

On another occasion, John, in his zeal to preserve the integrity of the Lord's name in an almost self-congratulatory tone said, "Teacher, we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us" (Mark 9:38). He had become a self-appointed accreditation body! Our Lord had to gently correct him, "Do not stop him. No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:39-40).

The two episodes strongly indicate that the two brothers liked to be in control. They saw themselves as the Master's trusted lieutenants. One might ask, are their fiery temperament and leadership ambitions an innate quality or a learned behaviour? It begs the age old question, "is it nature or nurture?"

It's both. Scientists would agree that there's probably a genetic component to anger because it's easily provoked in certain temperaments and some families. However, it's also proven that much of the way we behave is learned, and the family in which we grow up in provides that curriculum.

The Zebedee family's conduct attests this. The father owned a fishing business and the fact that his name was used suggests that he had achieved some social status. Mrs Zebedee obviously thought their sons had leadership material when she brought them to Jesus. Kneeling down, she asked him, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom" (Matt 20:21). Our Lord's reply was revealing - "You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" Instinctively, they answered, "We can." (Matt 20:22). Again we see their thick headedness blocking their self-awareness.

In the classroom of the family, we learn our basic values, self-concept, and the practical approach to relationships. Nothing means more to us as children than the love and acceptance of our family in which we are growing into the person we will one day become. The way in which we are spoken to becomes the way we speak to others, and the way in which we are seen and understood becomes the way in which we see and understand ourselves and our world. Then we replicate this elsewhere.

If we've been properly loved and nurtured, we would manifest and demonstrate that learning. If we've been raised in dysfunctional ways, we too would demonstrate those destructive and dysfunctional patterns. Every family member, not just parents, has a part in shaping their family's traits. Let's do it well by staying close to Jesus. The Zebedee brothers changed after spending time with the Lord. James became a martyr and John was later characterised as the apostle of love.

Pastor Song Cheng Hock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.

REMINDERS

Please remember to park your car at **Bedok South Secondary School** so that we do not inconvenience our neighbours who have been very understanding.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

Seven-Eleven Gospel Rally

Pastor Caleb How is organising a Gospel Rally at People's Park Center in Cross Street, #06-15, on July 11 2009 at 7.30 pm. Pastor Neville will be their evangelist and would like us to support this effort by inviting unbelievers to attend.

PRAYER ITEMS

1. Please pray for **Pastor Song** as he brings God's Word to us this morning. Pray for ourselves too that we may not be hearers of the Word only but doers too.

2. Pray for the **Worship Team**, the **audio/visual support group**, as well as the **ushers**. Pray that God will continually refresh them as they experience deeper worship themselves, leading others to worship God in spirit and in truth.

3. Please continue to uphold **our Pastors and their family** in prayer. Pray for their health, that they will enjoy the Lord's rich blessings of good health, peace and joy as they serve Him.

4. Please continue to pray for **Auntie Alice**, that she will be close to the Lord, and for her to trust the Lord completely during this time of trial. Pray for God's peace and strength for her, and for God's wisdom for Auntie Catherine as she takes care of her sister, as well as for the medical team in attendance.

5. Please pray for **Bro Benjamin Chew**. He suffers from panic disorder & Agoraphobia and is currently undergoing psychiatric treatment. He is also on medication. Please pray for his well being and for his family.

6. Continue to pray for the **Youths and Sunday School children**, that even in their youth they will love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Pray that they will want

to observe and do all the commandments of God. Please pray for the **Cell Groups**, that all the Leaders will seek the Lord's direction for their cell. Pray for God to put a burden on every church member to join a cell.

7. For Sunday School Teachers

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

a. Thank the Lord for our Sunday School Teachers' commitment, diligence and dedication in preparing their work, in teaching and loving their students.

b. Pray that their study of the Word will strengthen their faith and convictions.

c. Pray for strength and wisdom to lead by example.

d. Pray for the Holy Spirit's anointing and empowering.

e. Pray that their investments in the lives of the students will bear long as lasting fruit.

8. Praise God for He is the great "I AM." He is the essence of whatever we need at the moment - "I am your strength... I am your courage... I am your hope... I am your supply... I am your defender... I am your deliverer... I am your forgiveness... I am your future... I am your catalyst for change..." He is the all-sufficient God.

PASTORAL PRAYER. Should you or someone you know need prayer, please send your email to chggod@churchofgodsg.com or speak to the pastor.

The God who made the firmament,

Who made the deepest sea,

The God who put the stars in place

Is the God who cares for me. - Berg

Because God cares about us,

we can leave our cares with Him.

Last week's Memory Verse: Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. - **Psalm 96:2**

This week: Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. - **Psalm 97:11**