



24 JUL 2022 | ELDER LEE EE YANG | ALTAR OF REPENTANCE | 2 SAMUEL 24:18-25

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Desire to encounter God's manifest presence in their lives
2. Understand and rediscover their identity in Christ as God's children
3. Commit to rebuild their altar unto the Lord.

SERMON SUMMARY

Elder Ee Yang shared that insecurity is the biggest threat to our identity and how it affects our ability to trust God. It can lead us to rely on our own strength and to base our identity on things that are temporal. Even King David, a man of great faith, made a mistake of doing a census of Israel ([1 Chronicles 21:1](#)). He had done this without God's leading, unlike Moses in [Exodus 30:12](#). David later repented as seen in [2 Samuel 24:10](#).

3 things we can learn from King David:

- a) Remember God's mercy ([2 Samuel 24:14](#))
- b) King David took responsibility for His sin ([2 Samuel 24:17](#), [Luke 12:22-30](#), [Philippians 4:6](#), [Romans 12:2](#))
- c) David built the altar in repentance – He made atonement with God. Jesus made atonement for us ([John 1:29](#), [Hebrews 4:16](#)).

Are we living in insecurity? Let us repent and return to God and to trust in His mercy and restoration.

SERMON RECAP

Elder Ee Yang preached about insecurity and how it has its roots in fear. Insecurity leads us to struggle in trusting God and instead, to rely on ourselves. This leads us to act out of orphanhood instead of sonship.

David conducted a census without God's leading ([1 Chronicles 21:1](#)) and numbered his fighting men despite the concern of Joab. David continued to trust in his own military power in spite of godly counsel and did not trust in God ([Psalm 20:7](#)). David was later conscience-stricken ([2 Samuel 24:10](#)) due to the sin of Israel as they participated in the census and had to pay for their consequences ([Exodus 30:12](#)). A consequence we face as a result of our insecurities is worry and anxiety.



3 things we can learn from David:

- a) Remember God's mercy ([2 Samuel 24:14](#)) – David chose to fall in the hands of the Lord as he understood God's great mercies.
- b) King David took responsibility for his sin ([2 Samuel 24:17](#)). We take responsibility for our worries by remembering how God provides ([Luke 12:22-30](#)) and how we can commit our cares to Him ([Philippians 4:6](#)). We can also take responsibility for our thought life ([Romans 12:2](#)).
- c) David built the altar in repentance. David repented from his insecurity and pride. We need to lay down our pride and ego. David repented with burnt and peace offerings to make atonement. Atonement is At-ONE-WITH, a state of being one with God. Jesus had made atonement for us in the New Testament (Hebrews 14:6 NASBS) and we can come boldly before Him.

Elder Ee Yang encouraged us to confess our sins as sins build a barrier between us and God. We can place our hope in God that He will guide us (Isaiah 30:15).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Insecurity is the biggest threat to our identity and can lead us to have wrong mindsets or actions. What are some principles we can use to help us discern if our thoughts or choices are out of security or insecurity?** [10 min]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and relate question for members to share. Members can choose to share a time where they had made choices out of security or insecurity – what were the lessons they learnt? Members can also share about principles or guidelines they have to guide them (e.g. reading the Word, having the fear of the Lord, seeking godly counsel and wisdom).

Notes: One common practice today is for believers to make decisions based on what "they sensed from the Lord". While we encourage believers to listen and discern the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to them, believers oftentimes fail to distinguish between the voice of the Holy Spirit, the voice of the flesh and the voice of the evil one. A lot of times, decisions are made out of insecurity and attributed to "God told me so...". The remedy for this is to involve others when making a decision – close ones within your cell, your spiritual leaders, etc. These individuals will be able to help you sharpen your hearing of God's voice and warn you if a decision is made out of insecurity. There always is safety in the multitude of counsel ([Proverbs 11:14](#)).

Resource: [3 Guiding Principles in Hearing God's Voice](#) by Ps. Benny Ho

Transition

As we reflect on the guidelines that will keep us secure in God, let us also reflect on how we can continue to trust in God during the tough times.

2. **How do you manage moments of worry and anxiety? What are some bible verses or biblical principles you hold on to?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes

This is a relate and reflect question. Members can share about their experiences and lessons they learnt when managing worry and anxiety. What were the struggles they faced and what did they do? Did they turn to godly counsel and



what were some lessons they learnt? What were the mistakes they made and how were they convicted of it? Were there lessons that reminded them to trust in God?

Leaders can also refer to this website for bible verses to refer to: [Bible Verses for Worry and Anxiety](#).

Transition

Let us also reflect on David's actions of repentance and learn from his example.

- 3. King David repented and was restored in his relationship with God. Why do you think repentance is so difficult for us as believers? How can we as a cell help one another to come to the place of repentance when we "mess up" in life?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes

The reality of our lives is this – we will mess up every now and then. But often times, pride prevents us from acknowledging our shortcomings and to change our ways. This will cause our hearts to become hardened. In order for us to prevent this from happening, we need brothers and sisters alongside us that will spur us on towards repentance when we stray away from God's ways and will. In order for that to happen, we need to acknowledge that we are weak and prone to error. Secondly, we need to acknowledge our need for others as we journey through this earth as Christ's disciples.

Closing

The challenges we face can be daunting and it can lead us to be shaken or affected at times. Therefore, we need to have an open and tender heart, and a strong community support so that the decisions we make are not out of insecurity; and when we mess up, we also need a strong community to pick us up and spur us on towards God's will and God's ways.

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to be reminded of the importance to find security in Christ in the midst of a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous) world.
- To commit our worries and concerns to God and to repent if we have relied on our own strengths.
- That as a spiritual community, we will be open to allow others to come into our lives to correct and spur us on.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God for the decrease in community cases.
- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.



3. World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Pastors Ben & Dinah on Ministry Break.** Ps. Ben and Ps. Dinah will be on a ministry break from 1 Aug – 31 Oct (their 1st sabbatical in 30 years).
2. **Alpha @ RiverLife. 20 Aug – 29 Oct.** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a short video and a discussion at the end where you can ask anything or share your thoughts. Sign up online: rlc.sg/join-alpha.
3. **Marriage Preparation Course. Sundays, 4 Sep – 2 October, 1.45pm-5pm. \$280 per couple.** This course is specially tailored for couples exploring marriage or planning to get married in the next 2 years. This course covers Biblical foundations and practical principles needed to build a God-centered Marriage. Register: rlc.sg/mpc.
4. **RiverLife Missions – Medical Mission Trip to Sarangani, South Philippines. 20-24 October. Cost: \$800.** We are looking for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and healthcare professionals to join us for this trip. Team members will help to dispense medication, take basic vital statistics, interact with families, pray for the sick and share the Gospel. Signup: rlc.sg/signupformissions.
5. **Current Pulpit Series – Rebuilding the Altar.** 2-31 July. This series seeks to lead people to rebuild the altar of God in their lives.
 - 3 July – The Altar of Awakening
 - 17 July – The Altar of Identity
 - 24 July – The Altar of Repentance
 - 31 July – The Altar of Worship
6. **40.Day Prayer 2022.** 40.Day is an annual national prayer initiative by LoveSingapore. The theme for this year's prayer guide is "to live is Christ", a journey through the book of Philippians. The prayer guide is can be accessed one day at a time at this link: <http://www.lovesingapore.org.sg/40day/2022>. Prayer entries will be posted one day at a time starting from Friday, 1 July. Let us join the body of Christ in Singapore in seeking the Lord.
7. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.

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8. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
- *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
9. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
10. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
11. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
12. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
- You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. **Commitment:** Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: rlcares@rcs.org.sg.

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13. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
 14. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 15. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
 16. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
 17. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
 18. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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