



# TESTED

## LESSONS FROM COVID-19

24 MAY 2020 | PASTOR RAPHAEL JOSON | WEEK 1

## 1 KINGS 17:1-16

### *Elijah Announces a Great Drought*

**1** Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

### *Elijah Fed by Ravens*

**2** Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: **3** "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. **4** You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there." **5** So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. **6** The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

### *Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath*

**7** Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. **8** Then the word of the Lord came to him: **9** "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." **10** So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" **11** As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." **12** "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." **13** Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. **14** For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'" **15** She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. **16** For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

# SERMON NOTES

24 MAY 2020 | PASTOR RAPHAEL JOSON | WEEK 1

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*What can we learn about God during a global catastrophe?*

1. Sufferings are allowed or even caused by God.
2. Suffering is caused by God's judgment on sin.
3. God does things ultimately for His glory.
4. Suffering reveals where our hope comes from.

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

24 MAY 2020 | PASTOR RAPHAEL JOSON | WEEK 1

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## QUESTION 1

What do you think about the idea that God can be the cause of suffering and deaths?  
What doesn't sit comfortably with you?

## QUESTION 2

What does it mean that God does things for His glory?  
Does this make Him an egomaniac; desiring praise for himself?

## QUESTION 3

Share what you think what it looks like for someone to truly put their hope on Jesus Christ alone. How does it affect how they live in the present and how they plan for the future?



# TESTED

## LESSONS FROM COVID-19

31 MAY 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG | WEEK 2

## JEREMIAH 29:4-14 NIV

### *A Letter to the Exiles*

**4** This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. **7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

**8** Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. **9** They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord.

**10** This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. **11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

# SERMON NOTES

31 MAY 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG | WEEK 2

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*We tend to learn best when we're under pressure; but will we be better for what we've been through?*

## **KEY PASSAGE TODAY JEREMIAH 29:4-14**

### **vv.4-7, Feeling displaced**

A unique opportunity to re-evaluate:

- What's actually important?
- Do we really need it? (cf. Psalm 23:1, NLT)

### **vv.7-11, Where does hope come from?**

1. This will not last forever ... both challenge and opportunity are for a limited time
2. Be careful who you listen to ... do you know what the Lord is saying?

### **vv.12-14, Some anchors to hold onto**

God's plans are good  
But there is a condition, v.13

### **Application for us as a church, here are some genuine needs, anchors:**

- Sundays
- Care and Connection in Community
- Prayer and Scripture together
- Mission

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

31 MAY 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG | WEEK 2

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## QUESTION 1

If God supplies all our needs, then if we don't have something do we really need it? What are some things you possibly don't need, and what are some things we need more of?

## QUESTION 2

What new opportunities have we discovered as a church, as a result of COVID-19?

## QUESTION 3

Is it true that we need to be challenged and uncomfortable, "otherwise we tend not to have faith or drift back to non-essentials"?



# TESTED

## LESSONS FROM COVID-19

7 JUNE 2020 | MARCUS WONG | WEEK 3

### ISAIAH 58:1-8

- 1** "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.  
Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.
- 2** For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God.  
They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.
- 3** 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it?  
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?'  
"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.
- 4** Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists.  
You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.
- 5** Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves?  
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?  
Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?
- 6** "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
- 7** Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and  
blood?
- 8** Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your  
righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

# SERMON NOTES

7 JUNE 2020 | MARCUS WONG | WEEK 3

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*The difference in our character before and after COVID-19 depends on what we learn from our experience*

Situations of people, or nations were affected by variables out of their control.

To be “**vulnerable**” is to be:

- “exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally” or
- “a person in need of special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, or risk of abuse or neglect.”

## **KEY PASSAGE TODAY ISAIAH 58:1-8**

Isaiah 58:3 – Israel dissatisfied that their religious activity weren’t getting God’s attention.

Isaiah 58:6-7 – God wants injustice to be fought and the vulnerable to be cared for.

### **What is shalom?**

Shalom is “the webbing together of God, and humans, and all of creation in justice, fulfilment, and delight” or “universal flourishing, wholeness and delight”.

### **What is biblical justice?**

Doing justice includes not only the righting of wrongs, but generosity and social concern, especially toward the poor and vulnerable.

### **Why do we need to do justice?**

Isaiah 58:8,10 – For god’s light to shine in the darkness

We cannot separate the genuineness of our faith, and our response to justice and mercy.

Matthew 25 – Jesus’ parable of the sheep and the goats

We show our love for Jesus by loving and serving the vulnerable; OR

If it needed to be Jesus who was vulnerable before we helped, maybe we don’t know Jesus at all

### **How can we do justice?**

A clue from Scott Morrison:

- JobSeeker
- JobKeeper
- JobMaker

**“Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone.”**



# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

7 JUNE 2020 | MARCUS WONG | WEEK 3

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## **QUESTION 1**

How has COVID-19 changed your understanding of what it means to be “vulnerable”?

## **QUESTION 2**

Why do you think it's important to know why we need to be doers of justice?

## **QUESTION 3**

How is God challenging you to seek justice for the vulnerable?