

FOCUS



CHURCH *of* CHRIST
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

Sunday Morning Worship

28 August 2022



Upside-Down Kingdom

By Irvin Wan

When I (John) was a young boy, I found great pleasure in bending over and looking at the world through my legs. Everything just looked so weird - furniture, people, and my Thomas The Tank Engine train set. It was disorienting for sure, but it was like stepping into a whole new world. Maybe I should do that as an adult.

This must be how the crowds must have felt when they heard an upstart Rabbi talking about a kingdom where the desolate and destitute are the happiest, or where the humble are the greatest. It was the same world, but seen through new eyes. The craziest thing? This upside-down world where nothing makes sense is actually the right-side-up.

Join us as we continue exploring this strange new world, and may we catch a glimpse of the kind of people, church and kingdom that God is calling us to be.

Sunday Morning Worship

Order of Worship

We Shall Assemble / Holy Ground

Opening

Be Thou My Vision

Scripture: Luke 1:45-55

Prayer

Wonderful Merciful Saviour

Communion & Giving

Seek Ye First

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon

Instruments of Peace

Announcements

Shepherd's Prayer

Doxology

Reflection/Devotional Questions

- 1 Who was Jesus speaking the Beatitudes (Mt 5:3-12) to? (Hint: See Mt 4:23-25)
- 2 The Beatitudes are often misread as Jesus' 'list of things we have to do to get to heaven'. Instead, they were Jesus' proclamation of gospel (good news) to the people in (1). Why were the Beatitudes good news to them?
- 3 Choose one or more Beatitudes from Mt 5:3-12 and share how they are 'upside down' from the world's values.
- 4 Which aspect(s) of the upside down kingdom do you sense God is calling you to live out this season?



Upcoming Events



28 Aug | 9:30am

Adult Bible Class

"The Coming Kingdom of God"

Acts 1:1-11

By Lim Cher Yam

GEMS Bible Class (Nursery)

Contact Agnes Lim

(9858 5935)

Youth Bible Class

"Gospel of Mark Summary"

The Gospel of Mark

By John Lim

GEMS Bible Class (Kinderkids)

"Jesus Teaches from the Mountain"

Matthew 4:25-7:29

Contact Josephine Seow (9170 4343)

GEMS Bible Class (Cradle Roll)

Contact Audrey Lee

(9855 4957)

GEMS Bible Class (P123)

"Water From The Rock"

Numbers 20

Contact Joanne Foo (9683 8266)

GEMS Bible Class (Toddlers)

Contact Koo Hwee Yee

(9173 2365)

GEMS Bible Class (P456)

"Review - Life of David"

Contact Rosalind Lee (9621 9006)



31 Aug | 7:30pm

Wednesday Bible Class

"Living Water" (John 4:1-26)



2 Sept | 7:30pm

Young Adult Monthly Fellowship

Contact Kenneth Kuek (9338 9689)



3 Sept | 12:00pm

Youth Huddle @ Sentosa

Contact John Lim (8689 2008)

Giving

Last Week's Giving: **\$7438**



General Fund
S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund
S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund
S76SS0008ABFD

If you plan to make a contribution via cheque, please make sure it is made payable to "**Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang, Singapore**". Please ensure that you write the full name so that the cheque can be processed smoothly.

Family News



Leadership Renewal Dates

We published last week that nominations would end on 28 August - this was an error (and far too early!) The correct deadline for you to submit your nominations is 18 September, so take advantage of the extra weeks to pray about potential leaders and submit your forms.





ONLINE PRAYER WARRIORS

— AUGUST 2022 —

SMALL GROUPS

Pray that every member finds a group to belong to; regularity of meetings and deeper fellowship; more groups and coordinators

OTHER REQUESTS

Mee Hoe - high and fluctuating blood pressure

Beng Chuan - lung nodules found to be non-cancerous; upcoming biopsy

Edward Lee - surgery on 19 Sept

John Then's mother - healing from hairline fracture; salvation

COVID recoveries - Vincent Lim, Alma, Michael M & domestic helper, Simon & Wai Leng

Jesudass (India) - lung infection

Sis. Babes - dengue fever

Prelim exams - Ze Yuan, Ryan, Angel, Gabriel, Katelyn, Rui Ying

FOREIGN RESIDENTS

That we may minister to them with Christian love and respect, and find opportunities to share the gospel

That they may find favour with employers; find fulfilment in work; adapt well to Singapore; and watch over their families

America - Kyle Hoopers

UK - Romaine Jacksons, Margaret Slorach

China - Lydia Li, Peter Guo

India - David Dass, Mary, Janni, Sunthar

Malaysia - Jaime Hong

Philippines - Nalyn, Chris &

Pearl Topacio, Nikko, Joena

Eslaba, Joanne Deocampo,

Virginia, Merry Jane, Gemma,

Clarita Simon, Ella, Kristina,

Imelda, Violy, Lourdes, Myrna,*

Emily*, Marilyn*

*visitors

Deaf Worship and Worship Hall 2 (English)



Starting on 21 August, our deaf brethren began conducting their own worship services, which are separate from the English service. This is to offer our deaf brethren a more appropriate level of spiritual nourishment.

This will be taking place in Riverfront 3 (level 2) or the Swallow room (level 3).

For English congregation members, if the main ballroom is too full, you may worship in Worship Hall 2, which is either Riverfront 1 (level 2) or Cardinal (level 3).

Please note that for the time being, Worship Hall 2 will be shared with the Chinese congregation, who need space to conduct their ladies' Bible Class. We are exploring further options, and we appreciate your patience in the meantime.

Masks Off At Last!



For the first time since March 2020, we will finally be allowed to worship together without masks! Starting on 4 September, we will no longer require masks for in-person worship.

While we enjoy our new freedom and ease of singing, we encourage members to continue practising good personal hygiene, and wear a mask if you wish.

We look forward to seeing how everyone has changed (or not) next week!

Intro to Acts - Lim Cher Yam



The title of the book of Acts comes from the Greek word “praxis,” a word often used in early Christian literature to describe the great deeds of the apostles or other significant believers. This title accurately reflects the contents of the book, which chronicles the work of the apostles (especially Peter and Paul) in the decades immediately following Christ’s ascension to heaven.

Who wrote the book?

Luke’s identification as the author of this work was unquestioned throughout ancient times. It shows a clear progression from the gospel according to Luke, picking up just where that book left off. An ancient prologue to Luke’s gospel indicates that Luke, a Greek doctor, was first a follower of the apostles before becoming close with Paul and later became his travelling companion in his missionary journeys. (Acts 16:10)

Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke and ends with Paul under house arrest, awaiting trial before Caesar, in A.D. 62. It is worth noting that in this history of the early Christian church, Luke mentioned neither Paul’s death (AD 64–68) nor the persecution of Christians that took place under Nero (AD 64). More than likely, Luke completed the book before either of these events occurred, sometime between AD 60 and AD 62, while Paul sat in prison, awaiting the resolution of his appeal.

This book is commonly called “The Acts of the Apostles,” but it does not discuss most of the apostles – it focuses mainly on Peter, and then Paul. The book describes the spread of Christianity from its origins with Jews in Jerusalem, to eventually include all peoples, even in the capital city of the Roman Empire. The story is filled with drama, miracles, and speeches about the risen Christ.

Why is Acts so important?

Acts is the only biblical book that chronicles the history of the church immediately after Jesus’s ascension. As such, it provides us with a valuable account of how the church was able to grow and spread from Jerusalem to the rest of the Roman Empire.

Intro to Acts - Lim Cher Yam

In only three decades, a small group of frightened believers in Jerusalem transformed into an empire-wide movement of people who had committed their lives to Jesus Christ, ending on a high note with Paul on the verge of taking the gospel to the highest government official in the land, the Emperor of Rome.

What's the Big Idea?

Acts can be neatly divided into two sections, the first, dealing primarily with the ministry of Peter in Jerusalem and Samaria (Acts 1-12) and the second, following Paul on his missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire (Acts 13-28).

Acts is significant for chronicling the spread of the gospel, not only geographically but also culturally. It records the transition from taking the gospel to an exclusively Jewish audience with Peter preaching to a small group in the Upper Room to the gospel going out among the Gentiles, primarily under the ministry of the apostle Paul.

The transition is best illustrated by Peter's vision in which he heard a voice telling him, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy" (10:15). This led Peter to then share the gospel with many Gentiles. The lesson? God wants His message of hope and salvation to extend to all people "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (1:8).

As Jesus had promised (John 16:7, 13), He sent the Spirit to guide the apostles after He returned to heaven. Since this book frequently reminds us that the actions of the apostles were inspired and guided by God's Spirit, "Acts of the Holy Spirit" has also been suggested as a descriptive title.

Outline

The first part of this book is about Peter, and the second part is about Paul. This two-fold division is one of the simplest ways to divide the book of Acts, but its focus on two men tends to cover up some important aspects of Luke's story. Peter's ministry and Paul's are not separate stories but are related to each other, and they overlap in several chapters in the middle of the book.

Acts can be divided into five major sections that combine some of Luke's emphases, as shown in the table on the next page:

Intro to Acts - Lim Cher Yam

Part	Main characters	Geographical regions	Ethnic groups
1	Peter and John	Jerusalem	Jews
2	Greek-speaking Jews: Philip and Stephen	Jerusalem, Samaria and Judea	Jews, Samaritans and an Ethiopian eunuch
3	Paul and Peter	Damascus, Judea, Antioch, Jerusalem and Asia	Jews, God-fearing Gentiles and pagans
4	Paul the missionary	Europe and Asia Minor	Gentiles and Jews
5	Paul the prisoner	Jerusalem, Caesarea and Rome	Gentile rulers, Gentiles and Jews

Historically, the book serves as a vital link between the Gospels and the epistles. It bridges the gap between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith. In the Gospels, Jesus is preaching; in the epistles, Jesus is being preached.

This is particularly important when we read the epistles of Paul, because, without the book of Acts, we would not know who Paul was or how he entered the picture or what motivated him to preach to the Gentiles.

Luke gives us glimpses into the personalities of Peter, John and James, who wrote other New Testament books. He shows us the remarkable transformation that the Holy Spirit produced in Peter, who went from denying Jesus three times to boldly defying the Jewish leaders and telling them to their faces that he would continue to preach about Jesus. The sudden boldness of the apostles is testimony that God raised Jesus from the dead and gave these fishermen dramatic conviction and power.

Luke also records the persecutions of Peter, the martyrdoms of Stephen and James, the stoning and beatings and imprisonments of Paul. Whether they lived or died, captive or free, these Christians were led by the Holy Spirit to testify that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour.

Intro to Acts - Lim Cher Yam

Application

What opportunities for sharing the gospel can you take advantage of in the days to come? This question should ring through your mind as you page through the book of Acts.

In virtually every chapter, apostles such as Peter and Paul powerfully present the gospel to individuals and groups of people. The apostles portrayed in Acts shine with evangelistic zeal, showing a striking transition from the often-misguided disciples of the Gospels.

Clearly the apostles' faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus produced a noticeable change in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Too often, our own lives do not reflect that sort of change. We struggle with fears over how others will react to our faith or with breaking out of our own routine long enough to invest in the life of someone else who needs the gospel.

Allow Acts to encourage you to walk more closely with God so that you will make Christ's name known with the boldness and zeal of the apostles.





The Kingdom in Scripture

The “Kingdom of God” has always been central in Jesus’ message. When Jesus began His ministry, He went about Galilee announcing the coming of the kingdom of God (Matt 4:23) and asking people to seek first His kingdom (6:33).

When we discuss the Kingdom of God, we naturally think of:

1. A monarchical system
2. A realm of ruling, and
3. A community of people ruled by a king

The Kingdom of God in The Old Testament

The term ‘Kingdom of heaven’ is not directly mentioned in the Old Testament, nor the term ‘Kingdom of God’. Psalm 103:19 states it this way, ‘The Lord has established His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules over all’.

Nebuchadnezzar also mentioned, ‘I will praise and extol and honour the King of heaven’. Daniel 4:37. Without doubt the Hebrews understood God as ‘King of all the earth’. (Psalm 47:2)

The Kingdom of God would simply be the rule of God over His creation. However, humankind rebelled against Him. So, God stopped the rebellion but also provided redemption in His Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God in The New Testament

John the baptiser called people to ‘repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’. Likewise, Jesus also announced the call of the Kingdom. It was an electrifying announcement to those who heard it in Israel.

Jesus demonstrated the power and authority of the Kingdom by disclosing the nature of the Kingdom, as He healed, exorcised demons and forgave sins, as the Messiah.

Jesus overcame Satan in the wilderness, to release us from Satan's 'the might of death' bondage and fear of the final judgement. (1 John 4:16-18)

The Kingdom of God in The Church

The apostle Paul calls his message 'The gospel of the Kingdom' (Acts 20:18-27). He calls this 'the gospel of the grace of God' (v.24) by 'preaching the Kingdom' (v.25) and 'the whole counsel of God' (v.27). The Great Commission was given by Christ.

In Acts 26:18, "to open their eyes, that you may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith..."

In Acts 13:38-39, Paul's message of forgiveness and justification by faith, is essentially the message of the call of the Kingdom.

This also includes the teaching to the church with regards to the Kingdom in the prophetic finale in Revelation.

Reflection:

1. What does 'Kingdom of God' mean to you?
2. If we meet some great world leaders, how will we react or respond?
3. Can they see or sense this joy of us living with the KING daily? How would you share this great joy with those around you?

Prayer:

Heavenly Lord and King of our lives, Father, we worship Thee as the Lord of our lives. May we share the joy of our daily walk with You. Through Christ's perfect love, He overcame death, released us from our sins to overcome our anxieties, insecurities and fears. Bless us with joy in Christ. In His Name, we pray. Amen.

Connect With Us

Prayer Requests/ Feedback



<http://bit.ly/35FTEyp>



Meet Our People

Elders

Simon Goh

Peter Lim

Lim Swee Aun

Deacons

Dennis Law

Lim Kok Hin

Vincent Lim

Ministers

Tan Beng Chuan

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