



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Pursue Righteousness	SPEAKER	Pastor Low Kok Guan
THEME	What to Pursue in Life?	DATE	07 & 08 August 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

What are you pursuing in life? Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.” Scriptures also call us to pursue righteousness (1 Timothy 6:11a and 2 Timothy 2:22).

From Genesis 37-39, Ps Kok Guan exhorts us to pursue righteousness and gives us steps to do so.

TAKE ONLY WHAT IS GIVEN

Joseph knew that Potiphar had made him “overseer” and “over all” (Genesis 39:5), and had held nothing back from Joseph but his wife (Genesis 39:9).

In fleeing from the temptations presented by Potiphar’s wife, Joseph demonstrated that he knew to take only what was given to him. John 3:27 also tells us that “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.” Through these Scriptures, we are reminded to be grateful for what we have been given and to only take those.

What has God given us? Have we taken something that has not been given to us?

SAY ONLY WHAT IS TRUE

Potiphar’s wife lied when she said Joseph “came in to me to laugh at me” (Genesis 39:17). She also did not report how she had tempted Joseph to “lie with me” (Genesis 39:12).

Ps Kok Guan reminds us to say only what is true, as Matthew 5:37 has taught. On the same note, we should also keep our promises to others.

What can you do that will help you to say only what you mean? Do you keep your promises?

DO ONLY WHAT IS RIGHT

Righteousness only comes when we do the right thing. Pursuing righteousness includes fleeing from evil and doing so consistently.

In Genesis 39:10, we see that Potiphar's wife asked Joseph "day after day" to "lie with me." In Genesis 39:12, she even "caught him by his garment." Joseph fled from these temptations and did so consistently.

However, even when we choose to do what is right, our lives might not pan out how we imagine or wish it to. In those instances, we can be encouraged that God is still with us. Joseph had resisted the temptations from Potiphar's wife. However, she lied and got him thrown into prison. Even then, the "Lord was with Joseph" and "showed him favour" (Genesis 39:21). Joseph had favour before the prison keeper and was "put in charge of all the prisoners" (Genesis 39:22).

Ps Kok Guan shares four more tips to keep doing what is right, even when it is difficult:

1. Keep our time with the Lord intact.
2. Keep a short account with God.
3. Keep accountable to people who can speak into our lives.
4. Keep in mind what would happen if we fall.

CONCLUSION

Bigger than the life stories of Joseph and Judah, Genesis 37-39 reveal a God who loves us and wants to help us pursue righteousness. In Psalms 19:13-14, David described God as a Rock and Redeemer. God our Rock helps us stand firm against temptations. When we fall, God our Redeemer forgives and cleanses us as we humbly repent to him.

Ps Kok Guan closes with "Us in Christ," describing how righteousness looks like in our lives.

While it can be challenging to keep doing the right thing, he exhorts us to rely on God's help.

What is the next right thing that God wants us to do?

How are we relying on God to do it?

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three ways Ps Kok Guan shared for us to pursue righteousness? What do these three ways look like in your life?

2. To keep doing what is right, Ps Kok Guan shared four 'keeps'. Which would you like to do more of or start doing this week?

3. Ps Kok Guan describes righteousness as "Us in Christ". What is the next right thing that God wants you to do? Pray for one another about this.