

Sermon Topic: Prepare for Wonder by Rev Clarence Lee

Sermon Text: Exodus 34:10-11, Daniel 3:17-18, Ps 78: 4-7

Introduction

Wonder is defined as: admiration, amazement, or awe; to marvel at something.

Wonder defined in the context of God: the works of God that leave us in awe of Him.

Are we still in awe of God, especially after being a Christian for many years?

God instructed Moses to chisel the 10 commandments on 2 stone tablets because Moses broke the first pair in response to his anger against God's people. God's response to Moses? Regardless of our feelings, God still desires to do great wonders amongst us (Exodus 34:10-11). In order to see God's wonder in life, we must

First, Let Go And Let God

[Story] Leap of Faith movie: Story of a faith healer, Jonas Nightingale, who goes to many places and does healing rallies. However, all of it is fake and calls upon his would-be victims to come on stage and experience healing.

One day his truck breaks down at a rural community where crops were grown, but their crops had been suffering a drought for some time. Jonas thought he could exploit their faith with a healing rally. During the rally, a young man raised his hand and asks for healing because he could not walk. Jonas was in trouble because it was not part of his plan, but remarkably, the young man was able to throw off his crutches and start walking. This led Jonas to pray and reconcile with God.

This movie was filled with miracles and wonders, but none of it really left us in awe of God, except the last one, because those were the only 2 things that were God-given. The rest were man-made, prefabricated.

[Moral] To experience the wonder of God, we need to be willing to let go and let God do the work. Not to rush in and solve every problem, through our own human cleverness or ability. When we do that, we kill wonder.

- To let go, we must start to do things differently: to take everything to the Lord in prayer.

- To let go and let God, we must **"Pray First Lah"**

- Psalm 46:10 - Be still means to stop striving on our own, so that we would know that God is Lord and not us.

Second, Dare To Take Risks

[Story] Have you ever done a good deed, but later discovered that you were cheated? Does that feeling of being cheated on stop you from doing that good thing again?

Margaret Feinberg (<https://margaretfeinberg.com/sometimes-you-need-to-get-conned-worthypub-lifewaywomen/>)

Margaret Feinberg and her husband went grocery shopping and saw a lady standing outside the supermarket, speaking loudly on the phone, complaining that there were not enough beds to support the homeless women in the city. Since Margaret and her husband did not know how to respond, they kept walking.

Afterwards, they saw the lady they had seen earlier. They could not assess whether this was a genuine case or a con job, so they decided to commit this to the Lord in prayer first. The Lord reminded them of the parable of the good samaritan, where the man on the road could also have been a con, but the samaritan was willing to help anyway.

The Lord prompted them to give, but they saw the lady go into a liquor store, causing Margaret to hesitate. Margaret went ahead to give the money to the lady and she experienced the wonder of God when the lady's autistic son hugged her.

- We may have experienced many disappointments from taking risks before. But we if we want to experience the wonder of God, we need to be willing to take risks.

- To dare to take risk, we must **“Try Again Lah”**

- Do not give up easily. Do not let the fallen nature of this world or disappointments of the past stop you from doing good and loving others.

- Daniel and friends - they knew the cost of leading a godly life, but they still chose to do it. They were threatened to be thrown into the furnace for refusing to bow down to the state of Nebuchadnezzar. The most powerful liner they declared: “Even if God does not” (Daniel 3:17-18)

- They knew the risk involved if they defied the king's orders and even knew the possibility that God may not rescue them. Even so, they stuck to their position and did not bow down . The result is everyone experiencing the wonder of God.

[Story] Paul Hiebert - Smallpox had taken the lives of many small children in Venkayya's village, and western medicine could not stop the plague.

Village leaders got the advice of a diviner who told them that the goddess of smallpox would need to be appeased with a water buffalo sacrifice in order for the smallpox plague to be eradicated.

Christians chose not to give, and this made the village elders angry because the goddess would only be appeased if everyone gave something. The village elders refused to let the Christians draw water from the well and merchants refused to sell goods to the Christians.

A Christian girl had also gotten smallpox, and Venkayya wanted Paul to pray for her healing, but she died a week after being prayed for. Paul felt defeated from this, but Venkayya was thankful for the outcome - the girl's healing would have been a powerful witness of God's power, but everyone knew she would have to die in the end. What the villagers saw in this girl's funeral struck them the most - they saw the peace the Christians had and when they heard the message of hope in resurrection and reunion in heaven, they saw a greater victory - a victory over death. As a result, many asked about the Christian faith.

- Everything we do for God comes with risk. But remember, God is in control even if the results do not go the way we expect.

Third, Record And Recall Wonder

Psalm 78 - a record and summary of all the wonderful deeds of the Lord from the time of Exodus to the reign of King David.

The Psalmist wanted them to recall the mighty works of the Lord, and teach them to their children (Ps 78: 4-7).

Recall the past works of the Lord helps us remember the goodness of God. So we remember God provides for bigger problem in life because He has provided before.

To record and recall, we **Must Remember Lah**

[Suggestion] Wonder journal: write down all the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. Need not be big and spectacular things, which are still wonders of God and should not be taken for granted.

In summary, to prepare for wonder we must

- ***Let go and let God. Pray first lah***
- ***Dare to take risks. Try again lah***
- ***Record and recall wonder. Must Remember lah***

Discussion Questions

1. *In what area of your life do you think you need to rely on the Lord more than on yourself? How do you plan to do that?*
2. *Despite the possibility of rejection or failure, what "risks" would you be willing to take for the Lord (again)?*