



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC We have never been this way before **SPEAKER** SP Daniel Foo
THEME Weathering the storm together **DATE** 31 Oct & 1 Nov 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

We have never been this way before. The global pandemic has brought about changes in our lives, so we have and may currently find ourselves in new places. Teaching from Joshua 3, SP Daniel Foo shared three principles that will help us weather the storms in life.

1. FIX YOUR EYES ON THE ARK OF COVENANT

The Ark of the Covenant represents the presence of God. God is holy (Joshua 5:15) and those who enter into His presence should be holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). As such, we should “pursue” God (Hebrews 12:14) and draw near to Him with intentionality. SP reminded us that we can enter into God’s presence because of and only through Jesus (Hebrews 10:19, 21).

Recognizing that God is holy, there are consequences for “mis-handling” the presence of God. In the Old Testament, under the law, there are severe consequences (Leviticus 10:1-2, 1 Samuel 6:19-20, 2 Samuel 6:6-7). Under grace, when we “mis-handle” the presence of God, we grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), reap the negative consequences (Galatians 6:7-8, James 3:15) and open doors to the evil one (Ephesians 4:27, 1 Peter 5:8, John 10:10a).

Teaching from Hebrews 9:4, there are three key items inside the Ark that come with the presence of God. First, “the golden pot that had the manna” represents God’s provision; “Aaron’s rod that budded,” which signifies approval and authority; last, the “tablets of the Covenant,” which represents the Word of God, carrying the laws for life and promises to stand on.

2. FOLLOW THE ARK AS IT MOVES

In Joshua 3:3, we learn that when we “see” the Ark of the Covenant, we are to “go after it.” This expresses a posture of intentionally praying and worshipping God. SP distills this into three practical ways to follow the Ark.

First, we are to always obey and follow the instructions of the Word (Psalms 119:105). Before the verse commanding Joshua to “be strong and courageous” (Joshua 1:9), God instructed Joshua “keep

this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night” (Joshua 1:8). It is important to know and obey God’s Word. Practice spiritual hygiene (2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1) and pay attention to what we fill our minds with (Philippians 4:8).

Second, we are to always experience the grace and truth of the Lord Jesus. In Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, we know that God’s gift to us is to have the “power and ability to enjoy [riches and possessions] ... and to rejoice in his labour.” God Himself keeps us “occupied and focused on the joy of his heart.” Hence, in whatever we do, ask God for the grace to have joy and peace.

Third, we are to always be guided and led by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16,18,25). When making decisions, we are to pray and surrender it to God. Then, God can incline in our hearts or download a thought in our minds to guide us (Hebrews 8:10, 10:16).

CONSECRATE YOURSELF CONTINUALLY

Consecration is a daily exercise. Joshua 3:5 promises that when we consecrate (sanctify) ourselves, “the Lord will do wonders.” Doing wonders also means to experience breakthroughs. Learning from Joshua’s example, we are to submit to God’s authority (i.e. Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence) and move to God’s side (i.e. Joshua took off his sandals). Later in the Book of Joshua, chapter 6 recorded the Israelites’ faith in God, allowing them to claim victory over Jericho (Hebrews 11:30). Conversely, they failed in the battle of Ai because they did not consecrate themselves (Joshua 7). As such, we are to daily dedicate every part of our lives to God (Romans 6:13, 19).

CONCLUSION

In closing, SP exhorts us that whether as a result of COVID-19 or as we move into new seasons, remember the three principles that will carry us through storms.

Above all, fix your eyes upon Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three principles that can help us when “we have never been this way before”? Share a time when “you have never been this way before” and how God has been faithful in those times.

(Leader’s notes) SP opened the sermon with examples of times when “we have never been this way before.” Aside from changes brought about by COVID-19, we also go through transitions that bring us into new seasons. This question invites members to consider how they might have applied any one of these three principles before and how they have experienced God through it.

2. In our relationship with God, we have the Word, His Grace and the Holy Spirit. How are you most used to experiencing/encountering God? What disciplines can you work on in the next week?

(Leader’s notes) SP shared three ways in which we “follow the Ark.” This question invites members to reflect on how they usually experience/encounter God (e.g. through reading His Word) and to consider which areas they might want to work on (e.g. praying and consulting the Holy Spirit first before seeking advice from others).

3. What is one decision or one area of your life that you would like to trust God in? How can you practically apply one teaching from SP’s sermon?

(Leader’s notes) SP’s sermon is about fixing our focus on God and following Him. This question invites members to identify specific areas of their lives that they need to surrender to God and commit to one concrete action they can take.