

BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

AUGUST EDITION

1 JOHN 4:11-13

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit

FELLOWSHIP LIFE



for my house
will be called
a house of
prayer for all
nations

table of CONTENT



ROH KUDUS	01-03
DAN KERAJAN ALLAH	
DAILY DEVOTIONS	04-10
PRAY FOR A NATION	11
PRAYER CONCERT	12

Roh Kudus dan Kerajaan Allah

Dalam pelayanan Tuhan Yesus, ada banyak hal baru yang dinyatakan melalui pengajaran atau tindakan-Nya. Ada hal-hal yang tidak mudah dipahami dan memerlukan perenungan. Pengajaran Tuhan Yesus waktu itu tidak langsung dipercaya oleh semua orang yang mendengarnya. Ada bagian-bagian yang terdengar “asing” bagi orang-orang Farisi dan ahli-ahli Taurat. Sebagian akhirnya menjadi kontra bahkan memusuhi dan berakhir dengan peristiwa penyaliban.

PENGARUH ROH JAHAT

Ada orang yang buta dan bisu karena kerasukan setan dan dibawa kepada Yesus. “Kemudian dibawalah kepada Yesus seorang yang kerasukan setan. Orang itu buta dan bisu, lalu Yesus menyembuhkannya, sehingga si bisu itu berkata-kata dan melihat.” (Mat 12:22). Selain oleh bakteri, tubuh manusia juga bisa sakit karena pengaruh roh-roh yang mendatangi dan tinggal di dalamnya. Ini merupakan hal yang khusus dan harus ditangani juga secara khusus. Jika orang sakit ini dibawa ke dokter, maka dokter tidak menemukan gejala-gejala yang sama seperti pada penderita sakit umumnya.

Roh-roh jahat yang lain juga bisa mengakibatkan beberapa orang menjadi sakit yang berbeda-beda. “Di situ ada seorang perempuan yang telah delapan belas tahun dirasuk roh sehingga ia sakit sampai bungkuk punggungnya dan tidak dapat berdiri lagi dengan tegak.” (Luk 13:11). Wanita itu menjadi sakit punggungnya karena roh jahat merasuknya begitu lama dan tidak ada perubahan selama itu. Sebagaimana umumnya, orang yang sakit pasti berusaha ke dokter untuk menangani penyakitnya. Namun penyakit wanita ini tidak ditemukan secara medis. Ia baru dapat mengalami kesembuhan setelah ditolong oleh Tuhan Yesus.

Ada juga seorang anak yang tidak dapat berkata-kata karena dirasuk roh jahat. “Kata seorang dari orang banyak itu: “Guru, anakku ini kubawa kepada-Mu, karena ia kerasukan roh yang membisukan dia.” (Mrk 9:17). Anak ini sangat menderita karena roh jahat itu juga membawanya

ke air dan api. Orang tuanya tidak dapat berbuat banyak kecuali menjaga sebaik-baiknya. Akhirnya orang tua itu membawa anaknya kepada Yesus.

Orang-orang menjadi sakit karena pengaruh negatif yang muncul oleh penguasaan roh jahat atas mereka. Di samping itu, ada juga pengaruh lain yang terjadi atas orang-orang yang dirasuk oleh roh jahat, yaitu orang menjadi terikat dengan kutuk, berperilaku jahat dan juga tidak mau mengenal Yesus sebagai Tuhan. Roh jahat bekerja menjauhkan orang dari pengenalan akan Tuhan dan tujuan akhirnya adalah agar orang tersebut binasa. Dan semua hal jahat ini tidak dapat dihentikan oleh kekuatan manusia, hanya oleh kuasa Tuhan.

BERJUMPA DENGAN YESUS

Mengapa orang yang hidup dibawah pengaruh roh jahat itu tidak dibawa kepada ahli-ahli Taurat atau orang Farisi? Mungkin sudah dibawa namun tidak mengalami kesembuhan. Bisa jadi. Orang yang membawanya kepada Yesus memiliki harapan besar bahwa Yesus akan menyembuhkan orang tersebut. Tuhan Yesus dikenal sebagai Pengajar yang memiliki kuasa yang sanggup memulihkan banyak orang.

Orang-orang itu bertemu dengan Tuhan Yesus dan disembuhkan; ia bisa berkata-kata dan melihat. Seketika ada perubahan suasana pada orang banyak, mereka menjadi takjub atas apa yang mereka lihat. Kuasa Allah dinyatakan dengan luar biasa ketika orang sakit tersebut menerima mujizat; yaitu disembuhkan seketika. Bagaimana hal ini terjadi? Bagaimana perjumpaan dengan Yesus menghasilkan kesembuhan?

KUASA ROH ALLAH

Tuhan Yesus menjelaskan bagaimana pemulihan itu terjadi. “Tetapi jika Aku mengusir setan dengan kuasa Roh Allah, maka sesungguhnya Kerajaan Allah sudah datang kepadamu.” (Mat 12:28). Ketika orang yang dirasuk roh jahat dibawa kepada Yesus, maka Yesus segera menangani akar masalahnya. Orang itu buta bukan karena retinanya rusak atau katarak (hal medis), namun karena roh jahat. Itulah sebabnya Yesus mengusir setan itu agar pengaruhnya juga hilang atas orang itu. Dan begitu setan itu diusir, maka kebutaan orang itu juga lenyap.

Bagaimana Yesus mengusir setan? Ayat tersebut menjelaskan bahwa Yesus mengusir dengan kuasa Roh Allah. Kuasa Roh Allah mengatasi segala kuasa yang ada di alam. Roh-roh jahat bisa merasuk atau menguasai manusia yang tidak atau belum mengenal Tuhan. Ini membuktikan bahwa roh jahat memiliki sejumlah kuasa. Ketika roh jahat merasuk, maka orang-orang tersebut ada di bawah kekuasaannya. Diperlukan kuasa yang lebih tinggi untuk menundukkan atau mengusir kuasa tersebut. Ketika Yesus dibaptis di sungai Yordan, Roh Allah turun atas-Nya. Dan jika Roh Allah ada pada seseorang, maka orang tersebut akan memiliki kuasa.

KERAJAAN ALLAH

Tuhan Yesus menegaskan bahwa ketika orang mengalami pelayanan di mana roh jahat keluar dari orang, maka sesungguhnya Kerajaan Allah sudah datang. Kita melihat ada hubungan antara roh yang merasuk seseorang dengan kerajaan yang menguasai orang tersebut. Orang yang dibebaskan dari kuasa roh jahat oleh kuasa Roh Allah, orang itu mengalami datangnya Kerajaan Allah. Dengan kata lain; dia masuk dalam lingkup Kerajaan Allah.

Kerajaan Allah dinyatakan ketika orang mengalami pelayanan pelepasan yang dihasilkan oleh kuasa Roh Kudus. Pelayanan yang Yesus lakukan adalah memberitakan Injil Kerajaan Allah, artinya memberitakan bahwa penguasaan roh-roh jahat atas orang-orang dapat diatasi oleh kuasa Allah. Jika pengaruh roh jahat adalah sakit, maka Roh Allah mendatangkan kesembuhan, jika roh jahat mengikat dengan kutuk, maka Roh Allah akan melepaskan.

Orang-orang yang dipenuhi Roh Kudus akan menerima kuasa dari tempat yang maha tinggi. Kuasa itu diberikan bukan hanya sekedar untuk menyelenggarakan ibadah dengan baik. Kuasa itu dipakai untuk menolong orang yang dikuasai roh-roh jahat. Itulah inti dari Kerajaan Allah. Tuhan Yesus mengajarkan doa, “Bapa kami yang di sorga, dikuduskanlah nama-Mu, datanglah KerajaanMu, jadilah kehendakMu.” Maksud dari datangnya Kerajaan Allah adalah melepaskan orang-orang yang masih diikat oleh roh-roh jahat sehingga orang-orang masuk dalam Kerajaan-Nya. Dan itu terjadi ketika orang yang diurapi Roh Kudus melakukan tugasnya, yaitu memberitakan Injil Kerajaan Allah. Amin.

Help from Heaven

12 AUG

SOS, the Morse code signal, was created in 1905 because sailors needed a way to indicate extreme distress. The signal gained notoriety in 1910 when used by the sinking ship Steamship Kentucky, saving all forty-six people aboard.

While SOS may be a more recent invention, the urgent cry for help is as old as humanity. We hear it often in the Old Testament story of Joshua, who faced opposition from fellow Israelites (Joshua 9:18) and challenging terrain (3:15–17) for more than fourteen years as the Israelites slowly conquered and settled the land God had promised them.

During this struggle “the Lord was with Joshua” (6:27). In Joshua 10, the Israelites go to the aid of the Gibeonites, allies of Israel who were being attacked by five kings. Joshua knew that he needed the Lord’s help to defeat so many powerful enemies (v. 12). God responded with a hailstorm, even stopping the sun in the middle of the sky to give Israel more time to defeat the enemy. Joshua 10:14 recounts, “Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!”

If you are in the midst of a challenging situation, you can send out an SOS to God. Although help will look different than the assistance Joshua received, perhaps help comes through an unexpected job, an understanding doctor, or peace in the midst of grief. Be encouraged that these are ways He is responding to your call for help and fighting for you.

Thank You, Father, for walking with me on this difficult journey and hearing me when I cry out to You.

Read

Joshua 10:6-15

Bible in a Year

Psalm 84-86

Romans 12

*Surely the Lord
was fighting for
Israel!*

Joshua 10:14

“As we cry out to God for help, we can trust that He will be with us.”

13

AUG

Read

Luke 6:37-38

Bible in a Year

Psalms 87-88

Romans 13

*A generous
person will*

prosper;

whoever

refreshes

others will be

refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25

The Gift of Time

I headed into the post office in a big hurry. I had a number of things on my to-do list, but as I entered I was frustrated to find a long line backing up all the way to the door. “Hurry up and wait,” I muttered, glancing at my watch.

My hand was still on the door when an elderly stranger approached me. “I can’t get this copier to work,” he said, pointing to the machine behind us. “It took my money and I don’t know what to do.” Immediately I knew what God wanted me to do. I stepped out of line and was able to fix the problem in ten minutes.

The man thanked me and then left. As I turned to get back in line, it was gone. I walked straight to the service counter.

My experience that day reminds me of Jesus’s words: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).

My wait seemed shorter because God interrupted my hurry. By turning my eyes to others’ needs and helping me give of my time, He gave me a gift. It’s a lesson I hope to remember, next time I look at my watch.

Heavenly Father, all of the time I have is in Your hands, a gift from You. Please show me how to use it to bring glory and honor to You.

“*Sometimes our to-do list needs to wait.*”

Riding the Rapids

14
AUG

The rafting guide escorted our group to the river's edge and directed us all to put on life jackets and grab paddles. As we climbed into the boat, he assigned us seats to balance the boat's weight, providing stability when we encountered rapids. After highlighting the thrills the watery voyage ahead would hold for us, he detailed a series of directions we could expect to hear—and would need to follow—to effectively steer the boat through the white water. He assured us that even though there might be tense moments on the way, our journey would be both exciting and safe.

Sometimes life feels like a white-water rafting trip, one that contains more rapids than we might like. God's promise to Israel, through the prophet Isaiah, can guide our feelings when we fear the worst is happening: "When you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you" (Isaiah 43:2). The Israelites faced an overwhelming fear of rejection by God as they went into exile as a consequence of their sin. Yet instead, He affirms them and promises to be with them because He loves them (vv. 2, 4).

God won't abandon us in the rough waters. We can trust Him to guide us through the rapids—our deepest fears and most painful troubles—because He also loves us and promises to be with us.

*Thank You, Lord, for being my guide through troubled waters.
Help me to trust You even when the journey is wild and scary.*

Has the Lord guided you through a difficult time? Share your story at [Facebook.com/ourdailybread](https://www.facebook.com/ourdailybread).

Read

Isaiah 43:1-7

Bible in a Year

Psalms 89-90

Romans 14

*When you pass
through the rivers,
they will not
sweep over you.*

Isaiah 43:2

「*God steers us through difficult times.*」

15 AUG

Read

Job 38:1-11

Bible in a Year

Psalms 91-93

Romans 15:1-

13

*Will the one
who contends
with the Al-
mighty correct
him?*

Job 40:2

The Lord Speaks

We can find nearly every argument in the book of Job about why there is pain in the world, but the arguing never seems to help Job much. His is a crisis of relationship more than a crisis of doubt. Can he trust God? Job wants one thing above all else: an appearance by the one Person who can explain his miserable fate. He wants to meet God Himself, face to face.

Eventually Job gets his wish. God shows up in person (see Job 38:1). He times His entrance with perfect irony, just as Job's friend Elihu is expounding on why Job has no right to expect a visit from God.

No one—not Job, nor any of his friends—is prepared for what God has to say. Job has saved up a long list of questions, but it is God, not Job, who asks the questions. “Brace yourself like a man,” He begins; “I will question you, and you shall answer me” (v. 3). Brushing aside thirty-five chapters’ worth of debates on the problem of pain, God plunges into a majestic poem on the wonders of the natural world.

God’s speech defines the vast difference between the God of all creation and one puny man like Job. His presence spectacularly answers Job’s biggest question: Is anybody out there? Job can only respond, “Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know” (42:3).

*Lord, we have so many questions about life and its unfairness.
You have shown Yourself good to us. Help us to trust You for
what we cannot understand.*

“No calamity is beyond God’s sovereignty.”

Heart Hunger

16 AUG

Riding along with my husband on some errands, I scrolled through emails on my phone and was surprised at an incoming advertisement for a local donut shop, a shop we had just passed on the right side of the street. Suddenly my stomach growled with hunger. I marveled at how technology allows vendors to woo us into their establishments.

As I clicked off my email, I mused over God's constant yearning to draw me closer. He always knows where I am and longs to influence my choices. I wondered, Does my heart growl in desire for Him the way my stomach did over the idea of a donut?

In John 6, following the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, the disciples eagerly ask Jesus to always give them "the bread that . . . gives life to the world" (vv. 33–34). Jesus responds in verse 35, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." How amazing that a relationship with Jesus can provide constant nourishment in our everyday lives!

The donut shop's advertisement targeted my body's craving, but God's continuous knowledge of my heart's condition invites me to recognize my ongoing need for Him and to receive the sustenance only He can provide.

Dear God, remind me of my need for Your daily bread of presence.

Read

John 6:32–40

Bible in a Year

Psalms 94–96

Romans 15:14–33

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

Jesus alone offers the only bread that truly satisfies.

17

AUG

Read

Matthew

14:22-33

Bible in a Year

Psalms 97-99

Romans 16

Immediately

Jesus reached

out his hand

and caught

him.

Matthew 14:31

Jesus Reached Out

Sometimes life gets busy—classes are hard, work is exhausting, the bathroom needs to be cleaned, and a coffee date is on the day's schedule. It gets to the point where I force myself to read the Bible for a few minutes a day and tell myself I'll spend more time with God next week. But it doesn't take long before I'm distracted, drowning in the day's tasks, and forget to ask God for help of any kind.

When Peter was walking on water toward Jesus, he quickly became distracted by the wind and waves. Like me, he began to sink (Matthew 14:29–30). But as soon as Peter cried out, “immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him” (vv. 30–31).

I often feel as if I have to make it up to God after being so busy and distracted that I lose sight of Him. But that's not how God works. As soon as we turn to Him for help, Jesus reaches out without hesitation.

When we're unsettled by the chaos of life, it's easy to forget that God is standing in the middle of the storm with us. Jesus asked Peter, “Why did you doubt?” (v. 31). No matter what we're going through, He is there. He is here. Next to us at that moment, in this moment, ready to reach out and rescue us.

Lord, help me to turn to You in the midst of my busyness and life's distractions. Thank You for always being here, ready to catch me.

“God is waiting for us to turn to Him so He can reach out and help.”

Sky Garden

18 AUG

While in London, a friend arranged for my wife Marlene and me to visit the Sky Garden. On the top floor of a thirty-five-story building in London's business district, the Sky Garden is a glass-encased platform filled with plants, trees, and flowers. But the sky part captured our attention. We gazed down from a height of over 500 feet, admiring St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, and more. Our views of the capital city were breathtaking—providing a helpful lesson on perspective.

Our God has a perfect perspective of everything we experience. The psalmist wrote, “For He looked down from His holy height; from heaven the Lord gazed upon the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to set free those who were doomed to death” (Psalm 102:19–20 nasb).

Like the hurting people pictured in Psalm 102, we are often locked into the present with its struggles, “groaning” with despair. But God sees our lives from beginning to end. Our Lord is never caught off guard by the things that can blindside us. As the psalmist anticipated, His perfect perspective will lead to an ultimate rescue that sets free even those “doomed to death” (vv. 20, 27–28).

In difficult moments, remember: We may not know what is coming next, but our Lord does. We can trust Him with every moment that stretches before us.

For more perspective on the trying seasons of life, read Why? Seeing God in Our Pain at discoveryseries.org/cb151.

Read

Psalm 102:1-2,
18-28

Bible in a Year

Psalm 100-102
1 Corinthians 1

*He looked
down from His
holy height.
Psalm 102:19*

“Focusing on Christ puts everything else into perspective.”

Pray for Nation

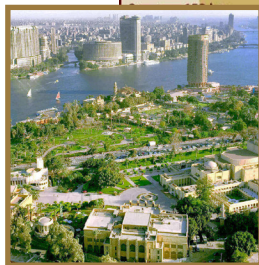
EGYPT



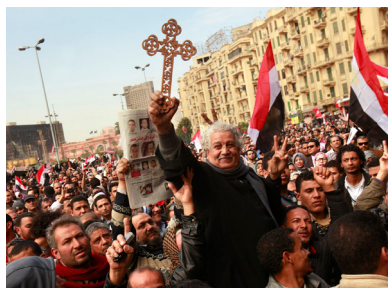
Capital: *Cairo*

Population: *99.3 million people*

Religion: *Majority Islam*



1. In 2017 many churches was bomb and Christians are in persecution. Pray that these days God's shalom will pour out upon Egypt. Every spirit of discrimination and disunity that take hold this nation and its government are broken in the name of the Lord Jesus. The spirit of unity and brotherhood strongly binds every people of this country, regardless of the difference of faith and believe.
2. Thanks God in the midst of the difficult life of Christianity in Egypt, many souls are won for Christ. Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You. And let those who love Your salvation say continually "Let God be magnified" (Psalm 70:5).
3. God's mercy continues to be bestowed on the Churches in Egypt. Holy Spirit continues to reveal Himself in every service and prayer meeting there. The faith of the Lord's church is strengthened and many of them experience a personal encounter with God.
4. The current government is the government that fears the Lord. It will govern Egypt with justice and truth. The Lord bless Egypt's government with wisdom to bring Egypt to come into the fulfillment of God's perfect plan.





DOAKU UNTUK INDONESIA
BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
18 AUGUST 2018 4-6PM

MAIN SERVICE

8.30 am & 11 am
(Indonesian with English
translation)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 am (English)

180

(TEENS)

8.45 am (English)

NEXT GENERATION

(YOUTH)

11 am (English)

PRAYER TOWER

Point Cook | Monday | 7:15 PM
BIC Melbourne | Tuesday | 6:30 PM
Mount Waverly | Wednesday | 7:15 PM
BIC Melbourne | Friday | 12:00 PM
BIC Melbourne (Fasting Prayer) | Saturday | 10:00 AM

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Woman of Impact Community
Tuesday 10.30 AM, at BIC

EVENTS

Prayer Concert and Drama Musical for Indonesia
Saturday, 18 August, at 4pm at BIC



+61396999077



www.bethanymelb.org.au



@bicmelbourne



Bethany International Church Melbourne