



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Seeking the Welfare of Others

SPEAKER Elder Lok Vi Ming

THEME Spiritual Warfare

DATE 18 & 19 Aug 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

SEEKING THE WELFARE OF OTHERS

The sermon focuses on verse Jeremiah 29:7 in which the Israelites were called to seek the welfare of Babylon where they were sent into exile for 70 years. Although it was a punishment, God did not abandon them as He promised the Israelites their welfare when they sought the welfare of the city and called unto Him. He also promised that He would restore them after the 70 years.

God did not want the Israelites to waste their time in exile but to learn to seek Him again as well as to see His goodness. Similarly, as we are Christians and therefore not of this world, we are still called to seek the welfare of others in our communities. We have God's promises to cling onto and must also glorify God by sowing into the lives of others.

SOWING AND REAPING FROM THE CITY'S WELFARE

1) "SEEKING THE WELFARE OF THE CITY"

As Christians, we are not of this world. However, we live in this world and should therefore seek the welfare of it. As part of Singapore, we should sink our roots into this country and understand our community. We will then know how to pray and contribute to the welfare of our nation.

Sobering statistics such as the high percentage of suicide cases, bullying cases and Singaporeans facing severe financial problems prove the need for our Christian giving. These statistics should not cause us to withdraw from the problems but to be salt and light while living our present life in light of our hope in God. Knowing God's promise to us and His call for us in our community, we need to change our objectives to be aligned with that of God's.

2) "FOR IN ITS WELFARE, YOU WILL HAVE WELFARE"

This phrase is not a call to be selfish. Instead, it states that we reap what we sow, when we pray and act for the welfare of Singapore. Jesus set the example when He gave up His place in heaven to take our place on the cross; we became rich when He became poor for our sakes (2 Cor 8:9).

2 Corinthians 8 and 9 show the secret of Christian giving as well as the reaping of this giving. When we give to God first, God will grant us the grace to give to others (2 Cor 8:5, 2 Cor 9:8). This giving should always come from a cheerful heart. Our good works for Singapore will not only reap a bountiful harvest but give God the glory He deserves.

CONCLUSION

God called the Israelites to seek the welfare for Babylon where they would live in exile for 70 years. He did not want them to waste their lives during the time of punishment. Despite this punishment, God also promised the Israelites that they would find their welfare in Babylon's welfare and restore them after the 70 years.

In today's context, we are called as Christians to seek the welfare of the society we live in through our prayers and good works. We will not only find our welfare but give God the glory He deserves. Are we willing and ready to do so?

QUESTIONS

1. What is one of the most pressing needs of our community today that speaks to you?

2. According to 2 Cor 8 and 9, what is "giving"? What obstacles do you face in giving and why?

3. Elder Lok encouraged us to know and be a part of our community. Reflect on the discussed areas of need and share how you are personally led to contribute more to it.