



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Blessed are the Persecuted

**SPEAKER** DSP Edric Sng

**THEME** Building the Right Culture

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

DSP Edric Sng expounds on Matthew 5:10-12 and the missionary legacy of Jim Elliot, Elisabeth Elliot, and their friends who sought to bring the gospel to the Waodani people, an indigenous tribe in Ecuador. In the words of Jim Elliot who said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose", we are reminded to prioritize the eternal over the temporal and to live for God's purpose rather than our own worldly goals.

## BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

### 1) Suffering

The Lion and the Spear – BBTC's drama production - is inspired by how Jim Elliot and his missionary friends sought to evangelise to the Waodani tribe. Although the missionaries had guns, they had vowed not to kill any human who had not yet known Christ. They were speared and died before completing their mission. How could dying for Christ before completing their mission be a God thing? The answer was found in Jim's journal: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose". This an echo of Christ's words in Luke 9:22-26. As Christians, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus will save it.

### 2) Salvation

Jesus, the Son of God, chose to become the Son of Man. He came to be born into this world and suffered rejection by His own people and was hung on the cross. However, Jesus rose to life again and His promise to us is that we who believe in Him and follow Him will also live eternally with Him. But it is not just a simple pretty picture – our time on earth is our journey of following God in this temporal life before we graduate to glory in eternity. Luke 9:23 reminds us that every follower of Jesus must go through the suffering of denying ourselves and saying yes to the things of God instead. We should reflect on whether our ambitions, preferences and dreams stand in the way of God's purposes. By decreasing on all of those fronts and letting Jesus increase in our lives (John 3:30), we are taking up our cross and following Jesus daily.

### 3) Shame

One of the ways that we must choose to decrease is in shame. Luke 9:26 reminds us that Jesus will be ashamed of whoever is ashamed of Jesus and the gospel when He comes back in glory. We will be called to account to Him.

The world hates the call to repent; they hate the idea of denying themselves and having to depend on anyone else so they choose to reject Jesus and the salvation that He brings. DSP Sng exhorts us to live out Romans 1:16 and Luke 9:24-25, declaring that the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. Jim Elliott gave up his life on earth to gain eternal life. What we choose to do in the years of our temporal life have eternal implications so we should follow Jim Elliott's example of paying whatever price we need to pay to gain our eternal reward (Luke 16:9).

Elisabeth Elliot (Jim Elliot's wife) and the family members of the missionaries who had died, did not give up on evangelising to the Waodani tribe. They went to live with the Waodani and continued to share the gospel with them. They saw the missionaries who had sacrificed their lives as part of the "great cloud of witnesses" of those who responded to God in faith without seeing their reward (Hebrews 11:36-40, 12:1-3). God had something better planned - Elisabeth Elliot and family members of the missionaries who had died would also share in the mission, having the awesome responsibility of continuing the work. The Waodani received Christ as their Saviour in time, and they received the gospel in their own language. Mincaye, a man who had speared the missionaries years before, continued sharing the gospel to a global audience.

## CONCLUSION

The pioneers of faith have blazed the trail and we are called to follow in their footsteps. It is our responsibility to continue to grow the Church, reaching out to people to save their souls just as many people have done for us in bringing us to Christ. Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).

# QUESTIONS

1. Share about an incident where you felt persecuted because of your faith in Jesus Christ and your response towards those who persecuted you.

2. John 3:30 says “He must become greater; I must become less.” Reflect on an incident whereby you/someone you know chose to take practical actions to prioritise God’s prompting, rather than your/their own will. Share some challenges faced in the process.

3. Luke 16:9 says “Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” What potential hindrances could prevent us from living out this verse, and how do we overcome them?