

**Worship Service
March 24th, 2019**

*Worship Song Together with Band
Opening Prayer Presider
Bible ReadingJoshua 20:1-9John Ayetty
Prayer Samuel Lebbie
Announcement Rose Dumlao
Recognition of EvangelismSenior Pastor
(*Blanka Guerra, Rossana Bokhari, Linda Alberto*)
Offering Prayer..... Presider
OfferingTogether
Special Song Worship Band
Message **A Place of Refuge**
..... Timothy Hong
Prayer of BlessingPresider

Today's Sermon Outline

A Place of Refuge

Joshua 20:1-9

We all need a place of refuge (verses 1-3)

In ancient times, those who killed others accidentally needed protection from the avengers of the blood to get a fair trial. To protect them from harsh revenge and to treat them with mercy, God provided the Israelites places of refuge. Anyone who killed someone by accident would run to one of these cities and plead his case before the elders of the city. With such a law of refuge, God provided the way for a fair and merciful trial to those who might kill others accidentally.

What does this ancient law of refuge have to do with us today? It is a means of refuge for our soul. We are born sinners. Just like there was a death sentence for all who took another life, there is also a death sentence for all born into the sinful human race. But God provides us a place of refuge (Isaiah 25:1-4). To provide a refuge for our souls, God has provided Jesus Christ to us. Jesus is our refuge! In Christ, we can find refuge from condemnation of our sins and all penalties for our sins (Romans 8:10). The only place to find refuge for our sin-stained and troubled souls is in Christ (Acts 4:12).

The refuge is available to all (verses 7-8)

In following God's instruction on the cities of refuge, the Israelites set up six

cities of refuge. The six cities of refuge were located evenly in the land. The roads leading to these cities were kept clear and available in all seasons. The gates should never be locked but always remain open.

As God set up those cities of refuge for those who sought His merciful protection, God has set Jesus as the way of refuge for all sinners who seek His merciful forgiveness and protection. Through Christ, God provides a clear road that brings the guilty sinner to the place of refuge. God let Jesus be crucified on the hill of the Calvary, so that all people could see His death on the cross and find refuge in Him for their troubled souls. Jesus has put churches in this world to provide His refuge to the people who have no chance to be accepted in this world. Our church should be open to all kinds of people, to both good people and bad people, to both the likable and the unlikable, to both peace makers and trouble makers (Mark 2:17).

We must enter the refuge (verses 4-6, 9)

God has prepared a place of refuge but we must "flee" to it. We have to come to Jesus with faith that He is God's refuge for our troubled souls. Then how can we flee to Christ to find refuge for our troubled souls?

First, we must trust that God forgives us of all our sins if we believe in the cross of Christ (Hebrews 6:18). There is no condition except believing that Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sins. If you will come to Him by faith, He will become a refuge for your troubled soul (Matthew 11:28). He will put peace in your heart (Romans 5:1). It doesn't matter who you are and what kind of life you've lived.

Secondly, we must bring all our anxieties to the Lord. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." When we cast our anxieties to Christ, he assures us that God is with us, takes care of us and helps us get through all troubles. During our life time, we will experience heartaches, disappointments, and sheer helplessness. The Lord is our most precious resource in those hours of trauma (Psalm 9:9). So let's cast our anxiety, fear, discouragement and hopelessness to the Lord.

Applications

1. For what purpose did God command his people Israel to set up cities of refuge? What does the law of refuge have to do with us today?
2. As God set the places of refuge for those who were guilty of killing people accidentally, He has set a place of refuge for all sinners. Where is the refuge?
3. To receive a fair trial and be protected from harsh condemnation, a murderer should flee to the "cities of refuge." If we apply this word to us today, how can we "flee" to the place of refuge?

Announcements

Welcome New Comers and Visitors

We welcome all new comers and visitors to our worship service today. Please join us for our lunch fellowship which will be held in the fellowship hall right after the service.

Lunch Preparation

This week – African Group **Next week** – American and College Group

*Today's fellowship cleaning turn is African Group (John Ayetty).

Prayer Request

* For healing- Analis Garcia has been suffering from coughing for the last three months

* For traveling mercies

- Gil Henderson is in Daytona, Florida spending time with his wife, Donna.

- Erlinda and Alberto Morales – in the Philippines visiting family members and relatives

Groups for Fellowship Hall Cleaning on Sundays (Mar/2019)

Date	Group	Leader
Mar 3	College and Youth Group	Moses Sanchez
Mar 10	Spanish Group	Analis Gomez Garcia
Mar 17	Filipino Group	Lyle Atonson
Mar 24	African Group	John Ayetty
Mar 31	Pakistan & Korean Group	Haroon Wilson

Ushers of the Month

Offering Ushers	GiGi Alberto, Charles Gaines, Samantha Gaines, Lyle Atonson
Welcome Ushers	Analis Garcia, Patricia Grass

Last Week's Offering

Tithe	Erlyn Balano//Rose & Nestor Dumlao//Anayza & Haroon Wilson Gill//Samantha & Charles Gaines//Timothy Hong//Ildevert & Denise Mboungou//Rosalia Navaez//Robert Bob Stewarts//Leonor Gemoto
Lord's Day	John & Branda Ayetty//Eryn Corachea//Eloisa Flores//Alexandria Gyorgy//Timothy Hong//Gilbert & Donna Henderson//Andrea Martin//Lina & Ender Carvajal, Kemila Morillo//Rodriguez//Ming, Eurgi Eungyung//Reyna Rosales//Zaek//Jin Soo Yang
Thanksgiving	John & Branda Ayetty//Rose & Nestor Dumlao//Clint Gaines//Samantha & Charles Gaines//Michael Chen//Lydia Hong//Diana B Lamier//Verjun/Sandra San Jose//Ming, Eurgi Eungyung//Cole Gaines
Mission	Jasmine Luna//Robert Bob Stewarts// Ming, Eurgi Eungyung

Weekly Bible Reading Chart

Day/date	Old Testament	Check	New Testament	Check
Mon 3-24-19	Judges 8-9		Mark 13:1-31	
Tue 3-25-19	Judges 10-11		Mark 13:32-37	
Wed 3-26-19	Judges 12		Mark 14:1-11	
Thu 3-27-19	Judges 13		Mark 14:12-26	
Fri 3-28-19	Judges 14		Mark 14:27-31	
Sat 3-29-19	Judges 15-16:1-22		Mark 14:32-41	
Sun 3-30-19	Judges 16:23-31		Mark 14:43-52	

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Worship Services:

Sunday Main Service 11:30 AM

Prayer Services

Sundays 9:30 AM - Room 106

Bible Study

Shepherd Group – Wednesday 8:00 PM

Saturday 10:30 AM

Cell Groups

Monday- Friday according to arrangement of each cell

College Student Ministry

Thursday 9:45 PM at Skype

Youth Ministry

Sunday – 1:30 PM

Children's Ministry

Sunday school- Sunday 11:30 AM

ESF Band Practice

Sunday 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Missionaries

Eva Sanchez – Campus ministry in Peru

Miguelina Martinez – Campus ministry in Dominican Republic

Suri Kumar – Campus ministry and Hindu ministry in India

Jordan Custorio – Campus ministry in the Philippines

Paul Uzoma – Campus ministry in Benin, Africa

Rahab Lee – Campus ministry in Asia

Angelito Garcia – Campus ministry in Ukraine

Raul Navarro – Student ministry in Cuba

Ministers and Staff

Senior Pastor – Timothy Hong (773-802-1112)

Administration – Samuel Lebbie (312-951-3552)

Assistant Preaching Pastor – Kurt Schwartz (224-522-9098)

Campus Ministry – Richard Shaffer (808-201-4224)