

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



Sermon Date: 17/05/2020

Text(s): Psalm 11

Title: Responding to Cruel Realities

Preacher: Dr John Ng

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

(Read the Bible texts, quietly or aloud)

Psalm 11 (ESV)

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF DAVID.

- 1 In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,
- 2 for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;
- 3 if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
- 4 The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.
- 5 The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
- 6 Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.
- 7 For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

1. **We experience all kinds of pain as we walk through life, pains such as career pain and financial pain. Some might want to include growing pain in the list. The preacher said the cruelest of them all is relational pain which can come from social injustice, office politics, family conflicts, and the loss of a loved one. Do you agree that relational pain is the cruelest pain of them all? Why or why not?**

2. **Psalm 11 is a psalm by David who experienced relational dysfunctionality first hand. Out of jealousy, king Saul tried to kill him several times and even went out to hunt him down when David ran away from him. David experienced personal betrayal when his own son, Absalom, betrayed him and attempted to take over the throne (2 Samuel 15–17). How much do you think David's pains were caused by the cruel reality of sin in the hearts of men and how much do you think his pains were the results of his own mistakes?**



3. The preacher shared 2 possible results when people face cruel realities. The first is to give up on God and turn to the mountain for protection. The second is to have a sense of hopelessness. Have you observed these 2 reactions in the last few months as the world battles with COVID-19? Do you know someone personally who is feeling totally hopeless right now or has given up hope on God?

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. The preacher shared how David trusted in the Lord to be his refuge. To trust in God is to take refuge in God as a strong tower against all external pressures and dangers. To trust in God is to lean on God, to appreciate Him as a crutch we can lean on. To trust God is to 'roll upon' God, to roll your tears on God and release your pain to Him. Can you relate to these imageries – tower, crutch and tears? How have you been relating to God these past few months?
2. "What is God's response during this time," the preacher asked. First, God is Present. Second, God is Sovereign. Third, God is Just. Fourth, God is our Ultimate Reality. Do share with us some examples to encourage us all how you have experienced God's presence, sovereignty, justice and reality.

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to find peace in God as our Refuge, find strength in Christ as our Rock, and find comfort in the Holy Spirit as our Comforter.
- Pray for others in your family or circle of friends who need prayer support.
- Remember to pray for the churches in Singapore to continue as godly witnesses to Singapore and beyond.