



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** 20 / 20 Vision

**SPEAKER** DSP Chua Seng Lee

**THEME** Knowing and Experiencing God

**DATE** 28 & 29 Sep 2019

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## WHY FOCUS?

It is easy, even for someone with 20/20 vision, to miss out on something they are not looking for if they are focused on something else instead. In today's sermon, DSP Chua Seng Lee encourages us to acquire a 20/20 – correct and accurate – vision of God and be so focused on Him that we will miss out the non-essentials in life.

Afterall, according to AW Tozer, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... the most portentous (important) fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like." Quality worship of God depends on quality thoughts about Him. Do we have a high and lofty view of God in our lives, or, is He low and missing?

## HOW TO FOCUS?

The Scriptures teach us how to think rightly about God. DSP Seng Lee refers to Ex 34:6-8 to provide us with two focus points that will help us to think rightly of God. To set the context of this passage, Moses knew that it is God's presence alone which makes the difference. To focus on Him is to focus on the name of the Lord (Ex 33:15-19). As such, Ex 34:6-8 is a sermon about the names of God.

### 1) UNCHANGING CHARACTER OF GOD

*"The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;" Ex 33:6*

The compassion of God – his grace and mercy- precedes his judgement on men.

- When we struggle with sins in our lives and deem ourselves unworthy of his love, a 20/20 vision of God tells us that God loves all sinners. He came to die for us so that we can be freed from the consequences of sin.
- When we feel that God is angry because He is disappointed with us, a 20/20 vision of God tells us that God is slow to anger and He is patient with our shortcomings.
- When we think that God gives us "just enough", a 20/20 vision of God tells us that God is abounding in love and He wants to give us beyond what we ask or think.

Change is possible in our lives because we serve an unchanging God. As we anchor our lives on this accurate view of who He says He is, we can then live confidently.

## 2) UNCOMPROMISING CONDUCT OF GOD

*"who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." Ex 33:7*

When we repent, God spares us from evil (Joel 2:12-13). When we do not repent, we face the certainty of God's judgement (Nahum 1:3) and the consequences of sin affect our future generations (Ex 33:7).

God is a holy God. He treats sin severely. However, God forgives us when we repent (Jonah 4:2). It is this change in our thinking that will effect a change in the way we live.

- When we have a permissive attitude towards sin (e.g. sex before or outside of marriage) and think that we can get away with it by simply confessing, a 20/20 vision of God corrects us by the truth that forgiveness is God's choice and confession requires true repentance (a turning away from sin).
- When we think that we can enjoy life and sin first – and then confess before we die so that we can make it to heaven. A 20/20 vision of God warns us that sin can dull our spiritual senses and habitual sins can limit us from repentance.
- When we think that we can just be average Christians and not be too holy, a 20/20 vision of God reminds us to not take God's grace for granted. We serve a holy God and being holy is a command, not an option.

If we simply focus on compassion without the judgment of God, we abuse His grace and become "spoilt-kid" Christians. On the other hand, if we focus on His judgement without compassion, we tend to become overly judgemental. A 20/20 vision focuses on both the compassion and the judgement of God which leads to a believer achieving spiritual growth.

## CONCLUSION

Moses had 20/20 vision. He laid hold on the unchanging character of God and His uncompromising conduct. With a balanced focus on both His compassion and His judgement on sin, God fulfils His promise by performing miracles in their midst (Ex33:10). God is still in the business of performing miracles today, only when we adjust our vision to a 20/20 view of who He rightly is.

# QUESTIONS

**1. Share about a time where you were so sure you had 20/20 vision on a situation or person but later realised you missed something out. What did you learn from there?**

**2. AW Tozer once said that what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. Worship is as pure or as base as the worshipper's thoughts of God. What is your conception of God? How has it affected your relationship with Him and how you live?**

**3. To have a 20/20 vision of God, we need to see both the unchanging character of God and the uncompromising conduct of God. What are the dangers of focusing on only one aspect of God? What can you work on to achieve a 20/20 vision of God and grow spiritually?**