

For the Love of God—Jan 26

Devotional by Don Carson, following the Murray McCheyne Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 27, Matthew 26, Esther 3, Acts 26

ALL FOUR OF THE PASSAGES contribute to the theme of the providence of God.

Genesis 27 is in many ways a pathetic, grubby account. Earlier Esau had despised his birthright (25:34); now Jacob swindles him out of it. In this Jacob is guided by his mother Rebekah, who thus shows favouritism among her children and disloyalty to her husband. Esau throws a tantrum and takes no responsibility for his actions at all. Indeed, he nurses his bitterness and plots the assassination of his brother. The family that constitutes the promised line is not doing very well.

Yet those who read the passage in the flow of the entire book remember that God himself had told Rebekah, before the twin brothers were born, that the older would serve the younger (25:23). Perhaps that is one of the reasons why she acted as she did: apparently she felt that God needed a little help in keeping his prediction, even immoral help. Yet behind these grubby and evil actions God is mysteriously working out his purposes to bring the promised line to the end he has determined. Certainly God could have arranged to have Jacob born first, if that was the man he wanted to carry on the line. Instead, Esau is born first, but Jacob is chosen, as if to say that the line is important, but God's sovereign, intervening choosing is more important than mere human seniority, than mere primogeniture.

In Matthew 26, the authorities hatch a nasty plot to corrupt justice and sort out a political problem; Judas, one of Jesus' intimates, sells his master; Jesus is in agony in Gethsemane; he is arrested and betrayed by a kiss; the Sanhedrin condemns and brutalizes its prisoner; Peter disowns Jesus. Yet who can doubt, in the flow of the book, that God remains in sovereign control to bring about the desired end? Jesus will give his life "as a ransom for many" (20:28), and all the failures, pain, and sin in this chapter issue in redemption.

The book of Esther does not even use the word God, but here too, even Haman's gross government-sanctioned genocide is heading toward God's salvation. And Paul (Acts 26) apparently would have been acquitted if he had not appealed to Caesar — yet that very appeal brings him in the end to declare the Gospel at the heart of the Empire.

Providence is mysterious. It must never be used to justify wrong actions or to mitigate sin: Isaac and his family are more than a little sleazy, Judas is a deceitful wretch, Haman is vile, and the Roman court trying Paul is more than a little corrupt. Yet God sovereignly rules, behind the scenes, bringing glory out of gore and honour out of shame.

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week: \$6,010.15
Weekly Required (for 2018): \$5,503.00
Shortfall (for 2018): \$ 190.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544
Description: Offering

28 January 2018

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The 'SL' in 'SLE' means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The 'E' stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The 'E' also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

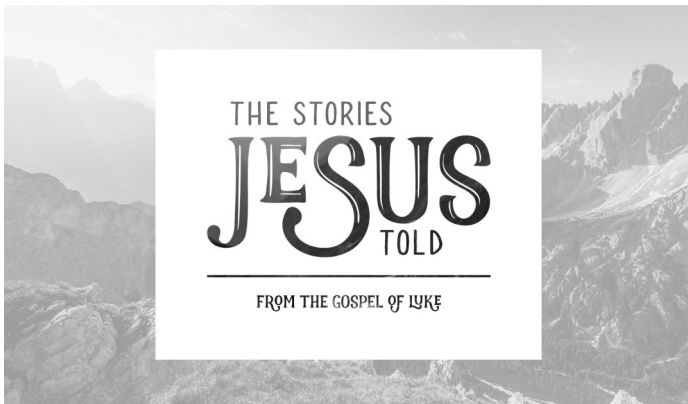
Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au
or 'like' us for further updates at
facebook.com/slechurch

service times

9:00am and 11:00am





serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Simeon	Randy
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Jansen <i>Marilyn</i>	Chi <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Cecilia Shelley	Suzanne Sharnee
Wash Up	SOS Randy	SOS Dan
Welcome	Meng Yin Esther Dan TBA TBA TBA	Philip Mee Lan Amy TBA TBA TBA
Stewards	Jeffery Stephen <i>Helen</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>Li Kai</i>	 <i>Josh</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>
Piano	Dan Lowe	
Guitar etc	Ivan, CY	
Drums	Marcus	
Vocal	Jolene	
PA	Reuten Chris	

community news

current sermons

Last Week: Parables in Luke #1: A Parable on Parables
[Luke 8:4-18]

This Week: Parables in Luke #2: The Good Samaritan
[Luke 10:25-37]

Next Week: Parables in Luke #3: The Great Banquet
[Luke 14:12-24]

date claimers

prayer points

- Praise God for the Spirit of interpretation and understanding that Jesus gives us freely by faith in Him. Praise God that through His parables at first appear mysterious, by His grace we are enabled to hear and see and understand.
- Pray for growth in biblical wisdom as we hear more from the parables of Jesus. Pray that this wisdom would work in our lives as we hear Jesus and reorient all parts of our lives to live for His Kingdom. Pray that God would reveal the blindspots we suffer from.
- Pray for our fellowship groups which are beginning to restart for 2018. Pray for the leaders to be wise in knowing how to lead and teach from God's Word through this year, and pray for ourselves to be connected again to a fellowship group for growth, accountability, friendship and fellowship.
- Pray for _____
(why not turn to the person next to you and fill in this blank space with a prayer point for them!)

church contacts

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Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

1. Introduction

2. "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

3. "Who is my neighbour?"

4. Jesus' answer

A. The Good Samaritan

B. Wrong question!

5. Implications

A. True believers love

B. A love without distinction/limitation

C. A merciful love