

## Worship Service

March 1, 2015

*Worship Song .....	Together with Band	
Opening Prayer .....	Pastor	
Bible Reading .....	Luke 7:18-23 .....	Lyle Atonson
Prayer .....	Solomon Berhanu	
Announcements .....	Rolando Sanchez	
Communion .....	Together	
Offering Prayer .....	Pastor	
Offering .....	Together	
Special Song .....	Worship Band	
Message .....	<b>Encouraging Answers to Life's Unfairness</b> ..... Timothy Hong	
*Benediction .....	Pastor	
* Please stand		

### Today's Sermon Outline

#### **Encouraging Answers to Life's Unfairness**

Luke 7:18-23

Here in this text, Jesus teaches us how we can positively deal with doubts and discouragements in life's unfairness and draw nearer to God.

#### **Bring your doubts to God honestly**

John the Baptist faithfully preached that Jesus was the Savior and led people to Jesus. But later John was imprisoned by King Herod. John expected that if Jesus was the Messiah whom he believed in and testifying about, Jesus should do something to help him. But Jesus wasn't doing what John expected him to do. At that point John began to doubt whether Jesus was really the Lamb.

It is not unusual to experience doubt and confusion while we are serving God and trying to live according to God's will. Almost all of the heroes of Scripture at one time or another found themselves enduring periods of doubt and uncertainty (Moses- Numbers 11:10-15, Elijah -1 Kings 19, Jeremiah-20:7-9, 14-18, Paul- 2 Cor. 1:8-9).

Struggling with God over the issues of life doesn't demonstrate a lack of faith – that is faith. Jesus gave John the highest compliment in the world at the same time that John was in the midst of doubting: "I say to you, among those born of women, there is no one greater than John!" (verse 28). Whatever doubt you may have, bring it out to God honestly. God is willing to hear your questions. By listening to your questions God helps you grow stronger in faith.

#### **Accept that God's way is higher than your way**

When John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus and asked him whether he was the Messiah or not, he did not directly answer the question with yes or no. Jesus said, "*Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.*"

That's the same way he answers us most of the time. Have you ever sought God for the answer to a prayer and not received a clear answer? Why does God not answer our questions with a clear-cut "yes" or "no?"

Because God's ways are higher than ours. We must recognize that God does not have to work by our expectations, because His will is far greater and higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9).

As we go through life - there will be times God will do some things we don't understand. And He won't do some things we expect Him to do. By doing so, God helps us to trust that his ways are higher than our ways. He enlarges our faith.

#### **Build your faith not upon your situations but upon the Scriptures**

When John struggles with doubts of whether Jesus was the Messiah or not, Jesus encouraged John to think whether Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of Scripture concerning the Savior. Jesus pointed to his deeds and to the scriptures that speak of those deeds. He encouraged John to focus on his blessed miracles and ministries in spite of his imprisonment, and on how the Scriptures were fulfilled through Jesus' ministries. The words of the prophet Isaiah regarding the Messiah (26:19, 29:18, 35:5, 61:1) were fulfilled through Jesus.

The application for us today is clear. Examine the evidence, is Jesus truly the Son of God, is he alone the fulfillment of the prophecies of scripture?

We sometimes expect God to do something in a certain way, and if he does not, we are confused and perplexed. But we must put our expectations in line with Scripture.

There may be many things which may go against our expectation. But when we focus on the words in Scriptures that Jesus is still fulfilling, we can overcome doubts. We can trust in God's goodness even if life is unfair.

#### **Applications**

1. Have you ever struggled with a question "why does God not help me when I need his help?" If you honestly bring the question to God how will He bless you?
2. Have you ever experienced that God answers your prayer different way than you expect? What lesson did you learn from it?
3. How can you still trust in God's goodness and fairness in spite of unresolved troubles in your life?

## Announcements

### Lunch Serving

This week– Lidia Lopez, Andrea Martin

Next week (3/8) – Susan Michaels, Solomon Berhanu

### Annual Church Financial Report

There will be annual church (ESF) financial report of the last year (2014) today right after lunch fellowship.

### Thanksgiving

\*Two ESF Peru leaders (Filemon Rodriguez, Margarita Zuloaga) have passed the interviews at US consulate in Lima and obtained visas to come to Chicago.

\*Alex Garcia spent lots of time to repair our broken snow-blower last week.

### Prayer Request

\*For the elder candidates, Lyle Atonson, Rene Corachea, Rolando Sanchez, and for the ordained pastor candidate, Ki Wang Song, who will take qualification tests given by the Midwest Presbytery this Tuesday (March 3)

\*For healing of Venus Ejaz who is suffering from a brain tumor.

\* For Peru ESF leaders, Nancy Campo, Luz Gonzalez who will have interviews at US consulate this week to obtain visas to come to Chicago

### Volunteers for Church Cleaning on Sundays (Mar 1- Mar 29)

Place	Group	Leader
Fellowship Hall	Hope /African/Korean/English	Matthew Parks
Sanctuary	Spanish	Analís Garcia
Bathroom & Hallway	College & Youth group	Aldrick Lim
Sunday school rooms & Offices	Filipino	Lyle Atonson

### Ushers of the Month of March

Offering ushers	Martha Velasquez, Jovie Dumlao, Raul Lopez, Blanka Guerra
Welcome ushers	Priscilla Caronongan, Lidia Lopez, Analís Garcia
Kitchen	Lunch preparation group

### Last Week's Offering

<b>Title</b>	Romulo & Isabel Espinoza//Bertha M. Fernandez//Joseph & Kelly Fernandez//Gail Hill//Lydia Hong//Alex & Analís Lucas//David Yupe//Anastasia Tambire
<b>Lord's Day</b>	Eryn Corachea//Jovie Dumlao//Maximo & Bertha Fernandez//Timothy Hong//Marta Velasquez//Bethsaida & Jada Morero//Patricia Lopez
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	Jovie Dumlao//Maximo & Bertha Fernandez //Gail Hill
<b>Mission</b>	Rene & Lynn Corachea//Romulo & Isabel Espinoza//Gail Hill//Lydia Hong//Ramos Carlos Lopez
<b>Others</b>	Raffle

### Weekly Bible Reading Chart

Date	Old Testament	Check	New Testament	√
3/2(Monday)	Numbers 29-31		Mark 9:30-50	
3/3(Tuesday)	Numbers 32-33		Mark 10:1-31	
3/4(Wednesday)	Numbers 34-36		Mark 10:32-52	
3/5(Thursday)	Deuteronomy 1-2		Mark 11:1-19	
3/6(Friday)	Deuteronomy 3-4		Mark 11:20-33	
3/7(Saturday)	Deuteronomy 5-7		Mark 12:1-27	
3/8(Sunday)	Deuteronomy 8-10		Mark 12:28-44	

# ESF International - Church

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**March 1, 2015**



### Worship services:

Sunday 11:30 AM

-Main Worship Service for All

### Prayer services

Fridays 8:00 PM

Sundays 9:30 AM - Room 105

### Bible Study

Shepherd Group –Wednesday 8:00 PM

Open to all – Saturday 10:30 AM

Cell groups –By appointment

Hope group – Sunday 10:00 AM

### Cell Groups

According to arrangement of each cell

### Campus Ministry

Wednesday- At Truman

### Youth Ministry

Sunday – 1:30 PM

### Children's ministry

Sunday school- Sunday 11:30 AM

### ESF Band Practice

Saturday 5:00pm & Sunday 10:00am

### Missionaries

Nancy Campo – 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 Philippines

Richard Shaffer – Campus ministry in USA

Paul Uzoma –Campus ministry in Benin, Africa

Samuel Lebbie – Campus ministry in Senegal, Africa

Rahab Lee – Campus ministry in Asia

Chan Park – Church planting ministry in Croatia, Europe

### Ministers

Senior Pastor -Timothy Hong

Hope Group Ministry- Sang H. Lee Youth Group Ministry- Aldrick Lim

Audio Visual Ministry -Ki Wang Song

Assistant Pastors– Harold Goneh, Kurt Schwartz, Solomon Berhanu