



6/7 April 2019
Vol. 41, No. 14

The Courtyard of the Tabernacle

Exodus 27:9-19

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

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Anthem
Worship through Fellowship
Pastoral Prayer
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Dags Miguel
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
Panalanging Pastoral
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
Banal na Hapunan
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

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



The Courtyard of the Tabernacle

Today's Message (6/7 April 2019) /
Exodus 27:9-19

GOD HAS
PROVIDED A
PLACE FOR
US TO FIND
STABILITY,
AND TO FIND
ACCESS TO
HIS HEAVENLY
THRONE
ROOM RIGHT
UP TO HIS
THRONE OF
GRACE.

Clothing fads, political trends, jobs, and even hope and love are not permanent for most people today. Everybody wants a sense of stability and security in this life. We live in a sin-torn world that will always disappoint, always frustrate, and always sadden us (*Romans 8:20–22*).

The way the world is today is the way the world was in the days of the Israelites. They, too, knew the frustrations of a fallen world. They too, needed stability and a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves. Our passage describes the way the Lord brought stability and assurance to His people while they wandered in the desert for 40 years. He taught them through the Courtyard of the Tabernacle.

Note two key points about the Courtyard of the Tabernacle that spoke truth to the Israelites, and speak to us today:

1. WE FIND INNER STABILITY IN WORSHIP.

- Israel's whole existence was one of restlessness, not permanence. Their fathers wandered the earth and "acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth" (*Hebrews 11:13*). So everywhere they stopped in their journey, the courtyard's pillars and bases of bronze were planted (*Exodus 27:10–12*). Its bronze pillars were propped up. The great curtain-like walls surrounding the Tabernacle were unfurled. This was God's way of giving them a sense of stability.
- Today, how do we find permanence, stability, and structure? In John 4:21–24, Jesus said worship of the Father would occur "in spirit" (proper heart attitude) and "in truth" (consistent with the Scriptures). Not in any mountain or temple. So anywhere Christians gather in the Name of Jesus to worship God, that's a place of holy permanence, "a holy temple in the Lord" (*Ephesians 2:21*).

Public worship therefore, is the very center of the Christian's life today. We leave "instability" behind and find stability. We leave earth for heaven.

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Pastor Dags Miguel

The Lord's Supper

Benediction



The Courtyard of the Tabernacle

Today's Message (6/7 April 2019) /
Exodus 27:9-19

We come to find stability in worship because “here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come” (*Hebrews 13:14*).

- This explains why we should set apart and value the Lord's Day for public worship. Wherever the courtyard of the Tabernacle was set up became like the ground where Moses knelt (*Exodus 3*) and the gate of heaven where Jacob slept (*Genesis 32*). It became a holy place, holy ground, the place of the Lord's very Presence. Likewise, when we gather for worship, wherever it might be, that place becomes holy ground because the Lord meets His people there!

2. WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST.

- Second, the Lord's courtyard provided a place of access. In the Tabernacle, God provided access to His Presence on earth. But access to the Courtyard of the Tabernacle was limited—women right after giving birth (*Leviticus 12*), anyone with skin disease (*Leviticus 13*), bodily discharge (*Leviticus 15*), or touched a dead body (*Numbers 19*) were all banned temporarily.

Why did God limit access? He wanted to teach His people that it is a serious thing to come into His presence. God wants us to see that He is holy. He wants us to see just how perfect, pure, and spotless we must be. No one deserves to access God's courtyard, His Tabernacle, and His presence.

- Christ removed the need for these restrictions. Jesus touched the diseased. Jesus even did the unthinkable—He went to the tomb of a dead Lazarus (*John 11:38–44*) even though it made Him unclean. He touched Jairus' dead daughter to raise her up (*Mark 5:35–43*). Therefore our access to God is through Christ, who “has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (*Isaiah 53:4*). Because of Him, access is granted to all: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (*Galatians 3:28*).
- This means that we must make sure we belong to Christ as believers in His finished work on the cross. Christians no longer need to bring animal sacrifices, because Jesus is the once-for-all sacrifice (*Hebrews 7:27; 9:12,26,28; 10:10*). He takes us—with all our infirmities, weaknesses, and sins—and grants us access to the Heavenly Father.

FINAL THOUGHTS

We must always enjoy our access. Hebrews tells us to “come boldly unto the throne of grace” (*Hebrews 4:16*), because God knows we doubt, get discouraged, and are often fainthearted. Be bold. Go to Him in prayer. You have not because you ask not. Ask, seek, and knock (*Matthew 7:7–11*).

We live in a very unstable world. Our lives are often upside down. But God has provided a place for us to find stability, and to find access to His heavenly throne room right up to His Throne of Grace. Come to the Lord in faith; come to Him in worship ■

QUICK REPORT ON THE YOUNTS

As I briefly mentioned last week before each pastoral prayer, I had the privilege to make a visit to Pastor Dave and PJ at their home in Tustin, California last March 11, with my wife and Elder Marc Sosmeña. Pastor Dave and PJ are in relatively good health, with Pastor Yount showing good recovery from his surgery and the complications that we almost thought would take him away from us. He can walk unaided, with just a slight limp and a good cane. PJ is also quite well but told me she no longer takes the risk of driving around. Praise God for Elder Marc who brought a vehicle where all five of us fit readily and we all had a good lunch together outside. Our founding missionaries are so grateful for your prayers and support, including the financial contributions that helped them buy needed equipment and hire two Filipina caregivers for them. Before and after that meeting, I have been in constant communication with their children (Sarah, Jonathan, and Tim) who have been updating us about the status of the funds. We praise God that His supply has been more than enough up to this day. Nonetheless, per my Trip Report to the Board of Elders, they approved my proposal to expedite the release of support so that it is not bottlenecked awaiting a BOE resolution every single time. As

the Lord leads, when the offerings are received, you may designate your offerings either for the Younts, for Missions, for the regular support of the church, or any combination thereof. Please be reminded that the envelopes are now in the Bible pouches, too.

NO VOICE

A couple of weeks before returning last Saturday, I developed a persistent cough, but as a doctor to myself, I have always avoided antibiotics if I could get away with it. This backfired on me, because after I preached with a sore throat last weekend, my voice gave out completely. So for today, Pastor David Miguel, one of our homegrown pastors, will preach the sermon. I will be around but kindly understand if I can't talk too much. Please include me in your prayers, too.

TRACTS FOR YOUR OIKOS AND OTHERS

In case you didn't notice, we now have a Tracts Rack just beside the Lobby Guard desk. It contains tracts in English, Filipino, and Fookien for our Filipino-Chinese oikos (family and friends). Please challenge yourself to take a few tracts every weekend and give them all away, then repeat the cycle. Best of all, you can study the tracts and use them to share the gospel personally ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



HOLY WEEK 2019 AT GCF

Good Friday Service: April 19, 3:00 p.m.
Traditional Service: April 20 (Sat), 6 p.m.
Easter Sunday Celebration: April 21, *two services only*, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



GGEX EXTREME

All adults without GG are invited to this six-week, ongoing inductive Bible study
 Every Sunday at 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 at the Fellowship Hall
 Free snack and material are provided.



2019 YOUTH LIVE CAMPS

ROOTED: HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
For Grade 7 to incoming Grade 12 students
 Venue: Batangas Country Club, May 30-June 2 (Thu-Sun) | Early bird fee PhP 2,000 'til May 5

BEYOND: COLLEGE CAMP
For incoming college to fresh college graduates
 Venue: Rizal Recreation Center, June 2-5 (Wed-Sat) | Early bird fee PhP 2,000 'til May 5
 For more information, please visit their booth.



PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

Parenting Series organized by Couples' Ministry
 All Wednesdays of May (8, 15, 22 and 29)
 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Chapel
 Speaker: Pastor Lloyd Estrada
 Topics: The Teen Mind, Teens and Media Use, Parenting as Disciple-making, Strengthening Teen's Mental and Emotional Health
 For more details, contact 0917 532 7713.



DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS

April 7 (Today), 12:00-3:00 p.m. at Rm. A303
 For more info, contact 0917 532 7740.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His grace and faithfulness by the Basilaad family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given in thanksgiving by Ramona Almirez for continuous blessings and traveling mercies for her family. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express
Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B124

God's Grace GG (G4)
Group for couples
 Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.
 Rm. B124

Chesed 3
Group for ladies ages 21-35
 Sundays, 8:30-10:00 a.m.
 Rm. BM02

Best Together in Christ
Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B508

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.

Growth Group Leaders' Training 1
 May 5, 12, 19, 26 (Sundays),
 12:00-3:00 p.m., Rm. A303

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / March 2019

MARCH	Projected	Rcvd., Mar. 1-31	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of March 31
General Funds	8,049,598	10,546,614	General Funds	24,993,272	27,256,885
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	1,301,571	Mission Support Fund	3,953,093	3,518,462
Others (Designated, etc.)	954,915	1,224,200	Others (Designated, etc.)	2,513,309	2,731,591
TOTAL	10,322,211	13,072,385	TOTAL	31,459,674	33,506,939

And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

—Mark 2:27-28 (ESV)

Because of 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. Equating holiness in terms of distance or proximity, they think that if they were ever to revere God they were to keep distance from things that make them impure and unworthy. Longing for national revival, there arose a movement that imposed strict observance of the law. Such movements gave birth to a faith that became more concerned with religious piety over compassion to those who are in need.

As we have seen in the previous stories, Jesus crossed the lines that distanced the lame, sinners, and irreligious from experiencing God's compassion. Now, Jesus is questioned on the matter of Sabbath observance. Historically, the institution of Sabbath stood as protest against the exploitative labor of the ruling empires that lorded over the Jewish nation. It is a visible declaration that God is Ruler and Giver of all things. That all manner of production and consumption revolves around the center of His love, and is (or should be) manifested in "love thy neighbor."

We now see Jesus, the Christ and the Son of God, setting distorted devotion back to its original purpose. He announces God's rule, challenging the religion-centered devotion of the Jewish leaders, calling them to have a people-centered lifestyle. As opposed to having a devotion marked by religious piety, He announced the Good News by giving the real picture of sanctity, which is compassionate (i.e. suffers with, reaches out) to the outcast and the unworthy. We need to understand that Jesus' proclamation, "Sabbath is made for man, not man for Sabbath" is not a disregard for tradition but an attendance to human need. True devotion to God translates into compassion towards others (*James 1:27*).

We need to understand that Jesus' words on the Sabbath are not a disregard for tradition but an attendance to human need.

As we approach the Lord's table, we also declare Jesus' lordship over our lives. As we share the bread and the wine, we also share in His life and mission. As we reflect on His compassion for us, let us ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and hands to be moved to suffer with and reach out to people we tend to forget and dismiss. Let us strive to be a source of Sabbath rest to others, just as our Lord Jesus Christ is ■

PRAYER

at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

ON THE COVER: Sunrise over the life-sized Tabernacle replica in the Arabah desert (*Getty Images*). The Tabernacle showed the constancy of God's presence even in the midst of various episodes of Israel's disobedience or outright rebellion in the wilderness. It outlived Moses, and, according to Jewish tradition served as the Israelites' center of worship for 369 years, before the Temple was constructed.



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

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 for the first time 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 April 2019**, 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.

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.

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