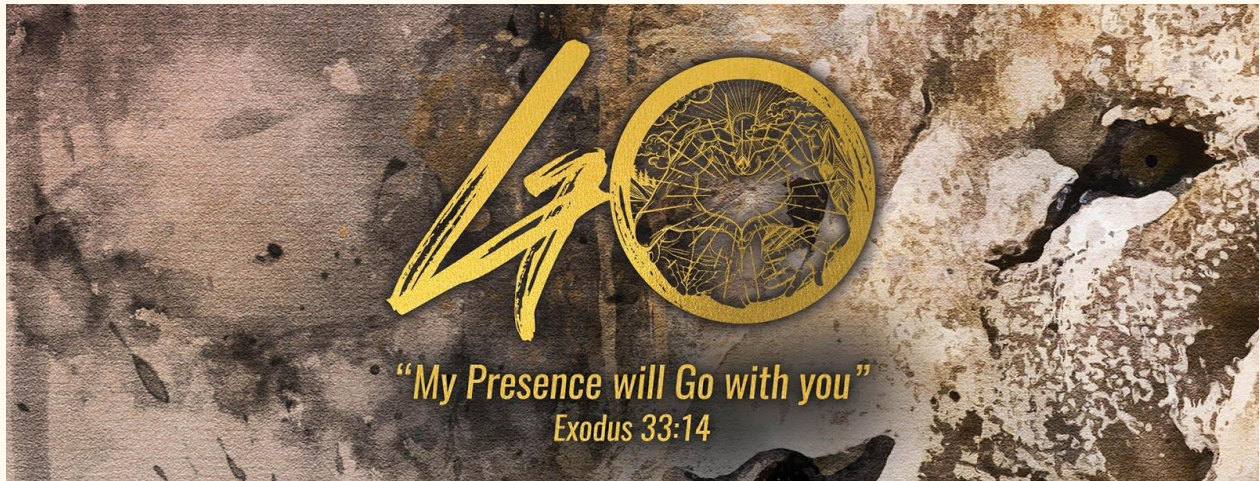

Ignite

“God of rescue and restoration, thank You for Your great and beautiful mission in the world. Here we are Lord, fill us with Your Spirit and send us to the least and the lost. Help us to shift our foundations and change our destiny towards Your purpose. Amen”



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

Your Foundation, Your Destiny

Pr Judith Halim

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

Matthew 7:24-27 (Amplified Bible)

“So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, will be like a wise man [a far-sighted, practical, and sensible man] who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods and torrents came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them, will be like a foolish (stupid) man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods and torrents came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great and complete was its fall.”

Introduction

A background story of the speaker: Pastor Judith Halim was born into a very poor family in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. 26 years ago, she married a Singaporean man and she came to Singapore to give birth. Her baby was born with three holes in her heart, suffered brain damage, and had Down Syndrome. Pr Judith’s ex husband then left them. Judith was left alone in the hospital in Singapore with her daughter, in a foreign land where she knows not of the language and the people, without any money, friends or relatives. Pr Judith wanted to kill herself, taking her daughter with her, but the Lord saved her. After her encounter with the Lord, she decided to start over with her life, taking up an English course and going to work. She started as a security guard and was promoted along the way to the top as a managing director, and she eventually became a business woman. Pr Judith remarried 18 years ago to Pr Jason Ong, who God miraculously healed of brain cancer, of which doctors have said there is no known medication or known cure.

After hearing her story, many people ask Pr Judith about the breakthrough that led her to live a victorious Christian life, and in this message, she shares about what she has been practicing consistently in the past 20 years of her life, which is the key to victorious Christian living.

House on the Rock vs House on the Sand *Matthew 7:24-27, James 1:12, 1 Samuel 15:23*

The difference in the story of the man who built his house on the rock and the man who built his house on the sand is the one who hears the word and acts on it (obedience) and the one who hears the word and did not act upon it (disobedience). Life is full of challenges and problems, and our faith will be tested, whether we like it or not. However, the difference for us would be in the foundation we built our house upon, whether it is on the rock or on the sand. Our faith will be tested, and we must pass the test.

Logical vs Radical Faith and Obedience *James 2:21, James 2:22*

Abraham, known as the father of faith, was said to have been justified by his act of obedience when he offered his son Issac upon the altar. Abraham's act of obedience was an expression of his faith, as a sacrifice to God. Abraham's faith has to be accompanied by his work of obedience. This act of obedience led God to reveal Himself as Jehovah Jireh, which means "The Lord will provide". In Hebrew, the word Jireh (Yireh) means "The Lord hath seen". What did the Lord see? The Lord sees Abraham's radical faith and obedience, and He provided the sacrificial lamb. Abraham's faith influenced Issac, who was led to radical faith and obedience as well.

Just like Abraham, our faith and obedience has to be radical. It cannot be logical. This is Judith's key of seeing victory after victory in her life, when she started to radically obey the Word of God. The word 'radical' means relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something; far-reaching or thorough. This radical faith does not ask, "Why me?" but says, "Be it unto me, according to Your will." There are things we do not understand, and it is ok. We do not have to understand everything, we just have to know and believe that God is sovereign.

Listeners vs Doers of the Word *James 1:22*

Hearing the Word and acting on it means that we are building our house on the rock. When storms of life come, the house stands strong and immovable. However, when we hear the Word and do not act on it, it means that we are building our house on sand. When storms of life come, the house falls in utter destruction.

Rahab and her people from Jericho heard about how the Lord had dried up the water of the Red Sea for His people when they came out of Egypt, and about Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites who were completely destroyed by them. The people of Jericho know that the Lord was fighting for His people, and they melted in fear. However, Rahab was the only one who acted in faith by hiding the spies, and in return, her and her family's lives were spared. Not only was Rahab saved, Jesus' lineage came from her. Everyone heard the same thing, but only one acted upon it.

Conclusion

Many people hear the Word of God, but will they choose to act upon it? When the storms of life come, doers of the Word whose foundation is built on the rock will

stand strong. Mere listeners but not doers of the Word, whose foundation is built on the sand, will fall in times of trouble and difficulties. The difference is in the foundation. If you switch your foundation, you change your destiny. This is the key to living a victorious Christian life.

SERMON REFLECTION

Pastor Jason Ong, Pastor Judith's husband, was first diagnosed with brain cancer back in 2004. The doctors told him that there was no known medication and no known cure, and that he was the only one in Singapore who had this form of brain tumour. It was more aggressive than any form of cancer that the doctor had known. Many people would have just given up, seeing as their time was running out. However, Jason was more concerned about providing food for the starving kids, lest they die of hunger. He decided that as long as he still has breath and strength in him, he will continue feeding the kids and doing what he does.

When the Lord first inspired Pr Judith to start the Olive Vine business, it was really foreign to them. They both did not know how to cook, and they embarked on this journey purely by faith. The purpose of this business is to fund the missions. They were thankful that throughout the 17 years of mission work, they never had to raise funds. Through this small business, they managed to feed many kids, and to help many orphans and widows.

Jason suffered a relapse in 2007. There were a lot of uncertainties surrounding the relapse. Not only do they have to take care of the business front, they had to take care of their daughter, Joel, and the ministry as well. It was very difficult for Judith, for she worried that her daughter would have to lose a father for the second time. She did not know how to cope with it, and feared being left alone again.

Miraculously pulling through till 2012, Jason felt he would die within a year. Left with that very short time, what was important to Jason was the kids in the mission field. He decided to spend his "last birthday" in the Philippines to be with the children there. Knowing that this could be the end of her husband's life, Pr Judith wanted to

do her best in helping him to fulfil the call that God has upon his life, instead of thinking about herself and what was going to happen after he passes on.

By 2013, the tumour grew to the size of 2 eggs, and Jason knew that his time was very limited. He wanted to prepare his wife to be strong and ready for when that time comes. He would always tell her not to blame God if he dies, and not to get angry with Him, for they shall meet in heaven. Not wanting to cause distress, she would hide in places to cry privately. She cried out to God to have compassion on her, for she was not ready to lose her husband, and her daughter was not ready to lose her father.

Not long after, a still, small voice spoke to Jason, saying “I will heal you, because of the tears of your wife”. After a second surgery, Jason was miraculously healed by God. The relapse rate of the cancer is 95%, but Jason accepts the fact that if he has to die, he will do so while praising the Lord. He has decided that nothing changes the fact that God is still God, no matter what happens.

Pr Judith was once broken, but the Lord has restored her. She is now an agent for the Lord Jesus, bringing healing to those who need healing, and restoration to those who are broken. Jason’s radical faith in God made a difference in the lives of the kids in the mission field. Judith’s faith that God hears and answers prayer led to the miraculous healing of her husband. Both their radical faith and obedience impacted the lives of many people.

Indeed, God hears our every prayer. He knows when we struggle to put on a strong, happy face in front of others when our hearts may be in tears. A small tearful cry can move the heart of God.

Let's not give up hope even when the situation around us seems bleak.

Contributed by Anthea Tan & The Ignite Team



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficaciously. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Question (for Welcome that would link to the Word time)

- What food do you enjoy getting delivered to your house during this CMCO?
- Speaking of the current covid situation, what are your thoughts on it? (Let's see how it goes? Let's help others? Do we go out or not?)

Suggested questions linked to each main point:

House on the Rock vs House on the Sand

- When faced with problems and difficulties in life, do you stand strong or do you find yourself crumbling easily? How has the pandemic affected your life?
- Both builders are in the same weather but on a different foundation. We are all in the same pandemic, but what is our foundation?

Logical vs Radical Faith and Obedience

- How has the Lord provided for you in times of difficulties? How has that built your faith?

- Faith is made complete by acts of obedience. Share how your faith leads you to act in obedience. (Because I believe and have faith that ... , and that is why I choose to ...)
- What does having radical faith mean to you? Share how you can grow from simple/logical faith and obedience to radical faith and obedience. How does Jesus Christ, who demonstrated radical obedience through His sacrifice on the cross, encourage and inspire you?

Listeners vs Doers of the Word

- Are you a listener or doer of the Word? What steps can you take to intentionally put what you have learned into practice after every sermon and devotion?
 - What is God saying to you during this pandemic? What can you do to obey Him?
-

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- Share how the radical faith of a family member or friend has influenced you. How can you, likewise, be an influence to others through radical faith and obedience?
 - Do you find it hard to obey God? Do you often put it off and procrastinate? Delayed obedience is disobedience. What are some of the matters or decisions you have been putting on hold which you know you need to act upon?
 - Rahab heard about how the Lord was fighting for His people, and despite the fears of the people around her, she acted upon what she had heard and chose to do what she believed was right. How does that apply to you in your life and in this pandemic?
-



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

Story of the week...

"When DUMC launched IMPACT 2020, we had an idea of doing something as a cell group with the OA children. Then, Covid-19 happened and our plans were halted. Later, during the RMCO, my wife had a great idea to do something as a family and involve our two daughters (6 and 9 years old) during their school holidays..."

- Derek Sum, PJN2

* Find out what the Sum family did to impact lives around them on dumc.my/blog

■ *"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."*

- Maya Angelou

If you or your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word or any other story that speaks of His goodness, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Emphasising Holiness and Righteousness in the Church

The Malaysian church can only be a prophetic community, impacting society, when we live authentic and vibrant Christian lives. Only then the church can act and speak with credibility and moral authority, and be taken seriously by the world.

- *Pray that pastors, church leaders and members will strive to live godly lives at home, in church, and in the market place and the public square.*
- *Pray that every church will provide systematic teaching on holy living from the pulpit, in our cell groups, and at every level of church ministry.*

Developing Godly Leadership for Our Churches

There is a great need in our time for godly leaders who model Christ-like servanthood. Further, as Paul advised Timothy, “what you have heard from me ... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others as well” (2 Timothy 2:2), we must intentionally disciple younger leaders.

- Pray that church leaders, both pastoral and lay, will grow in depth and maturity as true shepherds of Christ. Pray that they will have a real hunger for God’s Word, a firm commitment to God’s truth and to live by it, and the courage to teach the same to their flocks.
- Pray that the present generation of leaders will strive to lay strong foundations for churches and Christian organizations in our country, to model godly and humble servanthood, and to manage succession plans well, as they gradually hand over the baton of leadership to younger people.

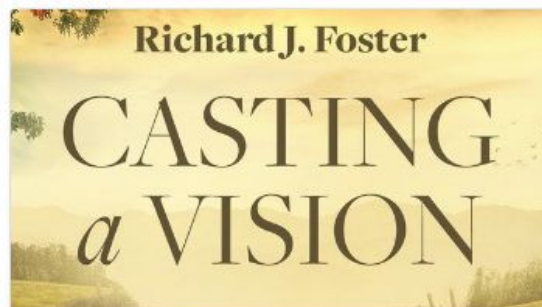


OTHER RESOURCES

Below are some links to resource you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!



Casting a Vision

20 pages

renovare.org

The twenty-first century though has brought with it new c...

[Richard Foster](#)

[Prayer & Spirituality](#) [Discipleship](#)

[E-Book \(Free\)](#)



Where is God in the Pandemic?

1 hour

youtube.com

[Tim Keller](#) [Francis Collins](#)

[Suffering](#) [Social Concerns](#) [Teaching](#)

[Video Clip](#)



OTHER RESOURCES

Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!



DUMC STORIES

Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!

