

Acts Church



21-DAY PRAYER & FAST



Acts Church
Helping People Believe

WEEK 2

06 . 04 . 2019



12 . 04 . 2019

GOOD TAKES TIME

With the siren wailing overhead, you reach the hospital after what seems like an eternity. A crowd of medical professionals are ready to hit the ground running in the race to save your father's life. They reassure you that they will do everything in their power – anything it takes – for your father's (and you and your entire family's) ultimate good.

Then they ask you to wait. Why? Because all the good that they're going to do takes time.

God is good. His Word is good, and His Will is good. All the things He works together in our lives is for good. But good always takes time. Not because God is constrained by time, but because we are.

Look at the lives of every single man and woman of God in the Bible and the good work of God in and through their lives. Think about Abraham, Joseph, and Daniel. The one thing they have in common is that their breakthroughs and promises took time. So let's learn to wait on God's goodness, shall we?

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD IS GOOD, OR ARE YOU JUST IMPATIENT TO SEE HIS GOODNESS IN YOUR LIFE?

PRAYER FOCUS

**ACTS BOTSWANA:
STRENGTHENING OF
OUR CORE TEAM TO
LEAD THE CHURCH,
NEW SOULS REACHED
AND ROOTED**

GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK

As the new school year begins, it's always funny to watch parents go out of their way to make sure their kids are adjusting well in school. We see parents hiding around doorways, or peeking from windows trying to get a glimpse of their children. We may laugh today, but most of us can remember how much comfort and confidence it gave us to see our parents acting the same way.

God's goodness is similar. In Exodus 13, He made sure that the Israelites were led and protected. Day and night He guided them with a pillar of cloud and fire. Psalm 23:6 also says that His goodness and mercy follows us. The word 'follow' in the Hebrew is *radaph*, meaning 'to pursue or to hunt down'. God's goodness pursues us relentlessly until it finds us!

God's goodness is always nearby, going ahead or following behind us. We may not always see Him there (just like the well-hidden parents), but take comfort that He's just around the corner, watching out for all His children.

**HAVE WE LOST SIGHT OF GOD'S PROTECTION FOR US?
TRY TO REMEMBER THE TIMES HE NEVER LEFT US
DURING OUR DIFFICULT TIMES.**

PRAYER FOCUS

**ACTS MELBOURNE:
STRENGTHENING
OF LEADERS AND
OPPORTUNITIES TO
REACH NEW SOULS**

A GOOD FUTURE

In the story of the rich young ruler, Jesus presented what the future could look like to the man, who was seeking good advice from a good teacher. But Jesus made it clear that without God, nothing is good; and with God, all things are good.

Some of us may have followed the rules all our lives, obeying the 'do not's'. However, Jesus challenged him just as He challenges us to "Go and sell..., give..., come, and follow Me."

Jesus could have told the man that he was a lost cause. Instead, He looked at him and loved him. That's a principle we can all follow. People may not be good now, but there's a good future they can step into.

We read in verse 22 that the man went away disheartened. But we don't know the conclusion to the story. Did he or didn't he sell his possessions to follow Jesus? All we know is that a broken heart can be one that allows God to enter, signalling the beginning of a good future.

**THINK OF SOMEONE YOU'RE CLOSE TO GIVING UP ON.
ASK GOD TO LET YOU SEE THE GOOD FUTURE HE HAS
PLANNED FOR THIS FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.**

PRAYER FOCUS

**ACTS JAKARTA
(BEKASI & KARAWACI):**

RAISING OF NEW LEADERS;

STRONG DISCIPLESHIP

RELATIONSHIP AND

REACHING THEIR

COMMUNITY WITH

GOD'S LOVE

THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY EYE

Raise your hand if you've been hurt, under-appreciated or misunderstood by others. How about if you've been tempted to give them a piece of your mind or just give up on them completely? Think also about the times you've hurt and disappointed others.

Jesus warns us against focusing on the speck in other people's eyes when we have a plank in our own. A speck is a tiny spot of dust, while a plank is a solid piece of wood! In His usual style, Jesus also reveals the formula on how to see the good in "bad" people.

How do we love people who have been horrible to us? By remembering that we are far from good ourselves. In fact, we were so bad that God had to intervene by sending Jesus to the Cross.

Be patient with the clueless, because we were once clueless. Forgive others because we needed forgiving ourselves. See the good in others because God saw it in us, even when we were not good enough for Him. Surrender your pain to God and use your salvation as a mirror to keep seeing the good in others.

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU NEED TO FORGIVE? PERHAPS YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS WAITING IF YOU APOLOGISED, NOT BASED ON WHO'S RIGHT OR WRONG, BUT BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO.

PRAYER FOCUS

**ACTS CHIANG MAI
& ACTS MYANMAR:**

SUPERNATURAL

GROWTH AND

TRANSFORMED LIVES

THE HEART OF THE FATHER

I'd like to rename the Parable of the Prodigal Son to the Parable of the Prodigal Father. Why? Because the word 'prodigal' can be applied to both of them. In one sense it means to spend money wastefully and recklessly, but in another it means giving something on a lavish scale – generously and unsparingly.

In this story, the father did not spare the best robe, ring, or sandal for his youngest. He even killed the fatted calf for this son whom many would've condemned or written off. But not the father.

When the son was still a distance away, the father saw him and had compassion on him. He didn't know if this young man was repentant or whether he had come to his senses. All he saw was his beloved son, made in his image, coming back home!

The father chose to see the good in his child by declaring hope, joy, and life. He chose to see the good in the situation, and he chose to see the good in his son.

HOW DO WE SEE OTHERS? CAN WE ASK GOD TO GIVE US THE FATHER'S HEART TO SEE OTHERS AS HE SEES THEM?

PRAYER FOCUS

**ACTS SINGAPORE:
PARTNERS TO BE
WITNESSES IN THEIR
CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE
AND TO MAKE AN IMPACT
IN THEIR COMMUNITY**

THE GOOD IN GOOD NEWS

At one of our Teens events, I remember a young Hindu boy raising his hand to accept Christ. After the event, we followed up and he told us that he could no longer come to church. The reason was his parents told him that the church and pastors only wanted his money.

Months later, I bumped into him in a banana leaf rice restaurant. He introduced me to his family and told them I was a pastor (gulp!). There and then, God impressed upon my heart to pay for their meals. I struggled a little because they were a big group, but finally I said yes to God.

When they left, the cashier told them the bill had been paid by me (the pastor). They were genuinely shocked and surprised. I haven't seen them since, but the Holy Spirit said, "While there might've been no conversion, there was a change in perception. Perhaps now they won't see the church and pastors as money-hungry people!"

Preaching the Good News isn't always about "preaching" the "News" but simply doing what is "Good." Let's use good works to plant seeds and change minds and hearts instead.

THINK OF THREE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO NEED THE GOOD NEWS. NOW THINK ABOUT WHAT "GOOD" YOU CAN DO IN THEIR LIVES TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE.

PRAYER FOCUS

**CHILDREN AND TEENS:
TO FOLLOW CHRIST WITH
THEIR WHOLE HEART
AND TO BE POWERFUL
WITNESSES FOR HIM**

I AM COMPELLED

I want to tell you about why I'm compelled to preach the Good News or to pray for someone. Some years back, I lost a friend in a car crash. He was burnt beyond recognition in that tragic accident. At university, he was surrounded by friends from Christian Fellowship, yet by the end of our degrees, he hadn't yet believed.

At the funeral I cried – not because I was going to miss his company as we didn't meet regularly – but because of the deep sorrow of not knowing where he was. The possibility of a Christ-less eternity grieved me. That day changed my life forever. Everytime I'm with someone who doesn't know God, I think about whether this would be the last time I see them.

Paul said he was compelled to preach the Good News because he had no choice. He became all things to all men and did everything he could to save some. I hope we would do the same, because I believe God has given us this sacred trust to do so. I pray that no one reading this will have to lose someone before realising the urgency of sharing the Good News.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY TO BE SOMETHING
TO SOMEONE, SO THAT THIS PERSON WILL BE
ONE STEP CLOSER TO SALVATION?**

PRAYER FOCUS

**ACTS INTERNATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES IN
HAMBURG & HONG KONG:**

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

AND FRIENDSHIPS TO BE

ESTABLISHED LEADING TO

GROWTH IN COMMUNITY

ON TO WEEK 3!



*NOT TOO LATE TO SHARE IT
WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND
FAMILY, DO IT TOGETHER!*

***SHARE YOUR
TESTIMONY
WITH US***

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