

**BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
MELBOURNE**

MAY EDITION



**KINGDOM OF GOD AND
HOLY SPIRIT**



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



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Warisan Ilahi

*“Berdirilah TUHAN di sampingnya dan berfirman:
“Akulah TUHAN, Allah Abraham, nenekmu, dan Allah Ishak;
tanah tempat engkau berbaring ini akan Kuberikan kepadamu
dan kepada keturunanmu.”*

Kejadian 28:13

Kehidupan rohani atau perjalanan rohani yang kita jalani bukanlah sebuah perjalanan yang harus kita jalani seorang diri. Perjalanan ini merupakan perjalanan kolektif dan berkelanjutan menuju suatu “tanah perjanjian.” Artinya perjalanan ini sudah dimulai oleh orang-orang di generasi sebelum kita. Dilakukan oleh kita saat ini, kemudian dilanjutkan oleh orang-orang di generasi sesudah kita. Setiap generasi harus berjalan bersama-sama.

Allah Abraham Dan Allah Ishak

Ishak memiliki dua anak kembar yaitu Esau yang sulung dan Yakub adiknya yang bungsu. Dalam kehidupannya, Esau tidak terlalu menghargai kesulungannya itu. Pada suatu kesempatan, Esau menjual hak kesulungannya itu dengan harga yang murah, yaitu dengan semangkok kacang merah. Namun itu penjualan yang sah. Secara rohani, sejak saat terjadi pertukaran mengenai hak kesulungan, akhirnya Yakub menjadi anak sulung karena transaksi itu. Seharusnya Esau tidak lagi menganggap dirinya sebagai anak sulung karena dengan sadar dia sudah menjual hak yang berharga itu. Ketika telah tiba saatnya untuk memberkati anak sulung dalam keluarganya, bapa Ishak tentu saja bermaksud memberkati Esau. Dalam **Kejadian 27:1** dikatakan: Ketika Ishak sudah tua, dan matanya telah kabur, sehingga ia tidak dapat melihat lagi, dipanggilnyalah Esau, anak sulungnya, serta berkata kepadanya: “Anakku.” Sahut Esau: “Ya, bapa.” Setahu Ishak, Esau adalah anaknya yang sulung, oleh sebab itu ia memanggil Esau, bukan Yakub. Ribka yang lebih mengasihi Yakub, telah merencanakan sesuatu agar Yakublah yang diberkati. Apakah dia sudah tahu bahwa ada transaksi penjualan hak kesulungan? Pada akhirnya Yakublah yang diberkati. Esau menjadi marah dan bermaksud membunuh Yakub. Akhirnya demi keamanan, Ribka meminta Yakub pergi ke tempat asalnya untuk mencari istri dari antara sanak keluarganya.

Di dalam perjalanan, Yakub bermalam di suatu tempat dan bermimpi. Tuhan menyatakan bahwa Tuhan adalah “Allah Abraham dan Allah Ishak.” Iman yang dimiliki oleh Abraham tidak berhenti ketika dia meninggal, namun dilanjutkan oleh Ishak anaknya, sehingga Allah menyebut diri-Nya, Allah Abraham dan Allah Ishak.

Allah memanggil Abraham karena memiliki rencana yang besar atas orang pilihan-Nya. Rencana Allah sedemikian besar sehingga melampaui orang-orang yang berjalan dalam rencana itu. Allah membutuhkan orang-orang pilihannya dari setiap generasi agar rencana-Nya dapat berjalan dengan baik. Dibutuhkan orang-orang yang taat kepada Allah dan mengikuti tuntunan generasi sebelumnya. Tujuan hidup Ishak tidak boleh melenceng dari tujuan hidup Abraham. Allah yang memanggil Abraham adalah Allah yang memanggil Ishak juga.

Allah Abraham, Ishak Dan Yakub

Yakub menangkap pesan Firman mengenai Allah Abraham dan Allah Ishak. Kemudian Yakub memberikan respon: *“Lalu bernazarlah Yakub: “Jika Allah akan menyertai dan akan melindungi aku di jalan yang kutempuh ini, memberikan kepadaku roti untuk dimakan dan pakaian untuk dipakai, sehingga aku selamat kembali ke rumah ayahku, maka TUHAN akan menjadi Allahku.” Kejadian 28:20-21*

Diperlukan keberanian dan kesadaran yang dalam ketika seseorang menyatakan hal seperti itu. Yakub menyadari bahwa tidak secara otomatis Allah akan menjadi Allahnya hanya dikarenakan faktor keluarga. Yakub sadar bahwa dia harus memiliki hubungan pribadi dengan Allah, sehingga Allah Abraham dan Ishak akan menjadi Allah Yakub juga. Kehidupan Yakub selanjutnya dipenuhi dengan pengalaman bersama Allah. Dia yang tadinya hanya memiliki sebatang tongkat, mendapatkan mimpi dari Tuhan, berpikir bagaimana bisa mendapatkan kambing domba, akhirnya dia memiliki kambing domba sendiri. Tuhan memberkati keluarganya, Tuhan juga melindunginya secara luar biasa. Pada akhirnya di tepi sungai Yabok, Yakub bergumul dengan Malaikat Tuhan.

Ketika akan menyelamatkan bangsa Israel dari Mesir, Allah menyatakan diri-Nya kepada Musa, “Lagi Ia berfirman: *“Akulah Allah ayahmu, Allah Abraham, Allah Ishak dan Allah Yakub.”* Lalu Musa menutupi mukanya, sebab ia takut memandang Allah.” **(Keluaran 3:6)** Tuhan menyatakan diri sebagai Allah Abraham, Ishak dan Yakub. Musa dipanggil untuk melayani Allah nenek moyangnya, bukan Allah yang tidak dikenal.

Murid-Murid

Allah adalah Allah antar generasi, karena manusia terbatas hidup di bumi. Dengan demikian

kita mengetahui bahwa iman merupakan warisan antar generasi. Suatu generasi (seseorang) harus memiliki hubungan pribadi dan pengalaman dengan Tuhan. Dan ketika saatnya akan meninggalkan bumi ini dan masuk ke dalam kekekalan, generasi atau orang tersebut harus meninggalkan iman yang sama, tujuan yang sama, nilai yang sama kepada generasi berikutnya. Iman orang atau generasi tersebut harus menjadi warisan rohani yang pasti, berharga dan menuntun kepada tujuan besar Allah.

Yesus mengajar murid-murid-Nya, ketika Dia sedang menabur benih atau nilai-nilai Kerajaan sorga. Tujuannya adalah agar murid-murid memiliki hidup yang sama seperti Yesus, iman dan tujuan yang sama. Itu adalah warisan yang harus diajarkan kepada generasi berikutnya nanti. Generasi kedua harus belajar menangkap dan memahami iman tersebut, mempraktekkannya dan mengajar generasi ketiga untuk memiliki iman yang sama. Allah Abraham harus menjadi Allah Ishak dan kemudian Allah Yakub.

Iman kepada Kristus yang dibawa dari satu generasi ke generasi berikutnya harus menjadikan generasi berikutnya menjadi lebih baik. Hal ini berarti makin menyadari bahwa warisan tersebut sangat berguna bagi keselamatan manusia dan mau menyebarkan lebih luas lagi. Orang tua kandung atau rohani berperan penting dalam mengajarkan hal-hal rohani (iman) kepada anaknya. Anak yang dididik dengan baik, akan memiliki iman yang teguh guna menjalani hidupnya dan menolong orang lain.

WARISAN ILAHI

Warisan yang kita miliki terdiri dari 2 aspek, yaitu:

1. Sebagai seorang bapa rohani harus bisa mendorong anak-anaknya memiliki pengalaman pribadi dengan Tuhan. Tanpa pengalaman pribadi Anda tidak memiliki motivasi internal.
2. Setelah pengalaman pribadi, seorang bapa rohani harus bisa mengajak anak-anaknya untuk menerima warisan dari generasi sebelumnya dan mewariskan ke generasi berikutnya.

Di zaman modern ini dimana manusia memiliki akses yang hampir tidak terbatas terhadap ilmu pengetahuan, terbuka kemungkinan untuk manusia mengalami penipuan secara besar-besaran. Banyaknya pengajaran yang beredar di masyarakat melalui media, kadang-kadang membingungkan pendengarnya atau kita semua. Bagaimana kita mengetahui apakah suatu pengajaran layak disebut warisan ilahi? Apakah itu Alkitabiah? Apakah hal itu membawa kita lebih dekat kepada Tuhan? Siapa yang mengajarkan juga sangat penting. Jika suatu ajaran dapat dipertanggungjawabkan, maka itu akan membawa kita lebih dekat dengan Tuhan dan apa yang diajarkan oleh seseorang yang menjadi bapa rohani, bisa dipastikan bahwa hal itu benar. Di sinilah pentingnya kita bukan hanya sekedar belajar tetapi menerima warisan ilahi. (RD)

Heart of a Servant

Ana



If you Google the word usher in church, you will find the definition of someone who is responsible for seating guests and maintaining the order and security of services. In BIC, maybe you can see them standing near the entrance of the main hall greet you or hand you a bulletin. Maybe they will assist you to give a translator device or offering envelope. Or maybe remind you to note down your registration number if you park your car at the back. Usher is more than just “Shalom” and “Happy Sunday”.

They are an integral part of the church and without their humble service, your Sunday experience will not be the same. All the things mentioned previously are done for the congregation and on top of that for the glory of God. For Ana, one of the Usher ministry members of BIC, it is the place where she is called to serve and give her heart out for the people in BIC.

Ana is from Medan and she came from a Buddhist background. She became Christian in 2005 when her uncle brought her to church. In 2007 she right away went to BIC Melbourne and since then she is part of the BIC Melbourne family. At first she never thought that she would minister in the usher department. She used to be in the choir team when she was in Indonesia and was thinking of continuing it in Melbourne. However, when she heard the sermon that when you are serving out of talent alone, you will be arrogant and depend on your own ability when you ministering. “We need to serve only by the power of the Lord.” said Ana. At that time, she asked herself what is the ‘hardest’ ministry for her and she thought she needed to join usher. You need to have a smile as an usher and for Ana smile was the hardest thing to do. However, she trusts God 100% and fully depends on Him. Although it was hard at the start but she knew God is always faithful and helps her throughout her ministry. God gave her more heart and passion in ushering each week and gave her the smile that she never had before.

Every time she sees someone in need during the services, her heart immediately moves to help without any incentive or external request. This usher ministry helps her to grow compassion towards people. From ignorant to a caring heart. Ana is so grateful and joyful to be part of the usher department, although you will not hear people say thank you. She hopes BIC Melbourne will be a welcoming church and more people come to BIC Melbourne.

19 MAY

Read

2 Corinthians
12:1-10

Bible in a Year

1 Chronicles 7–9;
John 6:22–44

*My grace is
sufficient for
you, for my
power is made
perfect in
weakness.*

2 Corinthians
12:9

By Adam Holz

The Crooked Steeple

Turns out that crooked church steeples make people nervous. When we visited some friends, they shared how, after a fierce windstorm, their church’s proud steeple was crooked, causing some alarm.

Of course, the church quickly repaired the flagging spire, but the humorous image got me thinking. Often church is seen as a place where everything is expected to look perfect; it’s not seen as a place where we can show up crooked. Right? But in a fallen, broken world, all of us are “crooked,” each with our own collection of natural weaknesses. We might be tempted to keep our vulnerabilities under wraps, but Scripture encourages the opposite attitude. In 2 Corinthians 12, for example, Paul suggests that it’s in our weaknesses—for him, an unnamed struggle he calls a “thorn in my flesh” (v. 7)—that Christ is most likely to reveal His power. Jesus had told Paul, “My power is made perfect in weakness” (v. 9). So Paul concluded, “For Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (v. 10).

We may not like our imperfections, but hiding them only denies Jesus’s power to work within those aspects of ourselves. When we invite Jesus into the crooked places in us, He gently mends and redeems in ways our effort could never accomplish.

What are some of the “crooked” places in your life? In what ways have you seen God work through your imperfections? Invite Jesus into your imperfections for His mending.

Divine Escape

20 MAY

Agatha Christie’s Hercule Poirot mystery *The Clocks* features antagonists who commit a series of murders. Although their initial plot targeted a single victim, they began taking more lives in order to cover up the original crime. When confronted by Poirot, a conspirator confessed, “It was only supposed to be the one murder.”

Like the schemers in the story, the religious authorities formed a conspiracy of their own. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38–44), they called an emergency meeting and plotted to kill Him (vv. 45–53). But they didn’t stop there. After Jesus rose from the dead, the religious leaders spread lies about what happened at the grave (Matthew 28:12–15). Then they began a campaign to silence Jesus’s followers (Acts 7:57–8:3). What started as a religious plot against one man for the “greater good” of the nation became a web of lies, deceit, and multiple casualties.

Sin plunges us down a road that often has no end in sight, but God always provides a way of escape. When Caiaphas the high priest said, “It is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish” (John 11:50), he didn’t understand the profound truth of his words. The conspiracy of the religious leaders would help bring about the redemption of mankind.

Jesus saves us from sin’s vicious grip. Have you received the freedom He offers?

What road are you going down that could take you further away from God? He offers real freedom. What do you need to confess to Him today?

Read

John 11:45–53

Bible in a Year

1 Chronicles 10–12; John 6:45–71

So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

John 11:53

By Remi Oyedele

21

MAY

Marvelously Unique

Read
Psalm 139:1-14

Bible in a Year
1 Chronicles
13–15;
John 7:1–27

*I praise you
because I am
fearfully and
wonderfully
made.*
Psalm 139:14

By Marvin Williams

Human beings are not special—at least according to the London Zoo. In 2005, the zoo introduced a four-day exhibit: “Humans in Their Natural Environment.” The human “captives” were chosen through an online contest. To help visitors understand the humans, the zoo workers created a sign detailing their diet, habitat, and threats. According to the zoo’s spokesperson, the goal of the exhibit was to downplay the uniqueness of human beings. One participant in the exhibit seemed to agree. “When they see humans as animals, here, it kind of reminds them that we’re not that special.” What a stark contrast to what the Bible says about human beings: God “fearfully and wonderfully” made us in “his image” (Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:26–27).

David began Psalm 139 by celebrating God’s intimate knowledge of him (vv. 1–6) and His all-encompassing presence (vv. 7–12). Like a master weaver, God not only formed the intricacies of David’s internal and external features (vv. 13–14), but He also made him a living soul, giving spiritual life and the ability to intimately relate to God. Meditating on God’s handiwork, David responded in awe, wonder, and praise (v. 14).

Human beings are special. God created us with marvelous uniqueness and the awesome ability to have an intimate relationship with Him. Like David, we can praise Him because we’re the workmanship of His loving hands.

*What are some practical implications of knowing and believing you’re fearfully and wonderfully made? What are some negative consequences of not believing this?
God created human beings to be like Him.*

The Heart of Fasting

22 MAY

Hunger pangs gnawed at my nerves. My mentor had recommended fasting as a way to focus on God. But as the day wore on, I wondered: How did Jesus do this for forty days? I struggled to rely on the Holy Spirit for peace, strength, and patience. Especially patience.

If we're physically able, fasting can teach us the importance of our spiritual food. As Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Yet, as I learned firsthand, fasting on its own doesn't necessarily draw us closer to God!

In fact, God once told His people through the prophet Zechariah that their practice of fasting was useless since it wasn't leading to service for the poor. "Was it really for me that you fasted?" God asked pointedly (Zechariah 7:5).

God's question revealed that the primary problem wasn't their stomachs; it was their cold hearts. By continuing to serve themselves, they were failing to draw closer to God's heart. So He urged them, "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor" (vv. 9–10). Our goal in any spiritual discipline is to draw closer to Jesus. As we grow in likeness to Him, we'll gain a heart for those He loves.

How can God use spiritual disciplines as tools to break up the rocky soil of our hearts? What's helped you draw closer to Jesus recently?

God, I am so prone to seek my own pleasure and the approval of others. Help my life please You as I serve others.

Read
Zechariah

Bible in a Year
1 Chronicles 16–18; John 7:28–53

*The fasts . . .
will become
joyful and glad
occasions and
happy festivals
for Judah.
Therefore
love truth and
peace.
Zechariah 8:19*

By Tim Gustafson

23

MAY

Throwing Stones

Read

John 8:1-11

Bible in a Year

1 Chronicles

19–21; John

8:1–27

*Let any one of you
who is without
sin be the first to
throw a stone.*

John 8:7

By Alyson Kieda

Lisa felt no sympathy for those who cheated on their spouse . . . until she found herself deeply unsatisfied with her marriage and struggling to resist a dangerous attraction. That painful experience helped her gain a new compassion for others and greater understanding of Christ’s words: “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone” (John 8:7).

Jesus was teaching in the temple courts when He made that statement. A group of teachers of the law and Pharisees had just dragged a woman caught in adultery before Him and challenged, “In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” (v. 5). Because they considered Jesus a threat to their authority, the question was “a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him” (v. 6)—and getting rid of Him.

Yet when Jesus replied, “Let any one of you who is without sin . . .” not one of the woman’s accusers could bring themselves to pick up a stone. One by one, they walked away.

Before we critically judge another’s behavior while looking lightly at our own sin, let’s remember that all of us “fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Instead of condemnation, our Savior showed this woman—and you and me—grace and hope (John 3:16; 8:10–11). How can we not do the same for others?

How can you put the lesson of John 8 into action in how you treat others? How can you use your own experience to help others facing similar challenges?

Dear Lord, thank You for loving us! Help us to look with compassion on others and to be gracious in all we say and do.

“God Saved My Life”

24 MAY

When Aaron (not his real name) was 15, he began praying to Satan: “I felt like he and I had a partnership.” Aaron started to lie, steal, and manipulate his family and friends. He also experienced nightmares: “I woke up one morning and saw the devil at the end of the bed. He told me that I was going to pass my exams and then die.” Yet when he finished his exams, he lived. Aaron reflected, “It was clear to me that he was a liar.”

Hoping to meet girls, Aaron went to a Christian festival, where a man offered to pray for him. “While he was praying, I felt a sense of peace flood my body.” He felt something “more powerful, and more liberating,” than what he felt from Satan. The man who prayed told Aaron God had a plan and Satan was a liar. This man echoed what Jesus said of Satan when He responded to some who opposed him: “He is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

Aaron turned to Christ from Satanism and now “belongs to God” (v. 47). He ministers in an urban community, sharing the difference following Jesus makes. He’s a living testament of God’s saving power: “I can say with confidence that God saved my life.”

God is the source of all that is good, holy, and true. We can turn to Him to find truth.

*How have you experienced God rescuing you from evil? Who can you share your story with this week?
God is more powerful than the father of lies.*

Read

John 8:42-47

Bible in a Year

1 Chronicles 22–24; John 8:28–59

*When he lies,
he speaks
his native
language, for
he is a liar and
the father of
lies.*

John 8:44

By Amy Boucher Pye

25 MAY

Read

Acts 16:25-34

Bible in a Year

1 Chronicles

25–27; John

About

midnight Paul

and Silas

were praying

and singing

hymns to God,

and the other

prisoners

were listening

to them.

Acts 16:25

By Arthur Jackson

Shackled but Not Silent

In the summer of 1963, after an all-night bus ride, US civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer and six other black passengers stopped to eat at a diner in Winona, Mississippi. After law enforcement officers forced them to leave, they were arrested and jailed. But the humiliation wouldn't end with unlawful arrest. All received severe beatings, but Fannie's was the worst. After a brutal attack that left her near death she burst out in song: "Paul and Silas was bound in jail, let my people go." And she didn't sing alone. Other prisoners, restrained in body but not in soul, joined her in worship.

According to Acts 16, Paul and Silas found themselves in a difficult place when they were imprisoned for telling others about Jesus. But discomfort didn't dampen their faith. "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God" (v. 25). Their bold worship created the opportunity to continue to talk about Jesus. "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to [the jailer] and to all the others in his house" (v. 32).

Most of us will not likely face the extreme circumstances encountered by Paul, Silas, or Fannie, but each of us will face uncomfortable situations. When that happens, our strength comes from our faithful God. May there be a song in our hearts that will honor Him and give us boldness to speak for Him—even in the midst of trouble.

When was the last time you found yourself in a difficult situation? How did God help you live out your faith and witness?

Pray for Nation

AUSTRALIA



Capital: *Canberra*

Population: *24.6 million people*

Religion: *Christian*



1. Pray that God would rule over this election that righteous leaders would be elected to govern this nation in truth and justice because, “When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice.” Proverbs 29:2

2. Pray God’s blessing upon all our current parliamentarians and leaders, including their families and all the candidates of all the parties standing for this federal election. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

3. Pray for a multiplication of prayer and unity across the Body of Christ in Australia that people will wake up to the dangers facing our nation and respond in prayer. Ephesians 5:14

4. Pray for a Spiritual Awakening for Australia, Revival and Transformation for our nation and the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16

“And now I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken... The Lord is long suffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving the iniquity and transgression (of the nation) ... Pardon the iniquity of this people I pray, according to the greatness of your mercy... Then God said, ‘I have pardoned according to your word’.” Numbers 14:17-20



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

COOL

Friday, 7:00 PM

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Women of Impact Community
Tuesday 10:30 AM, at BIC



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