



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 22 May 2016

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	224 - <i>I Know Whom I have Believed</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Timothy 6:6-21
Hymn	TP 73:1-3,10-12,17-19, 22-26
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 4:10-23
Hymn	370 - <i>Count Your Blessings</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Satisfied in Christ"
*Closing Hymn	295 - <i>He Leadeth Me</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	* <i>Congregation standing</i>

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

†† Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

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Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Case Studies on Communication and Conflict Resolution - Part III

Case Study 2 - Gossip and Hurt

Esther can't keep secrets. And because of that, no one wants to tell her anything.

She has gone around to many people to reveal secrets she has heard and that have caused many problems.

Once she heard from Elaine that she was pregnant with twins. This was very early on in the pregnancy and Elaine just wanted prayer and asked her to keep it a secret. Esther went to tell some ladies in church.

One of the twins died in utero. When the ladies went to congratulate Elaine on having twins, Elaine was very sad and had to reveal that one twin had died.

It was very awkward for everyone. Elaine has never trusted Esther since and cautions others from trusting Esther.

This was not the only time she shared a secret she shouldn't have. Everyone knows that this is her reputation.

Those who have been burned by Esther avoid her, and many others, as a result, also avoid her. She is not included in activities and gatherings.

Esther feels very sad and she doesn't understand why people avoid her. She admits that she isn't good at keeping secrets, but she has always maintained that she never meant to do it maliciously. She feels that people are overreacting and ill-treating her. She's feeling quite down.

- 1. Does Esther have a right to be sad and upset? Isn't she just reaping what she deserves?*
- 2. What did Elaine and the rest who were burned do that was sinful against Esther?*
- 3. What duties did Elaine and the others burned by Esther have toward her?*
- 4. What do you think is wrong with Esther's attitude?*
- 5. How would you help Esther?*

Talebearing and Keeping Secrets

The Bible has much to say about keeping secrets and not gossiping. The Bible speaks about the character of those who can't hold their tongue - they are talebearers. They are not faithful.

Proverbs 11:13 says, "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

They are also "froward." Proverbs 16:28 - "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

"Froward" refers to a person who is difficult to deal with. Such a person multiplies problems and brings a wedge even between best friends - even if that friend is theirs.

While the intent may not be mischief or slander, a person who does not keep secrets will land himself in a lot of trouble.

Proverbs 21:23 - "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

Whether we mean it maliciously or innocently, we will bring trouble upon ourselves when we don't learn to hold our tongues.

But sometimes it is necessary NOT to hold our tongues. Leviticus 5:1 - "And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity."

When your testimony is needed to verify crime, or your testimony is necessary to report a crime, and you keep silent - you become complicit in the crime.

Issue of Gossip and Talebearing Between Esther, Elaine, and Everyone

It is very easy to blame Esther in this scenario as the chief culprit and no one would flinch. However, the issue is more complicated than that.

Esther has a severe problem. She is a talebearer. She may not be malicious, but that does not lessen her crime and

the impact of her crime. Many people have been hurt and she has been hurt.

Esther is upset. She has been hurt by the avoidance of others. But she actually deserves far worse - all of us deserve far worse for our sins.

Unfortunately, she doesn't seem to be repentant - she is remorseful because she has copped the scorn of others.

But she defends her crime by saying she was not malicious. Malice is bad - but so is indiscretion. She must see her crime as it is. And others ought to help her to see this.

But Esther is not the only talebearer. Elaine, in her hurt, has become malicious - warning everyone else against Esther. Esther betrayed her trust - and now ironically, she was betraying Esther.

Yes, Elaine was foolish to reveal this to Esther. One wonders why she would have done this, knowing Esther's reputation. Proverbs 20:19 says, *"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."* The instruction is clear - don't trust or associate with a person who gossips. You'll get hurt.

But as sorrowful as she was, as hurt as she was, and perhaps as chemically affected as she was (by pregnancy), Elaine did not have liberty to sin against Esther. But this is not merely a crime that is confined to Esther and Elaine. Everyone is to be blamed.

Esther has been allowed to be a talebearer because no one had come forward to counsel and rebuke her. They all knew her crime but they were complicit because no one helped her.

If they had counseled her in the past and been her keeper - helping her not to gossip and admonishing her when she did - she would not have come to this stage.

Conclusion

Repentance is the name of the game - all must admit their fault. Those who avoided Esther must repent of that sin. Elaine has to repent of her actions against Esther. Esther needs to see the extent of her sin and repent.

There needs to be forgiveness - Elaine must forgive Esther, and everyone needs to forgive her. Esther needs to forgive Elaine and everyone else for their sins against her.

It is therefore important to help each party involved to realize their sins.

Repentance will result in less gossip and talebearing from Esther, forgiveness and compassion from Elaine, and oversight and inclusion by everyone else.

When people are consumed with their duties to one another; they spend less time consumed on other people's duties towards them. This is Christian love.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 68. Are the elect only effectually called?

A. All the elect, and they only, are effectually called: although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the Word, and have some common operations of the Spirit; who, for their wilful neglect and contempt of the grace offered to them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.

Q. 69. What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A. The communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification, adoption, sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (22.5.16)	Next Week (29.5.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Terence Lee	Ken Chong
Pianist	Edward Lim	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang*, David Lim* Paul Butler, Ken Hong	LH Chua*, Ken Hong* Chris Budiman, David Pang
Usher	Josephine Austin, Joyce Ng	Eva Chiu, Merilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Hui Min Lim Sarah Siew	Peggy Woo*, Lisa Lim Carmel Sriharan
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>27 May 2016</i>	<i>3 June 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "The Cost of Discipleship" (Luke 14:24-35).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Godly Parents Don't Always Have Godly Children" (1 Samuel 8:1-5). Speaker - Jackie Hong.
4. Attadale Friendship Group lunch outing to Ravenswood Hotel. Monday, 23 May, 2016. Cost for transport - \$5. Meet at church at 9:30 am. For more information please contact Peter Spasic at 0430 438 705.
5. Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia) Annual Public Meeting. Saturday, 28 May 2016, 7 pm, at Perth Free Presbyterian Church, 10 Alexander Road, Padbury, WA 6125. Speaker - The Rev Malcolm Stuart, Vice President, TBS.
6. Ladies' Bible Study. Saturday, 28 May 2016, 7:30 pm, at the residence of Jackie Hong. For more information please contact Evelyn Lee at 0403 504 186.
7. Granny Smith Apples available in the fellowship hall. \$6 donation per bag. Proceeds go to the Melville District Schools Chaplaincy Program.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
MON 9:30 am Attadale Friendship Group	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,721.90 (#569 - \$400.00, #570 - \$5.70). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$420.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$600.00 (#369 - \$600.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,741.90. <i>Attendance</i> - 161.
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$78,870.47	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$8,235.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$600.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$87,705.47	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$342,294.53</i>	SWIFT: WPACAU2S

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

Learning to Be Satisfied in Christ
Philippians 4:10-23

Nothing is more natural for us than dissatisfaction and discontentment. That's why we must learn satisfaction in Christ. A mark of a mature church is seen in its satisfied people - people who are satisfied in Christ. An immature church is filled with dissatisfied people.

1. Learning from God's Prodigal People
 - a. Their generosity
 - b. Their struggles
 - c. Their love
2. Learning from God's Provision and Providence
 - a. Providence
 - i. Abase/abound
 - ii. Full/hungry
 - iii. Rich/poor
 - b. Provision
 - i. Paul is not destitute
 - ii. Needs vs desire
3. Learning from God's Personal Power
 - a. "All things"
 - b. The power to give

Dissatisfaction is not a minor sin. It's a sin which stirs up all other sins. It becomes a mark of how poorly a church is doing.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Are you satisfied? Do you believe that people in the church are satisfied given what they speak about?
2. Do you think the worshipers in your church are giving as they should be, out of what they have?
3. AW Tozer says, "Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality." Do you believe that giving to God will result in blessings to you? Why do people not give more?