

DATE: 12 MAR 2023 | SPEAKER: PS JOACHIM TAN | TOPIC: THE HEART OF ANTIOCH | SCRIPTURE: [ACTS 11:19-30](#), [ACTS 13:1-3](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Understand the Antioch mandate and the significance of the Antioch Church.
2. Go on a mission trip this year.

SERMON SUMMARY

As a church in Singapore, our calling is clear – to be the Antioch of Asia. This message seeks to help RiverLifers contextualise and embrace the Antioch mandate by understanding the significance of the church in Antioch and learning the heart of the Antioch mandate. Let's challenge ourselves to catch the heart of the Antioch mandate by pursuing the heart of God.

SERMON RECAP

Antioch has a special significance for Singapore Christians. It is a rally cry issued by Billy Graham in 1978 for Singapore to be the Antioch of Asia.

What do we know about the Antioch Church and its mandate?

1. About Antioch

- Antioch is a large city. It is prosperous and rich in culture.
- Antioch is extremely popular and extremely busy.
- Antioch is also evil – immoral and sin-filled.
- However, God found the most unlikely and ungodly place to plant the first Gentile church.

2. Significance of Antioch

- The Antioch Church is the beachhead to launch the gospel into the world ([Acts 1:8](#)).
- It is a greenhouse for the new moves of God, for revival and salvations, for the prophetic, and for true genuine love and compassion to grow among the believers.

3. The Heart of Antioch

- a) The heart of Antioch was to reach the needy ([Acts 11:27-29](#))
 - The believers were not only "God chasers", but sacrificial givers.
 - The Antioch Christians were poor and persecuted, but they were generous.
 - [Proverbs 19:17](#)
- b) The heart of Antioch was to reach the lost and the world ([Acts 13:2](#))
 - Antioch became the base where the gospel is to be preached to the ends of the earth.
 - The believers at Antioch caught the heart and pulse of Antioch as they caught hold of God's heart.

4. Arise, Antioch

- The Antioch Church was prepared, ready to obey and willing ([Acts 13:2-3](#)).
- Ps Joachim urges us to arise from our slumber and do great things for God.
- Things in the spiritual realm are shifting, and we need the Antioch of today to be ready.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the heart of the Antioch Church?

Leader's Notes

This is a recap question to reflect on what Ps Joachim shared about the heart of the Antioch Church.

- The heart of the Antioch church was to reach the needy**
The Antioch believers were not only “God chasers” but were sacrificial givers as well.
- The heart of the Antioch church was to reach the lost and the world ([Acts 13:2](#))**
Antioch became the base for the gospel to be preached to the Gentiles. The believers at Antioch caught the call and pulse of Antioch as they caught hold of the heart of God.

Transition

Our God-given role is to be the Antioch of Asia. Let’s embrace the heart of the Antioch mandate and fulfil our calling.

2. The Antioch Church is a greenhouse for genuine love and compassion to grow among believers. How do you grow your love and compassion for others?

Leader's Notes

Firstly, to grow our love and compassion for others is to know that God loves us very much. The best thing is that His love does not end. It continues to fill us up till it overflows. So, we have plenty of love – not our own love, but God’s love – to give to others.

Secondly, growing our love and compassion for others requires action. The more you love others the more love grows. Here are 5 simple ways to show God’s love to others (taken from <https://www.askaboutmyfaith.com/show-gods-love-to-others/>):

- Show God’s love by listening.
- Show God’s love with generosity.
- Show God’s love by encouraging.
- Show God’s love with acts of kindness.
- Show God’s love by praying for others.

Think of more ways to show God’s love to others and you’ll find that your love and compassion will increase.

Transition

To fulfil our calling to be the Antioch of Asia requires us to love and have compassion for others.

- 3. Let's rediscover missions together by embarking on a mission trip this year either with your cell group, your family or even yourself.**

Leader's Notes

Let's challenge ourselves to catch the heart of the Antioch mandate. That requires action. Sign up for mission trips with RiverLife this year.

Discuss with your cell group which mission trip you would like to go for, either as a cell, with your family or yourself. Even if you can't make it for a mission trip, then sign up for an initiative to support a student/pastor or donate generously to Missions.

RiverLife Missions microsite: <http://rlc.sg/missions>

Closing

Be ready to obey when God calls.

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

- Pray for us to have the passion to pursue God's heart.
- Pray for us to have the obedience and courage to go wherever and whenever God calls.

2. World

- Pray for those affected by the aftermath of the Turkey-Syria earthquake.
- Pray for those affected by the aftermath of the Cyclone Gabrielle in New Zealand.
- Pray for 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.
- Pray for peace especially in the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.

3. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- 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. A River Flowing Outwards: Our Community & The Nations.** As a continuation of our Vision Series, we will spend the next five weekends exploring how God can bring about Kingdom transformation in our city and the world through each of us living out our call as change agents. Join us on this journey to expand our hearts for people who matter to God and be available to serve as He leads.
 - 5 & 12 Mar: Missions Emphasis
 - 19 & 26 Mar, 2 Apr: Community Emphasis
- 2. Learning To Love SuperLife Camp 2023 (P1-P6 Children). Thu-Fri, 8 & 9 Jun: 8.30am to 6pm Sat, 10 Jun: 9.30am to 5pm.** *Learning to Love 2023* is an onsite day camp jointly organised by RiverLife Church and Sterling Campus for children in Primary 1 to 6. Through hands-on activities, interactive sessions and Bible-based teaching, participants will learn about God's intended purposes for their studies and see their time in school with fresh eyes!
 - **Parents, you're invited! Sat, 10 Jun, 1.30pm to 5pm.** Parents-only Session by Sterling Campus Find out how you can journey with your child beyond what they've learnt at camp and how they can continue integrating faith in your home.
 - 1.30pm to 3pm: Parents-only Session by Sterling Campus
 - 3pm to 5pm: Family Celebration + High Tea
 - **Camp Fees:** \$70 per child (Early Bird Rate until 26 Mar), \$80 per child (27 Mar to 9 Apr), add \$10/pax for each additional parent and sibling coming for the High Tea.
 - **Registration:** rlc.sg/slcamp2023.
 - **Helpers.** We're also looking for RiverLifers who would like to serve at this camp as adult helpers. Sign up to serve here: rlc.sg/slcamp2023serve
- 3. Israel Messianic Encounter. 20 Nov – 1 Dec.** Cost: \$4,950 (30 pax trip), \$4,850 (40 pax trip). More details to follow.
- 4. Maranatha – Live Album Recording with Josh Yeoh & Friends @ RiverLife Church.** Sun, 23 Apr, 7pm (Doors Open at 6:15pm). Free Admission with Registration. Josh Yeoh and friends are gathering the Body of Christ from the nations for a night of worship and prayer to record 10 original songs at RiverLife Church. Registration Link: maranathalive.eventbrite.com.
- 5. Workshop: Hearing God's Voice by Rev Pat Owyang.** This workshop seeks to activate the prophetic experience of hearing God's voice in your life, training you to discern His voice and to speak forth what you hear for the benefit of others (1 Corinthians 14:3). Over four sessions, you will be introduced to multi-sensory experiences of interacting with God's voice. As you engage with the activation exercises, you will discover the joy of receiving His words with increasing confidence, clarity and accuracy.

Fri, 17 Mar | 8-10pm Session 1: Introduction to the Prophetic

Sun, 19 Mar | 11am-1pm Session 2: Look to See (Visual Experience)

Fri, 24 Mar | 8-10pm Session 3: Listen to Hear (Acoustic Experience)

Sun, 26 Mar | 11am-1pm Session 4: Sense to Feel (Perceptive Experience)

All sessions will be held in Worship Centre.

6. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 1*
 - Equipping – “Engaging the Holy Spirit” Workshop: 17 & 19 Mar, 24 & 26 Mar
 - Cells Prayer Night #1: 31 Mar
- *Quarter 2*
 - Easter Evangelistic Services: 8-9 Apr
 - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun
 - Children’s Camp: 8-10 Jun
 - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
 - Cell Revival Nights (Fridays): 2 – 30 Jun
- *Quarter 3*
 - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec
 - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec

7. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- **RLC Prayer Room.** Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- **Wed Night Prayer Meeting.** Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

8. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

9. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC’s mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.

10. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>

11. **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.)

12. **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.

13. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

14. **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.

15. **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.

16. **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.*

17. **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>

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.

19. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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