



CELL GUIDE

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| TOPIC | Turning Singapore Godward - Blessing Singapore | SPEAKER | Ps Daniel Foo |
| THEME | Critical Concerns of Our Times | DATE | 8 & 9 July 2023 |

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In this sermon, Ps Daniel Foo unpacks for us the five reasons why we need to pray for our nation as we address one of the critical concerns of our times - turning Singapore Godward. The key of prayer is to pray with faith and in agreement.

PRAYING FOR SINGAPORE

Looking back at God's judgment on Damascus (Isaiah 17:1), we reap what we sow as a nation as God is a just God. From God's judgment on the city of Nineveh (Jonah 3:4-10), we know that we need to repent from the evil doings of the people. From God's judgment on the nations (Jeremiah 18: 7-10), our well-being in Singapore is dependent on the well being of the nation of Singapore. God wants to bless the nation. As He is a just God, He cannot bless a wicked nation.

1) It is a priority to pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2: 1-2a)

We need to pray for our government. The first thing and foremost thing we need to do is to intercede and pray for them.

2) Elders at the gates determine the affairs of the nation (Ezekiel 9: 6, 1 Peter 4:17)

Judgment begins from the house of the Lord. The kingdom of God is larger than the church. The spiritual leadership of the local churches in Singapore is crucial and can influence the nation's state of affairs. We should pray for our elders that God will raise intercessors who are righteous and carry the burden to regularly stand in the gap for Singapore.

3) God looks for righteous men and women to uphold His justice and righteousness in the land

It is the foundation of the throne of God. For example, in Genesis 18:17-33, God is looking for righteous men in Sodom so as not to destroy the nation but He could not find one. We need to practice righteousness and justice in all our ways as life is not equal and fair. We cannot fall into the schemes and lies of the devil and there is a need for us to do so through active prayer with God, creating a house of prayer for the Lord. He is looking for people to build prayer-altars unto Him.

Pastor Daniel cited four examples in the bible that showcased the importance of building prayer altars:

- a) The story of Abraham in Genesis 12:7-18. When Abraham set up the altar and called on the Name of the Lord, he was reclaiming the land.
- b) The story of Isaac in Genesis 26:23-25. Isaac was sustaining the claim over the land from the god of the Canaanites by building and maintaining altars to God.
- c) The story of Jacob in Genesis 33:18-20 where Jacob built an altar and called it El Elohe Israel and El Bethel. Throughout his life, Jacob continuously built altars to God.
- d) The story of Aaron in Numbers 16:47-48 where he stood between the living and the dead.

The biblical examples demonstrate the need to connect with God all the time. God wants to reflect His justice and righteousness in the land as there is a lot of lawlessness today (Matthew 24:12). Righteousness exalts a nation but sin reproaches it.

4) The outcome of prayer

Prayer changes the atmosphere of the nation and influences the heart of the people (1 Timothy 2:2b). As we pray, we give God the legal right to come and bless us because He loves us. The effective prayer of a righteous prevails much because it is not the quantity of the altars but the quality of it. God will build His church.

5) The heart of God

Prayer conveys the heart of God (1 Tim 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9, Ezekiel 18: 23,32, Ezekiel 33:11). There are choices and consequences. What we sow, we will reap. As such, we should press on in prayer especially when we are struggling if we know that what we are praying for is the heart and will of God.

CONCLUSION

Jesus is coming back and we, God's people, are called to continuously bless our nation (Revelation 19:11, 13, Revelation 19:14-15, Proverbs 11:11). We are living in the promised land and we should bless the government and our people. Whenever we pray, let us have Singapore on our minds as God is the God of Singapore.

QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of blessings have you received living in Singapore so far? Share a few that you are particularly appreciative of and why.

2. Scripture encourages us to pray without ceasing and it is important for us to continuously build prayer altars unto the Lord. What are some obstacles to our prayer life and how can we overcome them?

3. In a world of increasing lawlessness, Singapore is not spared. Consider some prayer items that you can pray for Singapore? (E.g. for schools, charities, authorities, places of employment) Be specific about the areas that you have a burden for.