



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Good to Great!	SPEAKER	Rev. Dr. Philip Huan
THEME	Psalms 18:19, 24-35	DATE	21 & 22 October 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 18:19 “He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.” The “spacious place” is a wide expanse of space that is open and free, something that the Lord wants to give to us as He delights in us. It is a place of experiencing the Lord, a place of emotional rest and a place where God will rescue us from danger (Psalm 31:8).

God brought David to the “spacious place” while he was facing tremendous challenges (Psalm 18:4). God ministered to grow David from good to great. God has placed greatness in all of us. It is not until we have lived out all that God has intended for us and have been stretched out to be all that God has purposed for us that we are at our best. What defines your life - through the lenses of the world, your eyes or the eyes of God? The Creator God, who has made and knows us, ministers to us in the “spacious place”, so that we can see through the eyes of God.

HOW DOES GOD MINISTER TO US IN THE “SPACIOUS PLACE”?

- 1. God teaches righteousness - He calls us to re-align our actions to God’s desired values for us. (Psalm 18:24a)**

Righteousness refers to integrity of the heart, where our actions and the instructions of God are aligned. David was not sinless. However, David set his heart to what God had called him to do and God moulded him from good to great. In the “spacious place”, God will refresh and strengthen us by reshaping our hearts and bringing peace as we align with His values to walk rightly before Him.

- 2. God cleanses our hands - He helps us sift through our motives. (Psalm 18:24b)**

Cleanness refers to purity & singleness. Due to the stressors around us, our hearts have mixed motives. In the “spacious place”, God tests the motives of our hearts and distils it to increase the purity of his motives in our lives - why do we do what we do for God?

3. God calls out character in us - He renews sincere and heartfelt reciprocation to God's goodness and character as we seek His will. (Psalm 18:25-26)

As we grow to discern God's will, God wrestles with us to have a deeper understanding of Him, building our character as we follow Him. When we seek to find compromises and "minimum-levels" of following God, it leads to doubts and lack of clarity regarding God's will. God is faithful and His plans for us are blameless and pure. God desires us to respond and reciprocate with faithfulness, blamelessness and purity as we seek His will. The ability to grow and sustain in faithfulness, blamelessness and purity and persevere in God's will to the end builds character in us. Seek God with a sincere and responsive heart with an obedience to trust God and He will refresh our hearts.

4. God teaches humility - He reminds us to be humble servants to His purposes rather than be prideful. (Psalm 18:27)

We are reminded to be humble. Instead of seeking personal desires, we may ask "what can we do to serve God's purposes?" As we humble our hearts and live in humility as a servant of God to serve God's purposes, we stop fighting with our own strength for our own purposes. He will fight for us.

CONCLUSION

When we fully engage in God's "spacious place", God keeps our passion alive (Psalm 18:28). He helps us stretch beyond our present abilities and comfort zones (Psalm 18:29), and gives assurance that despite difficulties and mistakes, He preserves and fulfils His ordained purposes in us. (Psalm 18:30-33).

God brings us to a "spacious place" when we repeatedly give time and heart-space to come to God, bring our struggles to Him, hear from Him, let Him shape our hearts and recommit to follow Him.

His word and the ways of the Lord are perfect. There is greatness in all of us to fulfil His purpose for us and He will grow us from good to great in that "spacious place" (Psalm 18:34-35). Persevere in the Lord!

QUESTIONS

1. Is there a moment in your life when you felt like God brought you into a “spacious place”, a place of freedom, rest and abundance? Share your experience.

2. Mixed motives degrade our purity of focus and wear us out. What does it mean to have mixed motives when serving God and why is it important to address this issue in our faith journey?

3. When our actions don't align with our hearts, there will be a drain of passion from our life. Are you in a situation today, where stressors and anxieties of life have distracted you from or led you to compromise on God's values and purposes? How is God seeking to align all your actions towards his desired values?