



Admonitions from a Grateful King

Psalm 34

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

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Community Prayer
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor BJ Sebastian
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Panalangin ng Komunidad
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor BJ Sebastian
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon



22/23 February 2020
Vol. 42, No. 8

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

Admonitions from a Grateful King

Today's Message (22/23 February 2019) / *Psalm 34*

SEEK HIM IN
HIS WORD
DAILY WHERE
HIS PERSON
IS REVEALED
CLEARLY,
AND FIND
COMFORT IN
HIS SPOTLESS
FAITHFULNESS.

INTRODUCTION

The super-script of Psalm 34 points us to the narrative in 1 Samuel 21:10-22:1. This is the experience that David went through that gave birth to this wonderful psalm of praise, thanksgiving and admonition. It reminds us that even someone anointed by God to be King of Israel (*1 Samuel 16:13*) and a committed believer, like David, can go through life-threatening experiences. While his escape from Saul, his encounter with Achish, and his ordeal in the caves of Engedi and Adullam, are earthly troubles; they are also pictures of the spiritual travails that all of us go through as we encounter God and the salvation that he provides (*1 Peter 2:2-3, 3:10-12*). This psalm is one of the best expressions of a heart that knows the greatness of God and His salvation, and we ought to keep its wise admonitions.

A. EXALT THE LORD (vv. 1-3)

1. Bless the Lord continually.
2. Boast in the Lord in humility.
3. Magnify the Lord in community.

B. ENVISION THE LORD (vv. 4-7)

1. Seek Him for deliverance.
2. Cry to Him for salvation.

C. EXPERIENCE THE LORD (vv. 8-10)

1. Taste that God is good.
2. Be satisfied in Him.

D. ENJOY THE FEAR OF THE LORD (vv. 11-14)

1. Fear the Lord all your days.
2. Turn away from evil and pursue good.

Traditional Service

(February 22, Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Community Prayer

Worship Through Fellowship

Worship Through Giving

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Pastor BJ Sebastian

Response Hymn

Benediction

Admonitions from a Grateful King

Today's Message (22/23 February 2019) / *Psalm 34*

E. EXPERIENCE THE ATTENTION OF THE LORD (vv. 15-18)

1. His eyes are towards the righteous. His face is against the wicked.
2. His ear listens to our cries.
3. His heart is for the broken-hearted.

F. ENLIST THE PROMISES OF THE LORD (vv. 19-22)

1. Deliverance for the righteous.
2. Preservation for His chosen.
3. Condemnation for the wicked.
4. Redemption for His servants.

APPLICATION

Perhaps some of us are facing some tough and scary circumstances just like David. We are confused because we know that like David we are called to live out the purposes of God, and yet we encounter trials and tribulations that stretch our faith and bring us sometimes to the brink of despair. It would be good to just follow David's admonitions in this psalm.

- **Exalt the Lord.** Turn your thoughts towards how great God is and your problems will all of a sudden look small. Sing a hymn of praise to Him everyday.
- **Envision the Lord.** Seek Him in His word daily where His Person is revealed clearly, and find comfort in His spotless faithfulness.
- **Experience the Lord.** Don't just know about Him in your head; know Him in your heart. See His hand in the details of your life and experience Him first-hand.
- **Enjoy the fear of the Lord.** The best way to avoid displeasing God is to make it your goal everyday to please Him in everything you do.
- **Experience the attention of the Lord.** He is our ever-present help in times of need. He is always just a prayer away. He is inside you, around you, above you and before you. You are the apple of His eye.
- **Enlist the promises of the Lord.** Recite them daily—He will never leave us nor forsake us. We will find Him if we seek Him with all of our heart. He will complete the good work that He began in us. He is faithful and just to forgive. We are predestined...called...justified...glorified ■

FAN THE FLAME

The GCF Couples Ministry was started similar to starting a fire: by building it, lighting it, feeding it, and fanning it. The proverbial fire was built when Pastor Al Cabrera, then Pastoral Care and Counseling minister, sounded a call to establish an organized response to the adverse attack of the enemy on marriage. So some volunteered; volunteers, including this writer, gathered at a quiet retreat yonder. Thereat, the prevailing situation was assessed, possible solutions were evaluated, and a probable structure, designed. Consequently, a ministry that is focused to help build strong, Christ-centered marriages was unanimously agreed upon and prayerfully committed to the Lord. Our dear Pastor Luis named the ministry Couples Who Care.

To date, the broad challenge “to fan into flame the gift” (2 *Timothy* 1:6a) remains upon the narrow shoulders of a few who continues to embrace the ministry model, and carry on its aspirations to assist couples through Programmed Enhancement (Seminars, Retreats), Planned Intervention (Premarital and Marriage Counseling), and Personalized Discipleship (Mentoring, Coaching).

Paul encouraged Timothy to persevere by reminding him how the fire was built in his heart. “I have been reminded of your faith, which first lived in your grandmother...and in your mother...and now lives in you also”

(v. 5). The influence of godly people in building that fire in our hearts is undeniable. This testifies to the need of every believer for a Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy—that is, someone to be disciplined by, someone to be a disciple together with, and someone to disciple. These relationships keep the fire burning

The fire must be lit. “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline” (v. 7). He did not adopt us to be nonchalant, but to be vibrant servants. God blessed us with the tools to do the good works which He prepared for us in advance.

The fire must be fed. This is about taking in, living out, and passing on the Word. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, so that we may be guided to cooperate and participate in God’s plan for our continuing maturity.

And the fire must be fanned through the thankful remembrance of God’s faithfulness and the humble demonstration of the Spirit’s fruit that we bear. Left alone, the fire will die.

So GCF couples, let us join together in protecting and preserving marriage, beginning with our own. Let us not allow darkness to cast a pall of gloom and doom in our homes. Help us help you by supporting Couples Who Care through prayers, participation, and by inviting your *oikos* to attend. Let us unite in building strong, Christ-centered marriages—for God’s glory ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements

Starting **March 1, 2020**, our
Sunday Vesper Service

will be held at **5:00 p.m.**
 instead of 5:30 p.m.



SCHOOL STRESS: MANIFESTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

March seminar of #ParentsTalk, a year-long midweek series on parenting
 Speaker: Dr. Maria Naval Rivas
 March 4 (Wed), 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Open to everyone.



GOOD AND PERFECT GIFTS

Perspectives on Singlehood and Marriage as Blessings from God
 Speakers: Rhods Uy, Alvin Ceasar Olanday, and Aleks & Daphne Tan. Open to everyone.
 March 14 (Sat), 1:30-4:00 p.m. here at GCF.
 Contact 0917 532 7693 to pre-register.



CHISMISSIONS

Conversations about and from the mission field
 Guest: Gentle Hands Orphanages
 March 15 (Sun), 12:00-2:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. For more details, please contact 0932 371 3457.



BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE 1

For dating, engaged, and married couples
 March 21, 28, & April 4 (Sats), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. To register, please visit the ministry information booth.
 Contact 0917 532 7713 for more details.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by an anonymous donor and the Messiah College. Please call 8632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

DISCIPLE-MAKING EVENTS

Sunflowers Growth Group

Group for women
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B506

Burning Hearts Chronicles Growth Group

Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
 Rm. B123

Jars of Clay Growth Group

Group for women
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B512

For those interested in joining any of the groups above, please text or call us at 0917 779 1549, or fill-out the tear-off form and give to the ushers or drop in one of the offering bags/boxes.

YOUTH **LiVE** SERVICE

Every Saturday, for high school and college students
 5:00 p.m. at Auditorium A
 Y-groups meet after the service

YOUTH **LiVE** PRAYER HUDDLE

Every Friday
 7:00 p.m. at the Youth Center

DMG Leaders' Assembly

Topic: Missions Education
 February 29 (Sat), 4-6 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall

GG Leaders' Training 1

March 1, 8, 15, 22 (Sun)
 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Youth Center

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / February 2020

813,503	Projected	Rcvd., Feb. 1-20	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Feb. 20
General Funds	7,833,313	6,108,784	General Funds	16,907,087	14,060,042
Mission Support Fund	1,056,726	640,716	Mission Support Fund	2,177,807	1,349,134
Others (Designated, etc.)	863,005	813,503	Others (Designated, etc.)	1,704,259	3,401,428
TOTAL	11,036,109	7,563,003	TOTAL	20,789,153	18,810,604

These are the twelve he appointed: Simon, James son of Zebedee and his brother John... Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

—Mark 3:16-19 (NIV 2011)

Following Mark's account of an itinerant preacher and miracle worker, we see that Jesus ministry breaks down stereotypes of what it means to be a true follower of God. The rabbis of his day busy themselves in domestic affairs and maintaining the status quo. Jesus ministry on the other hand, disturbs the social norm, and restructures the foundation of discipleship.

As the teachers of the law try to maintain their faithfulness to tradition and temple-centered religiosity, we see that it created a wider divide between the weak and the powerful, between the poor and the rich. Access to God seemingly became an entitlement for those who can afford to offer the right sacrifices. As we will see in the following narrative, Jesus confronts this framework that started to make a business out of temple worship. This kind of domestication tactic created more rifts in the social fabric then.

Unlike other rabbis, Jesus chose His disciples, instead of letting them choose Him. Such is the impact of

Jesus' person and ministry that it only took a few words for his disciples to leave their usual lives in order to follow Him. Another worth noting in Jesus choosing of the twelve is the disciples' diverse and seemingly ordinary, even opposing, backgrounds: a handful of fisherman cousins, a Zealot opposing Roman rule, and a former tax-collector who worked for the empire. Eleven are all from the province of Galilee, with Judas being the only one hailing from Judea.

This choosing of the Twelve serves as an allusion to the twelve tribes from which the Jewish nation began. In the Exodus narrative, God rescued the people from their slavery and the tyranny of Pharaoh. So when Jesus called the Twelve to be His apostles, nobody who heard of it would miss what He is doing. Jesus is bringing in and commissioning a new Exodus that would unsettle the powers that be, and set free, not just the nation of Israel, but all of God's creation.

Once we lived with fragmented lives, walled up from each other, the call of Jesus heals our souls as He also breaks down our barriers. Our discipleship with Jesus reconciled us to the Redeeming God of the Exodus. As we become more aware of His presence, He reveals to us His passion for all people and all creation. He calls us to follow Jesus' way, announcing God's reign, that He is redeeming all things back to Himself ■

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: *The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*—Psalm 34:10 (photo by Zdenek Macháček, unsplash.com).



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0078 to 80, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

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.

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: **22/23 February 2020**

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

Consent to use your information:

By affixing your signature below, you give permission to Greenhills Christian Fellowship, its ministries and its staff, to store and use the information you provided above for the sole purpose of contacting you and updating you about any inquiry you have made.

Your signature

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.