



02 JAN 2022 | ELDER LEE EE YANG | REAPING WHAT GOD SOWS | MATTHEW 13:1-12

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on the condition of our hearts and to consider steps where we can continue to grow in intimacy.
2. Be reminded of tapping into the power of God's word for our circumstances

SERMON SUMMARY

Elder Ee Yang shared about RiverLife's journey thus far. He shared about how a loss of vision can affect us and the importance of us holding onto the visions that God has given to us. As revelation comes from God's Word, fruitfulness comes from understanding God's Word. It is important for us to return to intimacy with God, and Jesus has made a way for us to be reconciled with God. As RiverLifers, may we commit to prioritising our intimacy with God in this new year.

SERMON RECAP

Adam Grant, spoke about "languishing" in the New York Times. Languishing is a sense of stagnation and emptiness. It feels as if you are muddling through your days, looking at your life through a foggy windshield. Elder Ee Yang also shared about the VUCA world - Volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. A lot of time has been spent reacting to what the pandemic is bringing.

In spite of all these things happening, we can still reap what God is sowing in us.

1. Introduction

- Revelation comes from God's Word to His disciples ([Matthew 13:1-12](#))
- Blessing and fruitfulness comes from hearing and understanding God's revelation (vv 16-17)
- Be a disciple, not the crowd (vv. 18-23) – May we be disciples to harken to God's voice, and to be doers of the word in listening and applying the truth of God's kingdom.



2. **The Creative Power of God's Word** ([Psalm 33:6 NLT](#), [Hebrews 11:3 NIV](#))

- God declares, and it becomes ([Genesis 1:1-3](#))
 - The first day's Word is the calling of light into being. This is an act of creative power. It is a calling into existence what had not existed, and that is the power of God's Word.
- In this world of crisis and uncertainty, we need the creative power of God's word
 - We need to have the "declare, and it becomes" anointing
 - We need to create a way in which there is no way - to bring creative solutions to problems, to declare life into dead situations ([Romans 4:16-17](#))

3. **Response**

- *Repent* - For those who do not understand God's word ([Matthew 13:19](#)). Change our minds about God's word. Seek to understand God's word
- *Grow Deep* - For those that are failing away due to affliction or persecution ([Matthew 13:21](#)). Plunge back and grow deep in God's word
- *Prioritise* - For those that are distracted by the worry of the world and deceitfulness of wealth ([Matthew 13:22](#)) to prioritise the word of God in 2022.
- Elder Ee Yang also spoke about the Prophet Elijah and the widow at Zarephath ([1 Kings 17:8-16](#)). The widow was in a very difficult situation and had thoughts of ending both her and her son's lives. However, she followed what Elijah had instructed and experienced a situation where God provided for her. Even as we experience tough situations, may we continue to prioritise God's word in our lives and await for His provision and breakthrough.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Elder Ee Yang shared about "languishing" and the importance of holding on to the vision God has for us. As a cell, share the experiences you had in 2021.**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to share. Members may still be feeling such episodes of languishing and feeling lost, and it is helpful if the cell can acknowledge that while we are all on our own journeys, we can support and pray alongside each other in the good and bad times. Members can use this time to share their thanksgivings related to this question, or to use it as a time to recommit to keeping our eyes on Jesus and what He has for us. Leaders can also ask members to explore on what Elder Ee Yang had shared about the creative power of God's word



and how we can continue to speak life into the challenges and situations of our lives.

Transition

God has been faithful and He continues to be with us in the good and bad times. In spite of the storms in our lives, He has not lost sight of what He has created us and His Church to become for His glory.

- 2. What do we understand about intimacy with God? What are some barriers that hinder this and what are some steps we can take to seek intimacy with God? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to share their understanding and views about growing in intimacy with Christ. Members can choose to share about the barriers they may face in their different life stages, what routines or forms of accountability they have had that helped them grow. Similar to the leaders' notes above, the cell may also choose to discuss on how they can use God's word e.g. in prayer or in declaration over their situations to prioritise on God's word over their circumstances.

Transition

We desire to grow in intimacy with God. However, we may be affected by circumstances in our lives and may lose sight of what God has for us, affecting our ability to reap what God is sowing into His church.

- 3. Elder Ee Yang spoke about the Parable of the Sower. Which type of soil do you identify with in this season, and is it aligned to what you would like it to be? What is one action step you can take to make shifts or continue? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to identify where they are at in terms of their spiritual walk and what they hope can be the same or different. The cell can break into groups for further sharing and prayer.

Closing

As we begin the new year, may we prioritise our lives around the presence of God and seek intimacy with Him.



WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- We will remember that constant reflection is key to our spiritual growth and maturity.
- God will show us the aspects of our lives that need strengthening in 2022 and for the Holy Spirit to guide us to continue to apply the lessons we have learnt from God in 2021.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God for the decrease in community cases.
- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** Our BRP takes you through the Bible in 2 years. We are continuing from where we left off in 2021. Even if you have not started with our BRP since last year, you can jump right in with us from 2022.
2. **Upcoming Pulpit Series.** – Let the River Flow. Our first sermon series of 2022, *Let The River Flow*, will begin next Sunday, 9 Jan. This series is a continuation of our journey beyond 30 as a church and will help us discover our Heavenly Father's invitation to give ourselves fully to Him and experience rivers of living water flow from our hearts to our communities. The six-part message series kicks off with vision weekends exploring our future through the Scriptural image of the River. In preparation of next week's message, we encourage you to read through Ezekiel 47:1-12. You can find the series line-up in today's digital bulletin.
3. **Resumption of 11am Service.** Our 11am service had resumed on Sunday, 19 Dec to allow more RiverLifers to return to church for worship. Let's free up our car park lots for guests and visitors, our elderly and parents with young children. *If you can, do park your vehicles outside of the*

vicinity. Our back gate will be opened for the convenience of those who park outside of church.

4. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
5. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

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