



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Celebrating Charity

SPEAKER Elder Lok Vi Meng

THEME Celebration Series

DATE 2 & 3 August 2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Elder Lok kicked off this message by reminding us of Jesus' clear command to His disciples - to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is near, and to act with bold compassion: healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, and driving out demons. He challenged us to see that this same call remains for us today: to reach out to the lonely, the rejected, and those living with "modern leprosy".

Elder Lok urged us to live faithfully, trusting God's generous character, and to combine faith, hope, and love so that our compassion becomes real action. Like the women who brought spices to the tomb, we bring what we have, and trust God to move the stone.

PERSPECTIVES FROM SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. Proclaim

Jesus gives us a clear command: *"As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."* (Matthew 10:7-8)

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He told them not just to *speak* but to *act*: heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Leprosy in Jesus' time meant social exclusion, people who were treated as untouchable. Today, many still live with "modern leprosy", such as loneliness, prejudice, and rejection. We are called to cross barriers, restore dignity, and welcome the outcasts back into community just like Jesus did.

2. Faithfulness

Matthew 25:14-30 reminds us that as believers, we owe a continuing debt of love. This is not just about doing good deeds, but it is a sacrificial love that keeps giving. We see this in real stories: volunteers restoring homes, walking with families buried under clutter, shame, and isolation, bringing hope and dignity where the world sees only shame. The Parable of the Talents warns us that misrepresenting God's generous character by playing it safe or withholding our gifts is unfaithfulness. We must trust that He is not a harsh master but a promise keeper who backs us up.

3. Faith, Hope, Love (1 Cor 13:1-13)

1 Corinthians 13:13 speaks about faith, hope and love. Faith takes risks, hope fuels endurance and love makes us labour for others. Together, they produce compassion, which is the true mark of Christian service. This could be seen in the example of the three women who brought spices to anoint Jesus' body: they did not know how the stone would be rolled away, but they still brought the spices. God moved the stone. God asks us to do the same: bring what we have, and He will move the obstacles.

CONCLUSION

As we look back on those who obeyed God before us — men and women who gave up comfort, stayed focused through distractions, built up the Church, and cared for the poor and the outcast — we're reminded that serving God is not always easy.

Still, for them, it was a calling.

It was a privilege.

And in the end, the legacy they left was simply this: they did what Jesus asked.

Now, it's our turn.

Each of us is called to bring what we have — in faith, in hope, and in love.

What will your legacy be?

QUESTIONS

1. Who are the “modern lepers” around you (the people excluded, lonely, or overlooked)? How can you bring them hope and dignity as Jesus did?

2. In what areas are you tempted to “bury your talents” out of fear or doubt? What would it look like to trust that God is a promise keeper who backs you up?

3. What “spices” is God asking you to bring in faith, trusting Him to “move the stone”? Who can you bless with your time, gifts, or presence right now and how will you do it?