from, our mother church here in Singapore.

San Sochenda (Cambodia)



I was born in a non-Christian family and I followed Jesus when I was 18 years old. In university, I studied social development. Upon graduation I worked with TCS (Thai Christian Students) for six years then decided to stay long term. I also worked in the marketplace for one year. Then, I decided to come to DTC to learn how to live in a community of Christians who learn from each other, serve each other, and to see how God works in and through brothers and sisters in different contexts and cultures.

Anucha Khobpee (Thailand)



I come from a non-Christian family. When I was in high school I stayed in the Buddhist pagoda for 6 years. It was while searching for a job in Phnom Penh that I came to know Christ through a Bible study. At first I worked in the church as housekeeper for the Singaporean couple who pastored the church. Upon graduation in 2010 God called me to work in the same church as an assistant pastor. After two years I got to know DTC through our mother church in Singapore (The People's Presbyterian Church) which also provides for my support.

Raiya Beth (Cambodia)



The point is *God does not need our resources, money, our efforts, our degrees, etc., to accomplish His purpose.* The Chinese church did not grow despite the vast amount of human resources the missionaries brought. It grew because of God!

If that is so, how much do we strive to live our lives in such a way that God is always with us?

Earnestly seeking His glory (vv. 17-23)

When Moses asked God 'Show me your glory,' He responded favourably. Moses then got careless and nearly got burnt! No naked eye can withstand the naked glory of God! Don't ask me to explain vv. 21 ff. But I wish I was there.

How much do we want God's presence? Remember *God's presence is everything;*

without it we have nothing! But how much do we really want of it?

Is it not that the major problem with us, God's people, is that we do not want him enough? We don't really desire and long for Him (cf. Ps. 42: 1, 2)? For those who want Him, and have really drawn near to God, their lives and ministry show forth a totally different quality all together.

How much do we want God? How much do we say with all our heart, 'Please show me your glory!' You don't need to be brilliant and have a string of degrees, you don't need an air-con office with the latest iPhone, you don't need to be highly gifted and eloquent, you don't need a BMW or Mercedes, you don't need a mega-church, etc. If God gives you these, be thankful and ask Him how He would want you to use these things for His glory.

But if He does not give you these things, you can happily serve God without them.

You just need God. That is enough. And if we would learn to draw near to Him, He will use us in ways that we can never imagine!

John Wesley said 'Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth.'

May God grant that more and more in the church in Asia will seek after God! May we learn to pray like Moses: 'Please show me your glory!' May there be more and more who 'fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God'!

Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung

Dean Meets with DTC Alumni in Bangkok



While attending a conference for Asian Christian educators in May 2013, the Dean had the opportunity to meet with some DTC alumni in Bangkok over dinner.

Visiting Lecturer



Dr. Ronald Adhikari (DTC 1972-74) taught a course on Cross-Cultural Church Planting and Evangelism from July to September. Shelby, his wife, and also a DTC student from 1972-74, joined Ron for a month. Both are currently serving as missionaries with Send International in Taiwan doing church planting ministry.

**DTC is about... becoming committed disciples of Christ
and equipping for God's service in the context of cross-cultural community living**

For enquiries: email us at disciple@singnet.com.sg or

find us us at www.dtc-singapore.org

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