

DATE: 28 MAY 2023 | SPEAKER: SP BEN KC LEE | TOPIC: A BEAUTIFUL MISSION | SCRIPTURE: [ACTS 1:1-11](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Be reminded of our beautiful mission
2. Consider how we can take steps to witness the resurrected Christ

SERMON SUMMARY

In the book of Luke, it was written that the Old Testament predicted the Messiah, His suffering, and that “repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations” ([Luke 24:47](#)). Jesus reminded the disciples that they had seen the fulfilment of Messianic prophecies ([Luke 24:48](#)) — and implied that the disciples would be involved in fulfilling the biblical prediction about proclamation. They were told to “stay in the city until they had been clothed with power from on high” ([Luke 24:49](#)).

Through [Acts 1:1-11](#), we see the great love of Christ and the purpose He gives to us. In addition, God will empower us for His work through the outpouring of His Spirit. We are taught the message of the Ascension — that Jesus Christ is the Lord of all. Through Acts, we are reminded to keep our assignment of witnessing and to keep the Kingdom as a priority even as we live everyday lives.

Many of us will have differing concerns in witnessing. God knows our struggle and assures us that He has given us everything we need to be His witnesses. Let us trust the Holy Spirit and be a witness for Him.

SERMON RECAP

We are beginning on a new series — The Prevailing Church, centred on the book of Acts.

Brief Introduction

Luke-Acts were written by Luke as a two-part volume. Luke’s gospel focused on Jesus’ work at Galilee, the northern part in Judea and especially in Jerusalem. Jesus was proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God, of God’s spiritual rule over his people.

Acts is the second part of the volume continues about the coming reign of God’s realm — a spiritual rule of peace, presence and justice. God desires for us to encounter Him and to partner Him in flooding the world with His presence. The Book of Acts is the continuing work of Jesus, post Gospel, in the church and through the Holy Spirit. [Acts 1:8](#) is the key verse of the book.

Jesus taught his disciples about the reign of God and told them to wait in Jerusalem for a special gift from God ([Acts 1:4-5](#))

SP Ben went on to share about the following points:

Point #1: His Ascension: Jesus Christ is Lord of all (vv. 9 – 11)

His ascension is the link between Easter and Pentecost, 40 days after Easter. Jesus gave his final instruction on the Mount of Olives. For the disciples, His ascension changed everything as Jesus was no longer with them. What does the ascension have to do with us now? His ascension reminds us that Jesus Christ is Lord of all (vv. 9 – 11). God has raised Jesus to life (Acts 2:32-33, 36). Jesus has ascended and He will return to judge the living and the dead. The message that Jesus will come again gives us hope. The ascension also shows us that Jesus is going ahead of us to build us rooms attached to the Father's House (John 14:2-3). We have a place waiting for us in eternity.

Point #2: Our Assignment: We are His Witnesses (vv. 6 – 8)

We have a beautiful mission given to us – to tell others that God is at work and not to be distracted (Luke 24:16-19). SP Ben exhorted us to prioritise missional lives and to focus on what matters for eternity. In Ephesians 5:18, we are reminded to hunger for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and continually desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Point #3: His Promise: The Holy Spirit Empowers Us (vv. 4-5).

The Holy Spirit will empower us and tell us what to do. We need to obey and follow His leading. Our world needs to hear the Good News. May we be caught up with the wonder of Jesus and to continue engaging with the gospel.

Many of us will have differing concerns in witnessing. God knows our struggle and assures us that He has given us everything we need to be His witnesses. Let us trust the Holy Spirit and be a witness for Him.

Tips to Witness the Resurrected Christ

1. Live Public Christian lives.
 - Follow Jesus in your everyday life. Let your words, actions and character speak for itself; including your mistakes and brokenness.
2. Share Personal Stories.
 - You have personal experiences with Jesus. People are interested to hear them. Share how Jesus is real to you.
3. Invite People to Places Where They Can Hear the Gospel.
 - For example, the Alpha course.
 - Explore the Bible together.
4. Take Small Steps.
 - Begin at home, school and sports.
 - Begin small - share Jesus through your words and actions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **We have been anointed to live out this beautiful mission. On a scale of 0 to 5 (0 being not aligned to the statement or not aware, to 5 being very aligned and fully living this mission), share where you are at and the reason for giving yourself this rating. How can we continue to remind ourselves that God has empowered us to be His messengers as we go about our everyday lives?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to rate themselves on how much they identify with this statement. For some members, it could be about remembering the wonder and power

of the Gospel in their lives and what it means for them personally instead of only seeing it as a task to do. For some members, it could be about remembering that God has anointed them and to remember that He partners with us as He sends us out. The cell can think about how we could remain focused on living out the Gospel in our everyday lives.

Transition

God has appointed us to be His witnesses.

- 2. What are the concerns you face when witnessing, and what do you think God would say in response to your concern? Share with the cell.**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and relate question for members to share about their struggles or concerns about witnessing. Members can also take time to process together if the struggles involve fears, priorities, re-evaluation of our own lives, not knowing what to say etc. Leaders can also invite members to take time to write down their concerns, and to reflect on what God would speak into their circumstances – it could be based on their understanding of God’s character and on the Word of God in how He will empower us for His glory.

Resource: [God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility in Evangelism](#)

Transition

We can find comfort and courage in knowing that God has chosen us as His mouthpiece and partners with us in fulfilling His call.

- 3. When was the last time you shared with someone about Jesus or invited them to church? How eager or excited are you to share this good news to your friends or family?**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question. Do we take on the view that we are on assignment?

- If not, how would taking this view change how we view our everyday lives?
- If yes, how has it been lived out in your lives?

Leaders can also take time to invite the cell to break down what demonstrating the Gospel would look like, and for members to consider one or two individuals that they have or could demonstrate the Gospel to. The group can commit these individuals in prayer to God.

Closing

We are messengers of the Good News! He empowers us with the Holy Spirit and partners with us to proclaim the good work Jesus completed on the Cross.

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

- Thank God for the message of hope we carry through Jesus’ resurrection
- Pray that God will continue to remind us of the beautiful mission He has called us to
- Pray that we will have obedient hearts and singlemindedness to complete the assignment He has tasked and called us to do.

2. World

- Pray for good weather in Singapore during this season as NEA forecast hotter and dryer months ahead.
- Pray for the tense situation along the straits of Taiwan.
- Pray for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.
- Pray for peace in the Gaza strip (Israel) as violence erupts between Israel and Islamic Jihad.

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. **New Sermon Series.** This Pentecost Sunday, join us on a seven-week journey to discover seven distinct traits of the early church that will provide fresh revelation of how God wants to empower us as His river flowing outwards. May the lives of the first disciples inspire us to be the church that continues to advance the Kingdom of God and reveal Christ in our generation!

(Sermon titles subjected to change)

- 28 May : A Beautiful Mission
- 04 Jun : Filled with The Spirit
- 11 Jun : A Loving Community
- 18 Jun : Ministering in Jesus' Name
- 25 Jun : Boldness: Holy Audacity
- 02 Jul : True to God
- 09 Jul : Unstoppable

2. **Alpha Course. 1 July – 16 September.** If you have questions about Christianity that you are seeking answers for, we invite you to join us for Alpha - a series of interactive sessions that explores the basics of the Christian faith.

- For More Information: rlc.sg/alpha
- To Sign Up: rlc.sg/join-alpha

3. **SPYCES - Spiritual Parenting of Young Couples (Online). 2 – 5pm starting on 2 July. Cost: \$10.** SPYCES is a series of 5 online sessions where parents in the same season of life can come together to fellowship and build friendship with one another. You will also learn from the Bible how to journey with your children and your children's children in the days ahead. Registration Link: rlc.sg/spyces (Closing Date: 25 Jun 2023).

4. **RiverLife Kindergarten is SPARK Certified!** RiverLife Kindergarten has obtained SPARK certification for 6 years from the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA). We rejoice with our principal, Oi Leng, and her team! May God continue to use RiverLife Kindergarten for His glory.

5. **Serve with RCS Children's Camp.**

- Tue-Wed, 13-14 Jun 2023 9am to 4pm, RCS Centre 102 Rivervale Walk #01-54 Singapore 540102
- As a camp volunteer, you will:

- Befriend children (aged 7-12) from the community
 - Facilitate small group discussion and activities
 - Affirm child for growth in relationship, participation and good behaviour.
 - Sign up to serve here: tinyurl.com/kiperkidsvol
6. **Bible Equipping Sessions (Book of Acts): The Advance of the Gospel - Relentless and Unstoppable**
- Taught by David Lim (Academic Dean of ACTS Bible College Singapore)
 - **Session 3 Fri, 2 June, 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
 - Part 3: The Church Reaches New Frontiers (Acts 13:1-20:38)
 - **Session 4 | Victory Chapel Sun, 4 Jun | 11 am-3.30 pm | Victory Chapel** *With lunch break in-between*
 - Part 4: The Church Stands under Pressure (Acts 21:1-28:31)
 - Epilogue: Beyond the Book of Acts
7. **Church Calendar Highlights**
- *Quarter 2*
 - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun
 - Children’s Camp: 8-10 Jun
 - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
 - Cell Revival Night (Friday): 30 Jun, 8-10pm @ Worship Centre
 - *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
8. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).** The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.
9. **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.
10. **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
11. **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.

12. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
13. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>
14. **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.)
15. **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.
16. **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)
17. **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.
18. **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.
19. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
20. **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.
21. **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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