



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Anointed Bodylife and Ministries

SPEAKER Pastor Darren Kuek

THEME 7 Pillars of a Healthy Church

DATE 21 & 22 Oct 2017

MESSAGE SUMMARY

WHAT ARE YOU INVESTING IN?

The world we live in today sends the message that we need to look into good investments – putting our money in places that grant higher returns, finding jobs that help us gain more income, or even doing things that place us in better social positions. But as Christians, it is important for us to see beyond these worldly transactions, lest we forget about our investment into our Father’s Kingdom. In his sermon, Pastor Darren reminds us to invest in the Kingdom of God and teaches us how to do so through 2 steps – Loving and Serving.

HOW TO INVEST? – Love and Serve

In 1 Peter 4:7-11, God has called His servants to embrace two very important values – to love earnestly (v8) and to serve faithfully (v10).

1. Loving Earnestly

Just as He has loved us, in 1 Peter 4:8, God has called us to love one another because we are all interconnected as one body of Christ. When we do so, we will be able to see past the sins of others. However, this does not come naturally all the time and we sometimes take offence and forget to invest in loving others.

There are two keys by which we can grow in our love for others:

- a) **Having a healthy appraisal of ourselves**
- b) **Having an honouring appraisal of others**

One unhealthy appraisal of self comes in the form of **self-pity**. When we dwell in self-pity, we tend to see ourselves as unworthy or unloved – but this is not true and contrary to God’s Word. In John 11:33, when Jesus saw Mary weeping, He was “deeply moved” – the emotion here was not sadness, but anger. Jesus displayed anger for evil has been done to His children. How can we then say that Jesus does not care about our problems? How can we say that we are unworthy or unloved if we have a God who feels so much about our troubles? A healthy appraisal of self begins by going to Him in faith and letting His joy be our strength, rather than remaining in self-pity. Another unhealthy appraisal of self is **pride** - we cannot love because pride is the enemy of love. The bible teaches us in 1 Corinthians 13:4 that love is patient and kind, it does not envy or boast; and is not

proud.

Not having an honouring appraisal of others results in us displaying unfair treatment, loving some people more than others, and undervaluing some people. Likewise, no person should be loved less because we are all part of the Body of Christ and each plays a role in it. Jesus has taught us to love indiscriminately – when He was choosing his disciples, the 12 of them were teens, yet Jesus trusted and loved them equally. If we think less of anyone, all the more God says they are indispensable and we should give them the greater honour.

2. Serving Faithfully

In 1 Peter 4:10, God reminds us to use the gifts we have to serve one another. Pastor Darren also shared on the Parable of Minas (Luke 19) that tells of a story of a nobleman who was hated by society. He called his servants and gave them money to engage in business while he went away. Two servants were faithful to his instructions and he rewarded them. But there was a servant who failed to follow his instructions because the practice of charging interest was considered counter culture at that time. This particular servant who was deemed unfaithful and wicked in the eyes of the master, flowed with the culture and did not have the willingness to invest in a hostile environment and do what was considered counter culture.

This parable mirrors us in today's context – are we ready to be a faithful servant? To be willing to invest in the Kingdom of God at the expense of the world culture (to be counter-culture)?

Conclusion

In conclusion, investing in the Kingdom of God begins with 2 simple steps which we can take: 1) loving earnestly and 2) serving faithfully. All of us, you and I, have only this small window called life that will soon pass. How far are we willing to invest in the lives of others, to love and to serve as God has called us to?

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways has this message challenged your perception of who to honour?

2. Conduct a self-evaluation of how you have loved others:

- A.) Share about someone whom you have shown an act of love to recently.
- B.) What compelled you to do so?

3. What is one gift you have received from God? As a "good steward of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10), how can you increase your use of this gift to serve others?