



6/7 October 2018
Vol. 40, No. 39

The Replacement of the Lost Ark

Exodus 25:10–22, 37:1:9

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Anthem
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
The Lord's Supper
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Emer Manaloto
Banal na Hapunan
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



The Replacement of the Lost Ark

Today's Message (6/7 October 2018) /
Exodus 25:10–22, 37:1–9

WHAT A GOD WE
HAVE! HE CHOSE
TO STOOP VERY
LOW AND TO
HUMBLE HIMSELF
FOR THE SAKE OF
HIS WANDERING
PEOPLE IN THE
WILDERNESS. EVEN
MORE, HE CHOSE
TO STOOP AND TO
HUMBLE HIMSELF
FOR US IN HIS SON,
JESUS CHRIST, AND
THEN TO STOOP AS
LOW AS DEATH.

The Raiders of the Lost Ark portrayed the Ark of the Covenant as a special weapon, unrelated to the Biblical portrayal of God. But there is no great mystery as to why the Ark of the Covenant is truly special. Rather than relying on Hollywood for our theology, our understanding of the Ark should be shaped by Scripture. Our passage tells us why it has significance for Israel, and for us as the people of God today. How did God use the Ark of the Covenant to teach people about Himself?

1. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT R_____ THE P_____ OF GOD.

- The tabernacle was constructed so that the LORD would be among His people (*Exodus 25:8*). But in a more specific way, the Ark served to reveal the very presence of God: "...between the two cherubim that are over the Ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you" (*Exodus 25:22*). The Ark of the Covenant (*Exodus 25:10–22, 37:1–9*) was the only furniture within the Holy of Holies. It was a wooden chest, overlaid with pure gold that contained the Ten Commandments.
- The eternal God who is not constrained by time, the omnipresent God who is not bound by space, and the transcendent God who fills all time and space condescended to the weakness of His people and showed Himself for their benefit in one place. Everywhere, yet there! The fact that the Ark was the place of God's presence among His people brought them great assurance. This high, lofty, and majestic King dwelt among His grumbling, bickering, and sinful people (*Exodus 15:24, 16:2,8,9,12, 17:2*).
- The promise to the new-covenant believer is that the Lord is near to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us (*1 Corinthians 6:19*), as Jesus promised (*John 14:16*).

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Pastoral Prayer

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

The Lord's Supper

Worship through Giving

Doxology

Benediction



The Replacement of the Lost Ark

Today's Message (6/7 October 2018) /
Exodus 25:10–22, 37:1–9

2. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT R_____ THE P_____ OF GOD.

- How could a holy God dwell in the midst of a sinful people? How could a sinful people approach a holy God and not die (*Leviticus 10:1–3*)? That brings us to an important term: **propitiation**. Propitiation is the act by which God's wrath is turned away from us.
- God gave a distinct set of instructions for the Ark's lid, which was a slab of pure gold (*Exodus 25:17–22*). This lid was the place of propitiation, the place where the wrath of God was turned away from His people, by the blood of animal sacrifices offered once a year.
- As new-covenant believers, we know these yearly sacrifices were only pictures of the propitiation of God's wrath. We see the powerlessness of these in Hebrews 9:13–14. Just as Jesus alone can cleanse the soul and conscience, He alone can turn away the wrath of God, since He is our propitiation (*Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2, 4:10*).

3. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT R_____ ABOUT P_____ TO GOD.

- Because of propitiation, because of the sacrifices offered on the Mercy Seat in their place, God's people then could plead with God in prayer, knowing that He would answer them.
- Today, perhaps one of the greatest teachings of the Ark is that the Mercy Seat is also the Throne of Grace: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy" (*Hebrews 4:16*).
- We fail to marvel at the idea that when we pray, Christ intercedes for us and we are before the throne of God itself—the Mercy Seat. How much time do we spend in prayer? I believe that the absence of prayer in our life is a failure to realize fully the significance of the truths presented to us in the Ark of the Covenant.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What a God we have! He chose to stoop very low and to humble Himself for the sake of His wandering people in the wilderness. Even more, He chose to stoop and to humble Himself for us in His Son, Jesus Christ, and then to stoop as low as death: "He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (*Philippians 2:8*). Jesus has taken the place of the Ark and all it stands for. What a God we have; what a God has us!

May the reality of the Presence of God and the Propitiation of God drive us to fervent prayer to our God ■

THANK YOU

As the designated writer of The Shepherd's Voice every Communion Sunday, I take this opportunity to thank you all for the birthday greetings and gifts since the surprise you all gave last September 23 at the 10:30 a.m. and evening services, and even until the children's surprise at the lobby last Sunday. Like I often tell our homegrown pastors, the ministry is not devoid of challenges and heartaches, but the simple joys always outweigh and outnumber them. Always! Thank you everyone, for being the continuous and never ending source of those simple joys for me.

PASTOR DAVID YOUNT

Because we now place the offering at the end of the services to coincide with a final worship song, we will use that time today to launch a long-term fund drive for Pastor David Yount, GCF's founding pastor. Pastor Dave underwent emergency surgery for a hip fracture over a month ago, then had health complications thereafter. He is now home but very thin and weak. Sadly, his wife PJ, has been affected by the toil of caring for her ailing husband and her health is starting to give way. After some exchanges with their children, we were informed of their healthcare costs and will be sending, as funds become available, the freewill offerings of GCFers whose hearts the Lord will touch. As God leads you, you can simply write "Yount" at any envelope, or at the back of your check, and it will immediately become a designated gift for the Yount couple. God bless your gracious hearts.

THE TABERNACLE SERIES

In the absence of a brochure detailing what the new Communion Series will be, kindly

refer to the list of Bible references below (the actual sermon titles will change) for the Communion Series until 2019. All of this is meant to make us appreciate what we now have, as new-covenant believers, in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God whose suffering and death we commemorate every first Sunday of the month:

- The Tabernacle and the Contributions to Build it (*Exodus 25:1–9, 35:4–29*)
- The Ark of the Covenant (*Exodus 25:10–22, 37:1–9*)
- The Table for the Bread (*Exodus 25:23–30, 37:10–16*)
- The Golden Lampstand (*Exodus 25:31–40, 27:20–21, 37:17–24*)
- The Account of the Tabernacle Construction (*Exodus 26, 35:30–36:38, 38:21–31*)
- The Bronze Altar (*Exodus 27:1–8, 38:1–7*)
- The Outer Courtyard (*Exodus 27:9–19, 38:9–20*)
- The Priesthood of the Lord (*Exodus 28:1–43; 39:1–43*)
- The Liturgy for Ordination (*Exodus 29:1–37; 30:22–33*)
- The Daily Sacrifices (*Exodus 29:38–46*)
- The Altar for Incense (*Exodus 30:1–10, 34–38; 37:25–29*)
- The Price of Atonement (*Exodus 30:11–16*)
- The Bronze Basin (*Exodus 30:17–21; 38:8*)
- The Chosen Workmen of God (*Exodus 31:1–11; 35:30–36:7*)
- The Glory of the Lord and the Tabernacle (*Exodus 40*) ■

Ablaze Devotional

And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"
— Mark 2:12 (ESV)

We tend to equate holiness in terms of distance or proximity. We think that the divine God is far removed from our mundane lives. If we are ever to revere His holiness, we must keep our distance or go through purity rituals if we want to draw near. This mindset causes us to view life as either secular or spiritual. We draw lines that exclude those we deem unworthy of the divine.

This has been the case in Mark's time. With Israel's history of being in exile, they started to think that it was their disobedience to the purity laws that caused the loss of their independence as a nation. Longing for national revival, there arose a movement that imposed strict observance of the law and a temple-centered religiosity. They considered the temple as evidence of God's presence and national identity. So long as the temple stands, so does God's favor.

Such movements gave birth to a piety that became more concerned with religious piety over compassion. Forgetting God's promise to Abraham, "Through your offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed" (*Genesis 22:18*), it seemed that their business is to simply keep the blessings to themselves.

We now see Jesus, the Human One, breaking this mold of society. As the One given authority of God's presence, He announces God's rule, erasing the lines that separate the mundane from the spiritual. He pioneers a movement that goes from being a temple-centered religiosity to being a people-centered lifestyle. As opposed to having God's ministry directed towards the temple, He announced the good news that goes out to the outcast and the unworthy. With His authority, He brought the life-giving and forgiving presence of God alive to the people far removed from the temple-state society. Witnessing God's work, the people are left amazed and they glorified God ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.
Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



SENIORS' LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Grace and Groans of the Golden Years
with Dr. Benjo Cruz
October 20 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
at the Fellowship Hall
Please contact **0917 544 6823** to register.



LOVE WINS

A forum on LGBTs by SHE Ministry
October 20 (Sat), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. here at GCF
Everyone is welcome to attend.
Please contact **0917 962 4246** to register.



I STILL DO

GCF Ortigas Couples' Retreat 2018
November 3-4 (Sat-Sun) at CCT Tagaytay
Fee: PhP 2,000 per couple | Limited slots only.
Text **0917 532 7725** to register, then pay to confirm.



CHANCEL CHOIR RECRUITMENT

There is joy in serving Jesus!
The GCF Chancel Choir invites church members to consider serving the Lord through singing.
Scheds: 3 p.m. (Sat), 2 p.m. (Sun), BM06 (Choir Rm.)
Contact Josh Capule at **0915 601 1211** for details.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

September 2018

	September Budget	Received, Sept. 1-30
General	7,901,145	13,662,461
Missions	927,000	570,530

	Jan. to Sept. Budget	Received, Jan.-Sept.
General	78,316,916	70,229,422
Missions	8,343,000	7,723,606

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God by the Messiah College and an anonymous donor.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



Sowing (in kids' hearts) now, reaping later

by Teacher Janelle Uy

As a child, I also grew up attending the Sunday School in GCF, and God has used my teachers to help me have a good foundation in my spiritual life. I am grateful that the Lord has now given me the opportunity to be part of this ministry.

This past year, we've been teaching the children the Inductive Bible Study by Precepts. It has been a helpful tool for them to learn how to read, observe, understand and apply the Bible for themselves. As I teach, I am reminded that my own personal time with God—in studying His Word and in prayer—is also important.

During class, it's amazing to see how the children have become receptive to lessons. They ask questions, they think, and they share their thoughts. But more importantly, they get to apply the truths of the Bible in their lives. I am blessed, for instance, whenever they volunteer to pray. And they pray for their friends or for those who are in need—they are reflecting the love of Christ.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 says, "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

So, we encourage you, our dear GCF parents, to continue to partner with the Children's Ministry as we guide and nurture and walk with your children in their spiritual journey. In time, the seeds that we plant in their hearts will grow and produce fruit for the glory of God ■

ON THE COVER: *The Ark Passes Over the Jordan* (1896-1902) by French painter James Tissot (public domain photo from *The Google Art Project*). The ark of the covenant was presumably taken by the Babylonians when they sieged Jerusalem in 586 B.C., though some rabbinical tradition dispute this. It is still presumed to be lost today, though some groups claim to have it.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express (Mixed)

Topic: Counting the Real Cost of Being A Disciple

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B124 (Growth Group Center)

Best Together in Christ

Group for Couples

Starting on September 30 (Sun)

9:30-11:00 a.m., at Rm. B508

High School and College Y-Groups

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

and 4:40-5:30 p.m.

at 6/F Youth Center

Life in Technicolor Support Group

for cancer patients and survivors

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Seniors' Room

Overcomers Support Group

for those under any kind of addiction

Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.

GGEX Extreme: How to Make Choices You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)

for adults without a Growth Group

November 18 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., at the Fellowship Hall. Limited only to the first

200 registrants (lunch and learning material will be provided). Sign-up now at the GGEX booth. Registration is **free!**

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____
Age: ____ Landline no.: _____
Mobile no.: _____
Address: _____

E-mail: _____
Year of membership: _____
Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

Today is **6/7 October 2018**, and I attended the
8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.