



## CELL GUIDE

<b>TOPIC</b>	Turning Singapore Godward: Love Singapore	<b>SPEAKER</b>	Ps Jeff Chong
<b>THEME</b>	Critical Concerns of Our Times	<b>DATE</b>	15 & 16 July 2023

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Surveys have shown that almost 90% of Christians strongly agree that as many people as possible should embrace and believe in Christianity. However, only a fraction of Christians (25%) seek opportunities to touch lives through the gospel.

Ps Jeff Chong from Hope Church stresses the importance of bringing more to the saving knowledge of what Jesus has done by inviting them to the banquet that has been prepared for them.

## LOVE SINGAPORE

Looking into Luke 14:12-24, Jesus tells a parable of the Great Banquet when he was dining with Pharisees and lawyers at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees. In the parable, a man invited many to his banquet, but when the day came, all the original guests came up with excuses to not attend the meal. However, the host did not hesitate to replace his original guests by inviting the “poor and crippled and blind and lame” (14:21), and asked his servant to look as far as the “highways and hedges” (Luke 14:23) for people to invite, so that his house might be filled. This banquet in the parable is alluding to the banquet when the Day of the Lord occurs as written in Isaiah 25.

From the parable in Luke, there are 2 kinds of attitudes we should embrace towards evangelising to others, **when**, not if, we face rejection.

### 1. Unyielding Hearts – Don’t Give Up (Luke 14:21)

Even though the host’s original guests all failed to turn up, the host still looked for others to invite rather than giving up. Similarly, even though someone we invite to church may reject us, we should take that rejection in our stride and continue to persist in sharing our faith with them and with others. We should be motivated by the patience of the Lord (2 Peter 3:9) and use the time we have till the Day of the Lord to continue to spread the gospel to others who have not put their faith in Christ yet. Don’t give up on people. God didn’t give up on us.

## **2. Embracing Hearts – Make Space for More (Luke 14:22-23)**

There is always room for more people in church. Are we actively seeking others to invite to church? We don't even need to go out to the country lanes and behind the hedges to find people to invite to church, we just need to have the right attitude to actively utilise opportunities to talk to others about the gospel.

### **CONCLUSION**

Ending off the sermon, Ps Jeff illustrated the many chairs we may encounter in life, the chairs in cafes with friends, the chairs in school with classmates, the chairs at home with relatives and the chairs at our offices with our colleagues, and lastly the chairs in our church. The ultimate goal we should have, is bringing everyone from those other chairs to sit in the chairs of our church. Let us be reminded that the grace God has first been given to us as believers and should motivate us to continue to evangelise to those around us, knowing that faith in what Jesus has done is the only way to salvation, and that it will help turn Singapore into a God-fearing nation.

# QUESTIONS

**1. In his sermon, Ps Jeff Chong shared several lessons we can draw from the Parable of the Great Banquet. Which aspect of this parable left the greatest impression on you and why?**

**2. Who can you invite from your community, family, school and workplace to fill the vacant chairs at the Lords' banquet? What is one action step you can take between now to the end of the year to reach out to them?**

**3. What are some testimonies you can share with the people you named in your answer to question 2 in order to spread the good news of God's grace? Take some time to pray with your CG for opportunities to share and for willing hearts to listen.**