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The JCC English Library is selling off all its books and CDs and there is not even one protest from anyone about the closing down of a

library, which is given such high status in Singapore, as it promotes reading, learning and information literacy by providing a trusted, accessible information service which also encourage appreciation and awareness of history through the collection, preservation and management of public and private archival records, including private memoirs, maps, photographs, oral history interviews and audio-visual materials. In our library this includes photos of many church events and recordings of numerous sermons and also an archive of The Vine.

One can only wonder why there is such a big hoo-hah about the removal of merely 3 children's books when in our case more than 500 books, CDs, and magazines are being removed without even a peep of protest. Is it because JCCians do not hold books in such high regard as people of the world do? Have we grown so immune because every day we throw away yesterday's newspaper and every year we throw away last year's text books?

In the time of William Tyndale, men were willing to die for the Bible and I suppose some still do in countries where the Bible is forbidden. Far be it that JCC would let its books be thrown away. I encourage every member to go to the library sale and buy the books for your own reading and knowledge and even to be given to others to read. There are many people out there who love books, buy it for them, they will surely not throw these books away. These books contain the Truth, the Way and the Life.

Martin Cheah

Leaving a Legacy

Text: Joshua 24:15

A Chinese song goes like this. "In this world, only mothers are good." (世上只有妈妈好。) I cannot deny this. I thank God for my own mother, and I thank God for the mother of my children. Without them, our families will turn out differently. For today, I like to honour the fathers. They too play an important role in our families. This role is ordained by God. While it has its responsibilities, fatherhood also brings with it a lot of joy and makes our lives more complete.

There are 3 things I would like to do today. First, I want to **exhort** the fathers, as a fellow father myself, to leave a legacy for our children and all who come after us. Secondly, I want to **encourage** of us – fathers – since we know that this is a huge responsibility and how often we feel inadequate for the tasks. Thirdly, I would like to **entrust** all of us to our almighty and loving God and Heavenly Father to empower us to fulfil our parenting roles.

What legacy do we want to leave behind?

The dictionary defines "legacy" as a situation that exists now because of events and actions that took place in the past. Some of the legacies left by my father are his simple lifestyle, his hardworking attitude, his pride in his work as a carpenter, his provision for our needs (not wants), his love for my mother and family, the tradition of eating together as a family, and filial piety. He did not leave a lot of money for his children, but we have fond memories of him.

At the end of Joshua's life, he said these well-known words in **Josh 24:15**, "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now are living. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

In the context of Joshua 24, he was recounting the history of Israel, from Abraham to how God led the people of Israel to the Promised Land where they are now occupying. Then Joshua instructed them to fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness and throw away the other gods. The people of Israel had a choice – they could worship these foreign gods or they could choose to worship the true God who delivered them from Egypt and who had fought for them against the enemies so that they could occupy the Promised Land.

As far as Joshua was concerned, he chose to serve and worship God. In the light of what God had done for the people of Israel, to serve the Lord was the most logical and reasonable thing to do. They had experienced and seen God's power, glory, majesty, care, provision, leading, awesomeness and judgment against sin and disobedience. They had no doubt that their God is the true and living God. Therefore, Joshua chose to serve the Lord.

Dear fathers, what will be our decision? Will we choose to serve God? What will be the legacy we will leave behind for our children and for those who come after us?

Like Joshua, **we need to be intentional and make choices** to live a life worthy of the calling of God. This kind of life and the godly legacy we want to leave behind do not happen by chance. It is the result of the many choices we make in our daily lives, day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year, until we breathe our last breath on earth. God gave to Joshua a promise in Josh 1:8, that if he meditates on his word day and night and do all that is written in it, he will have success. God and His Word need to fill our lives, every part of it.

You noticed that Joshua also made the commitment to serve the Lord on behalf of his household – *As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.* He took on the responsibility to lead his family towards the goal of serving the Lord. As fathers, we have the responsibility to lead our families as the head of the home. We need to instruct our children in the ways of the Lord. We need to set an example for them and to teach them biblical values.

Our children will observe our values – what is important to us; our character, our behaviours; our walk with God, or not walking with God; how we serve or do not serve in the church or participate in Christian fellowship; what priority we place in worship; whether we study the bible; how we treat our wives; how we treat our children; how we treat our parents and siblings; how we spend our time; how we respond to difficulties and suffering; how we manage our work and our attitude towards work. Basically, how we live a life that is worthy of the calling of God.

We can't hide from our family members. Our lives are an open book to them. Our actions will speak louder than words.

When our strength is gone, when our time on earth draws to a close, at that time our money, our possessions, our status, will no longer matter. What really matters is the people around us, and our God and Creator whom we will be meeting. **Let us be remembered as loving husbands, and as loving fathers.** Our wives and children are the people closest to us. We do our best to love them in word and deeds. Let us give them our time, our attention – these are things that money cannot replace.

One of the heartaches that fathers and mothers face is that our children are not walking with God. How we hope to say with the Apostle John, that there is no greater joy than to know that our children walk in the truth. Sometimes this is not the case. We cannot control the outcome of their lives. They are accountable to God for the way they live their lives. But we should not give up praying for them, loving them, teaching them, and continue living a life of faithfulness to God, setting an example for them. After doing all this, we trust that they will remember how we live our lives in serving the Lord with all faithfulness, some good family traditions and values, and our love for the family.

Let me encourage the fathers to depend on the grace of God, in this journey of parenting

Joshua knew how easily the people of Israel would forsake God and worship other gods. In fact, he told them that they will disobey God even though the people insisted that they would remain faithful to God. So Joshua set up a memorial as a testimony of their promise. The people did remain faithful to God during the lifetime of Joshua and the elders. But their descendants turned away from God.

One of the members of the Parents' Prayer Group says that to be a father is a tough job. But we willingly take on this role. **We learn along the way;** every stage of our marriage life and parenting life is a new experience. For some of us fathers, we may feel a big generation gap between us and our children. I grew up at a time when the telephone and black-and-white TV came to Singapore. I never heard about the computer. Now the children are in the Gen X, or Y, or Z or A. Their outlook is so different from mine. Theirs is the internet generation. There is much that we fathers have to learn and adjust.

There are also so many things in this world that can draw us away from God. Many of these things are subtle. Satan does not appear to us with horns on his head and holding a fork in his hand. He comes to us,

masquerade as an angel of light. He makes sins attractive. He does not speak to us like a roaring lion, but he definitely wants to devour us like one. Many of us will probably not deny Jesus Christ outright. But we do not mind living a lukewarm Christian life, not realizing that God will spew us out of his mouth.

Dear fathers, I am sure we all feel inadequate for this role in this fast changing world that is full of temptations. We are weak. We sin. We are often tired and stressed from our work. We lose our tempers towards our wives and children. And it is humbling to admit our faults and say sorry to our wives and children.

When God called Joshua to take on the leadership role after the death of Moses, He promised Joshua that he will be with him. He will not forsake Joshua. So Joshua should be courageous. God is all that Joshua needs. When he has God, he has everything he needed. Similarly, God is with us in our parenting journey. Let us be courageous and press on.

We can depend on the grace of God. Heb 4: 16 says, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Jesus Christ is our great high priest. Through his humanity, he is able to understand our weaknesses. We can come to him to receive mercy and forgiveness when we fail and sin.

Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of God, interceding for us and our families. We can come to him for help, for strength and wisdom. As a father, we are not in control of many things. For instance, we do not know what our children do when they are out with their friends and when they are in private. But we know that God knows. So, we can pray and commit them to the protection and care of God.

Another encouragement we can draw from Jesus is the new covenant which he has put into effect, Heb 8:10-12. God will do a few things:

- Put the law in our mind and write them on our hearts. The law is no more something external. It will be in us, in our minds and hearts.
- He will be our God and we will be his people. We belong to God. He will and has committed to take care of us. We can have an intimate relationship with God.
- We will all know him. We can now have the ability not only to learn God’s instructions but also to obey them.

- He will forgive our sins and remember them no more.

What great blessings we now enjoy in the new covenant established by Jesus Christ! We may not see the complete fulfillment of these promises yet in our lives and in our family members. We have struggles and see our children struggling with their walk with God. They lack the desire for the things of God. Some are not attending church. We have encouraged them but they are still the same.

Dear fathers. Take heart. Jesus will put his laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. God is still their God and our children are his people. Our children will know him one day and God will forgive their sins and remember them no more. Let us claim these promises for ourselves and our families! Let us allow these promises to be fulfilled in us!

Let me now address the mothers

Dear mothers. You are your husband's *life* partner. You are his better half. I encourage you to support your husband, pray for him, love and respect him. Together with him, teach your children and set them a godly example to follow. Pray together with your husband.

For those mothers whose husband is not with you, or have not come to know the Lord yet. You can be a godly mother to your children. Lean on the everlasting arms of your Heavenly Father. He will guide you and strengthen you. He will uphold you with his victorious right hand. Pray for your children. Join with other ladies or families to encourage each other.

Let me address the children

Dear children. I want to tell you that your parents love you a lot. They are not perfect parents. They make mistakes. But they have your interests at heart. Listen to them. Honour them. Pray for them and encourage them – they too need encouragement in dealing with work issues, family issues, finances, health, growing old, including teaching and disciplining you. Do not take them for granted. Your words of appreciation will give them strength and joy.



Chang Wong Mui

Heroes and Zeroes

Sewol vs. Nicoll Highway



The Korean ferry (Sewol) disaster is still painfully fresh in the minds of the victims' families, and the cowardice of the crew in abandoning ship and leaving hundreds of trapped school students to drown with the sinking ferry has wreaked much anger. Particularly morally obnoxious in the eyes of critics was the ship captain

who was caught on video and reportedly attempting his escape incognito in his underwear.



In the face of a disaster with many casualties, here in Singapore was a completely contrasting story of heroism 10 years ago. Before the Nicoll Highway collapsed during MRT construction work, Mr Heng Yeow Pheow was just another foreman. He happened not to be in the tunnel when it was about to collapse and if not for his selfless spirit to care for his

workers who were at the spot of imminent fatal danger, he could have simply stayed put where he was. Instead, he spared no thought for himself. He rushed to the tunnel to evacuate eight men who were there. His priority was the safety of his men. As a result, the public got to read the eyewitnesses' account of his great heroism. Unlike the Korean ferry captain, Heng Yeow Pheow is remembered as a hero par excellence who singlehandedly saved all the eight workers in the tunnel while he himself had no time to escape. Now, a bench in Tampines Tree Park has been dedicated to him.

Heroes and zeroes abound in war stories. We have heard of Lim Bo Seng who, despite torture, refused to cooperate with the Japanese in the 2nd World War. (Contrast this with people of lesser morals or valour, such as someone like Lai Teck, Secretary General of the Communist Party of Malaya, who was ignominiously recorded in history as a traitor of traitors, a secret agent extraordinaire for the Japanese.) No less a great hero was Lta Adnan Bin Saidi, a Malayan soldier who heroically made his last stand against the Japanese invaders at Bukit Chandu. Celebrated heroes or unsung heroes, big heroes or small heroes, heroes are heroes – a special group of people who think for others above themselves. In glaring contrast, like the colours black against white, are the zeroes like the Korea ferry captain in the minds of his critics, and individuals who turn their backs on their friends, community or country when the trials get tough whereby they quit thinking about the well-being of others – SELF-INTEREST comes first!

Looking at ourselves

If we were in the shoes of the Sewol captain or the foreman Mr Heng, would we have done differently? I don't think anyone can give a plain answer without qualifications. I do not know anyone in JCC (myself included) who can claim status as a potential huge hero or an absolute zero when we are between two fires facing the dilemma of making a choice of putting self first or others first. Most likely we lie somewhere in between hero and zero. None of us would know in advance. Heroes are usually just ordinary people and they do not set out with a preconceived intent to be heroes. It is the call of a moment, the decision in an instant, that the resolve to act with self-sacrifice springs up from the soul to fill them with a passion that pushes them to step up to the plate.



The stories of heroes are always inspirational in a broad-spectrum way. They make us think through our mundane cares and concerns to reach for higher goals of courage in facing the gauntlets thrown at us as in life.

John Piper (author of “*Don’t Waste Your Life*”) said: “All heroes are shadows of Christ.”

True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.

Arthur Ashe

As Christians, what example has Christ set for us?

As Christians, what does loving others as we love ourselves mean in real life when we meet circumstances that choices have to be made between serving the well-being of others and self-preservation?

We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it is not as dreadful as it appeared, discovering we have the strength to stare it down.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Easy to say, hard to do? I agree. But there is no harm giving it a try – even if it is in small steps.

The Bible advises: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom. 12:2)

If we have the winning attitude, inspired by the big heroes, we may at least be a small hero someday to our neighbour facing the vicissitudes of life.

John Lee



Discipleship & Disciple-making

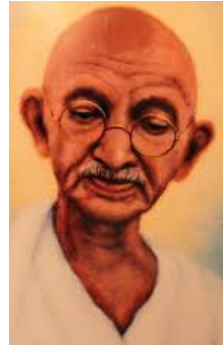
Journey of Discipleship

At the recent JCC Family Retreat in Desaru, “The Impact of 21st Century Christ-like Disciples” was one of the topics that the speaker, Rev. Keith Lai, shared. He mentioned that Mahatma Gandhi was once asked this question:

“If you admire Christ so much, why don’t you become a Christian?”

Gandhi answered:

“When I meet a Christian who is a follower of Christ, I may consider it.”



Ouch! That answer must have felt like a sharp needle-prick on the ego of Christians who hold themselves to high esteem as disciples of Christ.

Another famous quote attributed to Gandhi is this: “I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike Christ.”

Ouch, again!

Self-reflection and reproof can be like drinking coffee. A suitable amount of it is good for its waking effects –spiritually and mentally. However, an improper excess may lead us to the ills of spiritual downheartedness or insomnia. Is anyone perfect? **Can anyone of us drink the cup that Jesus drank?**

The Journey

As Rev. Keith advised, discipleship is a journey passing through stages: Jesus gives us a clue on disciple-making. It begins with translating an earnest duty into a delight to extend an invitation to “come and see” (John 1:39). It is not just to see a place, but to perceive the love. After that, the “visitors” can hear the Father’s voice. It is not an experience associated with a consciousness of a heavy-set duty with an attendant spirit of nervousness. After the “come and

- **Duty to Delight** (Solitude) – Come & See the Father’s Love. Come & hear the Father’s Voice (Information to Communion)
- **Solitude to Community** - Come & Follow Me
- **Community to Ministry** – Paradigm shifts from ...
 - Building Walls to Building Bridges
 - Measuring Attendance to Measuring Impact
 - Encouraging Saints to attend the Service to Equipping the Saints for Works of Service
 - “Serve us” to Service – from Inward to Outward

see”, the welcome is extended to one and more by the invitation to “come and follow me.” (John 1:43) From an idea of solitude with the host (away from other busyness), the disciples-to-be are eased into a community. Then, the community grows in spiritual readiness to receive the commission to “feed my sheep”. (John 21:17) Community develops into ministry over time.

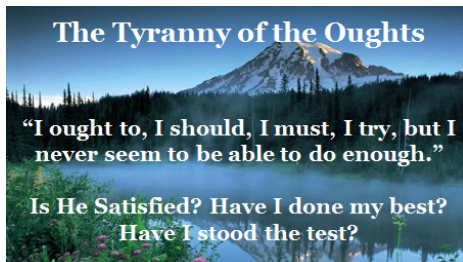
Discipleship-making is not setting an expectation for instant result. When we push a life under a weight of pressure and guilt, we would be setting up walls. Do we often find ourselves setting up walls for others or for ourselves in attempting the Mount Everest of discipleship or disciple-making? Do we unconsciously push others off the cliff halfway up the Mount or drive ourselves to give up our climb three-quarters of the way up because of unrealistic personal expectations or setting goals that are too high or speeds that are too fast?

If discipleship is a journey, then there is no perfect church at any point along the journey. There is a joke that if you find a perfect church, avoid it because if you join, it will not be perfect anymore. Mahatma Gandhi did well in poking at Christians and thereby keeping them awake to their spiritual condition. However, he was much more wrong in deriding Christians for being “so unlike Christ”. In other words, he expected Christians to be “so like Christ” (perfectly) which is a feat that is impossible to attain in the midst of an ongoing journey. Was he setting a standard beyond realism whereby he also contributed to his loss of opportunity to make a start to taste the Christian faith?

Perhaps there could be another explanation why Gandhi did not get the opportunity of a start to taste the Christian faith, to “come and see the Father’s love”. Rev. Keith shared that on one occasion when Gandhi visited one of the Christian churches in India, he was turned away at the door by the ushers who told him that the particular church was for “high caste” Indians and “whites” only. So the responsibility for the loss of a precious opportunity could be laid at the feet of Christians who were “so unlike Christ”.

Truth about God

Recognising our responsibility as Christians can provide the impetus for us to progress. However, the Father’s love is not



predicated on our holiness score at any particular point of our journey. Rev. Keith shared about “The Tyranny of the Oughts”, which are dreadful impositions on self or others that Christians often adopt, resulting in guilt and walls obstructing our relationship with God. He urged us to abandon any distorted images of God. He used the story of the Prodigal Son and his elder brother to bring out the following lessons:

- Running away from the Father’s love is a life-long tendency of the heart.
- The younger son was restless and relationally distant, emotionally numb and distant. He quit believing, and gave up all that he once knew and cherished.
- The elder son continued dutifully, but suppressed deep unhappiness and anger.
- Both sons hit the wall – alienated from their Father and never experienced the love of the Father.
- Why hadn’t the truth of the Father’s love touched their hearts? They lived with distorted pictures and images of their Father.

Philip Yancey (“Soul Survivor”) said, “Although I heard that God is love, the image I got from sermons more resembled an angry, vengeful tyrant.”

A.W. Tozer said, “Satan’s first attack on the human race was his sly effort to destroy Eve’s confidence in the kindness and goodness of God. Nothing



twists and deforms the soul more than a low and unworthy conception of God.”

William Temple said, “If your conception of God is radically false, then the more devout you are, the worse it will be for you. You are opening your soul to be molded by something else. You had better be an atheist.

It is clear that we have to discard our distorted images of God. So how is the Father like? The Bible tells us:

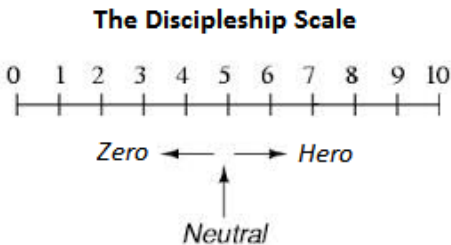
“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. (Eph. 2:4-5 NRSV)

On the right track of discipleship and disciple-making

Being a disciple is not simply preaching about abiding by God’s Word, but also about acting out the teachings of God. And acting out the teachings of God is not just about rendering service to God and testimony of Christ-likeness under ordinary circumstances. There are extraordinary circumstances of crisis when the true nature of a person is revealed, and masks removed. A true disciple is not one who cowers in cowardice and is too ready to sacrifice the lives of others for personal selfish considerations. Rather, he/she is someone who is always ready to know what is right for him to do when his/her own life is laid on the line, when his inner conviction of necessity for self-sacrifice for the sake of others shines forth. We have the example of Apostle Paul (2 Tim 1) to emulate.

Will we be heroes or zeroes on our discipleship journey?

What inspiration do we draw from the outstanding OT heroes as mentioned in the book of Hebrews or the heroes of faith among our church fathers? Even if we do not have faith enough to emulate them, we can at least have a humble start by contemplating at a more modest level the little acts we can do in abidance by the message of Rom. 15:1-2, for the strong (in faith or abilities) to bear with the failings of the weak with consideration for others before self.



If we are ready to help one another move a step closer to the right of the scale (from an awful **0** to a perfect **10** superhero), then we are on the right track of DISCIPLESHIP and DISCIPLE-MAKING, even if the journey ahead is still a long one.

John Lee

For this year's BB Cares Project, we brought the residents of Bo Tien Home for an outing to the Labrador Nature Reserve. Twenty-one residents and five nurses from the Home went for the outing.

When we reached the Nature Reserve, we brought the residents to the nearby shelter to play simple icebreaker games, involving tying and undoing a simple knot, and throwing balls. The residents had a fun time



playing the games. I am happy that we could help the residents enjoy themselves in an outdoor setting.



After the games, we took the residents for a stroll along the boardwalk to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery. The residents had their



dinner of chicken rice in the shelter. Those who were on a soft diet ate spaghetti. After their dinner, we went for a short walk along the coast. There was a beautiful sunset. We also saw the National Day Parade rehearsal fly-past with the large Singapore Flag.

When we returned to Bo Tien Home, we helped the residents to their rooms. After taking our dinner there, we dismissed and went home.

It was a fun day and an eye-opener for all of us. While I felt sad to see the residents living by themselves without their families, I was encouraged by their



positive attitudes. I realized that we should not take our youth and energy for granted. We must also learn responsibility and take care of our parents and elders when they grow old.

Loh Yee Kai



Money, Money



Yoo Byung Eun was born on 11th February 1941 and died in 2014 after living for 73 years. What was his claim to fame? He founded the Evangelical Baptist Church of Korea in 1962 and also ventured into business and became a very rich man. Unfortunately, his name will live in infamy as the owner of the Korean ferry Sewol, which sank killing 250 school children.

At the end of his life he died while on the run from the authorities with a ₩500 million bounty on his head. It was reported that his decomposed body was found surrounded by bags of money.

You may be right to assume that money was his idol. Though he founded a church, which some claim is a cult, he probably used it as a means to raise funds for his business ventures. There are many allegations about his business dealings and also about the safety operation of the ferry company.

The lesson here is not to learn about the history of a man but to understand: *"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"* Matthew 16:26

In Yoo's case, though he had millions and probably even had talent and fame, yet in the end, he only had it for 73 years. This length of years cannot even begin to be compared with eternity. I know many people, some are close friends who prefer to have money rather than health. They figure you could live without health but you cannot live without money. Someone once said, "You spend all your health to earn money and then spend all your money to buy back your health."

We may think it is foolishness but many do not think so. Money has become their Idol. They have more trust in the money in their bank than in God who created all things. There is an advertisement which asks, what if the bank goes bankrupt? The listener is then told that the bank is insured. Can the banks really stand to the end of time? I am not trying to shake your confidence in banks but to point you back to God, who should be your solid rock. *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust.....*Psalm 18:1

I can imagine this scenario where Yoo tries to run into hiding and he brings along the thing he loved most with him, not his wife or children, but bags of money. He figures that wherever he goes, money will be able to help him get out of all troubles and hardships. Don't we all secretly think that?

He flees to a deserted place where there is no one around to report him to the authorities to claim the reward. There he finds himself all alone with his money to keep him company. But what is money? It is a medium of exchange. You cannot eat it; it does not keep you warm, except maybe if you burn it to generate heat; it does not provide shelter and love. Here some people may disagree with me. They think money can buy love.

Finally, Yoo may have realized that money is useless unless you can spend it. In and of itself, it is just printed paper which loses value over time due to inflation. Have you not heard from your financial adviser that you are losing money by having it in the bank because the rate of inflation is rising faster than the interest you receive.

Alone in his hideout, Yoo passed away, surrounded by bags of money which will never mourn for you. What good was it for Yoo to gain the whole world?

Don't get me wrong, I am not against money. Without it, how can I have the equipment to type out this story. I only caution against the collection of money as the ultimate purpose of life. John D. Rockefeller, at one point the world's richest man and first ever American billionaire, when a reporter asked him, "How much money is enough?", he responded, "Just a little bit more."

Money is a necessity to live but apparently it can't buy happiness, that's for you to decide. And as the old saying goes, "Money can buy you a house but it can't buy you a home."

The Bible says, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" Matthew 6:21. Is your heart with NJCC?

Martin Cheah

HOW TO KNOW IF MONEY IS YOUR IDOL?

“Of course I love money – who cares!” The old Gordon Gecko “Greed is Good” mentality right?

The second group will sorrowfully admit that they know they love money way too much, but they’re striving to let go of the earthly treasure and view Christ as a greater one!

The third group will say outwardly, “Of course not! I do NOT love money – how dare you.” But deep down in their heart they crave the latest and greatest, they strive for the next promotion as if it will solve their problems and functionally they view money as their savior!

The fourth group, if they exist, have it all figured out – they are living fully and completely for God and really don’t care about money at all. But, I doubt there are many of us in this last group.

Want to tell if money has become your idol? Take a look at your spending habits. You will effortlessly spend money on your idol.

If God is your heart’s greatest treasure, you will radically give generous amounts of money to ministries, church and to those in need rather than hoarding it for yourself.

Anger, bitterness, fear, doubt, despair, guilt – are just a few emotions that we can rattle off here. Emotions aren’t wrong – they are good – in fact they help us express what we are feeling.

Have you ever thought about the emotions you have surrounding your money? Our most uncontrollable emotions reveal what kind of idols we have. If you’re angry, ask yourself, “Is there something here too important to me that I must have at all costs?”

If you are fearful or despairing, ask yourself, “Am I scared because something I view as so important is being threatened that I think is a necessity when it is not?”

Ask, “Is this thing (promotion, money etc) so important to me that I must have it to feel fulfilled?”



Timothy Keller says, "When you ask questions like that, when you "pull your emotions up by the roots as it were, you will often find your idols clinging to them."

I've seen how money is an idol in my own heart and I know I need help. Let me leave you with a few closing questions:

1. Has money become your heart's functional trust, preoccupation, loyalty, fear and delight?
2. Do you think having more money will make you happy?
3. Do you think having more money will make you an acceptable person?
4. Do you look to money to define you or make you powerful or successful?



How I became a Christian

I was born and raised in a Hindu family. My friends and I were happy with our religion. I was a Hindu for most of my life until I heard about Christianity and the Way, the Truth and of Almighty God.



I started attending Jurong Christian Church to learn more. Jurong Christian Church is the first church I ever attended. After listening to the pastors' messages, I begin to know the true way of Almighty God.



I began to attend more often and eventually I understood the true God and His love for all of us. I decided to be a Christian and was baptised on 20th July 2014.

Saravanan

Confirmations & Baptisms

Sunday 20th July 2014

Saravanan, Kivan, Ivan, Shermaine and Lucas were baptised while Dylan and Victor were confirmed.

We welcome them into the family of JCC and pray that they will indeed grow to be Christ-like, living out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

May God working through us help them along the right paths.

