

# Tuvvia

APRIL-JUNE 2020



## The GOLDEN RULE

*So in everything, do to others what you would  
have them do to you, for this sums up the  
Law and the Prophets.*

*Matthew 7:12*

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## Our Online Service Schedule



**Bible Study  
& Pastoral Connect every  
Wednesday 06.00 PM**



**Friday Fasting Prayer  
11.00 AM Via Skype**



**Worship Service by ZOOM  
every Sunday 09.00 AM**



**Green Pastures  
Sunday School Every  
Sunday 11.15 AM**

### **THE GOLDEN RULE - The Christian Preamble**

Every country has a constitution and the constitution has a preamble which summarises the spirit of the constitution. India's preamble goes like this, "WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a [SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC] and to secure to all its citizens : JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the [unity and integrity of the Nation] This sums up the entire document in a nutshell. If you ask our Lord Jesus Christ, this question on what the Law (The Tanakh and Torah) are all about?



He would give the reply as what we call the Golden Rule. "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."(Matthew 7:12 NIV) Christianity is a reflection of our relationship with God. It's a mission based model. An idle christian who is selfish , narcissist and consumeristic is never a Christian in the first place. When we come out of our comfort zones and decide to live a a Christian, the world would change for the better. In the CoVID times, none of us can be silent. We have a work to do and that is to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14) and to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).

The Jewish nation was given the law as Moses came down from Sinai but before even they could see or understand it, Moses had to break the stone tablets. The sinful nature of man could not handle the Holy Laws of God. They had 613 of it and by the law, no one could justify themselves before God. St James said, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."(James 2:10) When we hear the condition of the migrant workers, when we hear of untouchability and racism ruling our towns and streets, when we hear of inhumane torture in the confinement of prison, when we see and hear of indignified disposal of human bodies affected by covid-we understand the principle that we are all law breakers and we can't stand justified before a Holy God unless He reckons it to us. (Psalm 32:1) How important it is to understand the grace of God. When we believe and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and appropriate that or mirror that truth in our relationships and walks of life-we stand justified by faith through grace.(Rom 10:9, Gal 2:15,Rom 5:1)

James brings clarity to the argument in his epistle. "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that —and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?"(Jam 2:17-20) So Christianity is all about living what you are believing and the priority is one another. That's how the law and prophets would be fulfilled in our lives. Even if we don't preach a sermon, when we live out the golden rule, it will bring nations to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus. This can only happen when our Lord Jesus dwells inside of us by the power of His Spirit. Our deeds should not be response oriented, it should be a reflection of who lives in us. The Love poured out by the Holy Spirit in us is not just for a category of people, but its even for the worst of our enemies. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you"(Matt 5:44) Can we take a decision to practise the Golden Rule and see lives being transformed by the Lord Jesus living in us? Take a moment now and pray. "Dear Lord, give me the strength to practise the golden rule to do to others what I would want them to do for me. Give me the grace and ability for it all comes from you. In Jesus' name we pray-Amen"

*In His Vineyard,  
Pastor Ashley Benjamin*

# TESTIMONY

*"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"*

*Luke 1:45*

This was the promise that God spoke to me while I was a part of the Church 3-day fasting and prayer sessions in the month of Sept 2019. Though at the time we didn't know what the promise meant, we were soon thrilled to find out that I was pregnant with our second child. But little did we understand how much we needed to trust the Lord as turbulent times awaited us. God was faithful in keeping His promise of love and protection over my health and the baby's throughout the pregnancy. Towards the end of March, we were told due to the widespread of the COVID 19 virus, the hospital we were consulting will not be entertaining any patients for 2 weeks up until the lockdown ends. I was very much worried when the lockdown kept extending and I got no response from either the hospital or the doctor. Added to that our street became a containment zone and every other hospital I tried to consult turned me down because of shortage of staff and the pandemic situation we were in.

When every road seemed closed and desperation made us so weary, the only place we found strength was in the Body of Christ. By now our Church was connecting online for weekly prayers, Bible study and weekend services via Skype, YouTube, zoom. Every meeting I was a part of, the Lord spoke through His servant that, 'Angels will be stationed at the time of delivery. Everything is already taken care of by God. You only need be still.'. Everytime we felt hopeless and anxious, the Lord used the church congregation to strengthen and encourage me. Loving sisters and brothers in Christ who called, messaged, prayed and ministered to me with their words of comfort and love. On 31st of May, Sunday, the Day of Pentecost or Shavout, we got admitted in the hospital as the labour pains started. Because of the steep rise in COVID 19 cases, I had to be alone in the hospital, there was very minimal staff working then. Even throughout that stressful time, God reminded of his promises and I knew I wasn't alone as the church was constantly praying for me. Though the labor progressed, the doctor said the baby hasn't descended and it may take much longer and left for home. I knew I couldn't take it any longer and from that hospital bed I cried out to God, to have mercy on me, His handmaid, and the baby and give us life. God was gracious and heard every prayer made on my behalf. The delivery, which the doctor predicted would take a couple of more hours, took place within 6 minutes, in a miraculous and supernatural way. The baby was born safe and healthy to the surprise of the entire hospital. The doctor and her assistants were amazed. She later testified that she never had anyone deliver before she even arrived.

Through it all I saw the hand of God and His tender mercies over my life. Over and over again I'm overwhelmed by the love, prayers and encouragement I received from Pastor, Pastoramma and the Church family. Even in the most darkest of times, I thank God for His church that shines bright and its love that always keeps giving, ministering, even in the midst of a pandemic lockdown. All glory to His name.



**-SHARON ANGEL**

## SERMON BYTES

# JULY

*"Right perception about things"*

Numbers-14:9 says  
"Their protection is gone  
but the LORD is with us.  
Do not be afraid of them."

In Midst of all these negativity, there's a GOD who created you, and there's a GOD who brought us to July. So let's HONOUR bim, THANK bim, GLORIFY bim!

Remember:

1. Be Responsible with your Position.
2. Realise the Promises of GOD.  
AS you see these problems,  
Believe that every problem  
can be conquered by the  
PROMISE OF GOD.
3. Live in the Renewed  
purpose of GOD.

**Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley**

**by Vinamratha**



# What I Am Learning During The Pandemic

Covid-19 as the name suggests cannot be less horrific and heart wrenching than it is by its nature. The statistics shows the total cases of 7,800,973, deaths 429, 956 and 215 countries affected until June 13, 2020. The virus has no doubt left mankind completely despondent and fearsome! And what aggravates us more is that NOBODY wants to take an ownership of the emergence of the Virus to start with. People are perplexed, furious, depressed, helpless and anxious. There are so many questions that remains unanswered or perhaps is it that 'We' choose to accept and believe what we are told like any other time? Having said that I am not being naive for the lost lives around me and I understand the gravity of the situation; however, I as a child of God and follower of my dear Lord Jesus Christ I choose to have faith in God and believe in His wonderful plans that He has for each one of us from this Pandemic. Lock down, home quarantine, online schooling, social distancing has become a new norm of the society. Something which is so abnormal for a social being that God created has become a new normal. Nothing of the above is thrilling for anyone but as I said we accept it, because we suddenly are left with no choices at all! The Creator created and gave us a free will to choose good from evil. So, following the guidelines in place perhaps is the best choice we can make for our families and community around us.

## Antidote to Anxiety

Interesting as we talk about choices, God expects us to make better choices of the given situation at hand and I bet we all can if only we know that He is Sovereign above everything. Pastor David Jeremiah (senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church, in El Cajon, California) in his recent sermon said that the best definition of anxiety is anything without Jesus in a believer's life. Where do we stand as believers? Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:4-6(NKJV) Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; The secret to anxiety that Apostle Paul knew in Christ Jesus was in my humble opinion a choice amid his suffering, he found joy in his suffering. We all can make better choices amid pandemic too. We can either be fearful or faith- full. The former produces anxiety and the latter hope. We can choose to be joyful in hope rather dwell in continuous discouragement. Personally, I opt to choose which is good. The scripture says in Job 34:4 (NIV) Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good. We can either dwell in anxiety and appear defeated Christians or cascade a fountain of joy that has a ripple effect to people around us as we exhort one another. Hebrews 3:13 (NKJV).

## Not Fearful but Faith-full

Fear is not of God; we all know it and am not amazed that God had a purpose to mention it repeatedly in the Bible. It is by no doubt the very opposite of faith. What a privilege it is to be called the descendants of Abraham! The father of Faith and most strikingly we acclaim the very promise through FAITH in God. However, if we do not operate in faith which is most required of us Now, then we sadly fail to acknowledge the love and the promises of God on which we stand! It is a privilege that God has given us to operate in faith amid chaos and fear which if not vigilant, can quickly consume us! II Samuel 6:11 (NKJV) The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household. On the contrary if we can only consider the 'stay home' orders of the leaders not as an obligation but as an opportunity to bring in the very Ark of the Covenant, His presence into our houses than as the bible records that Obed Edom's house was blessed, wouldn't our Lord bless us too, when we acknowledge His presence? We will not be fearful anymore but faith-full and contribute to praying with the saints around the world for our nation and our communities. This is really exciting for me because when I view it from this perspective I relate with Joseph in Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Our God is a Big God, His plans are wonderful not because my household is not affected by the Virus but because I say with Apostle Paul, in Romans 12:15 (NIV) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. And that I mourn in Hope. My heart is filled with hope to the fact that He is aware of every calamity that is propelling now and that I also know He is in complete control.

## Plague of my heart

The Lord taught me and is still teaching me during these unprecedented times that unless I know the plague of my own heart, I will not be able to extend and contribute my prayers for others. I Kings 8:38 (NKJV) whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: As the Holy Spirit gives me an ability to introspect myself and the human frailties, it becomes evident one more time that the boast of intellect, gadgets, scientific advancement is a mere failure in totality without His interference. I am not any intellectual, but I surely want to be one if it is for His kingdom! What I mean is we might not have all answers to the questions intellectually which God doesn't expect us to know, but surely dear brothers and sisters He does expect us be aware of the plague in our hearts and get treated which is comes only from our Lord Jesus Christ.

## I Know He will!

Solomon, the wisest king on earth not only built the temple for God but he also testified to the people of Israel that the Lord who makes promises is able to keep them All. I Kings 8:20(NKJV) So the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. With each progressing month as I acknowledge my frailties, the deadly viruses within me, I also realize how contagious I could be if I do not follow the simple orders laid down in the most precious Holy Writ. But as the Holy Spirit helps me to abide in Him, it becomes easy and simple to go to Him in prayer and dwell in His presence. I deeply understand the truth of His brokenness and like king Solomon I also testify and know He will hear, forgive and heal us!

Remember, God will never give us something which we cannot endure. He knows we will overcome this Covid-19 Pandemic with His help, until then let us do what He expects us to do!! Isaiah 26:3(NKJV) You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Shraddha



## GOOD HAPPENS

*It's the repeated pattern in Scripture. Evil. God. Good. Evil came to Job. It tempted him and tested him. Job struggled. But God countered. He spoke truth and declared sovereignty. Job, in the end, chose God. Satan's prime target became came God's star witness and good resulted.*

*Evil came to David and he committed adultery. Evil came to Daniel and he was dragged to a foreign land. Evil came to Nehemiah and the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed. But God countered. Because He did, David wrote songs of grace, Daniel ruled in a foreign land, and Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem with Babylonian money. Good happened.*

*With Jesus, bad became good like night becomes day— regularly, reliably, refreshingly, and redemptively. Evil. God. Good. When God gets in the middle of life— evil becomes good!*

*-Max Lucado*



Join the [#ReviveIndia](#) Prayer Network and be a Volunteer to Pray.

# MISSION

# Love from

# SHELTER HOUSE

**BANGARPET**



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**UDUMELAPET**



**VISHARWADI**



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**LUDHIANA**



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**DELHI**



**KOTTAYAM**



**BANGALORE**



**HALDANI**



**SALEM**



**HULIMAVU**



**TIRUVANAMALAI**



**SIDDHILAGATA**



## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is compared to apples of gold in settings of silver?
2. Name the storm wind which struck the ship in which Paul travelled.
3. When was the Passover celebrated?
4. Who was the father of all who play the harp and flute?
5. In front of which king did David pretend madness?
6. Name the king of Judah who was afflicted with leprosy.
7. Where did Paul leave his coat?
8. Name any two characters in the Bible who married a pagan priest's daughter.
9. Which prophet prophesied that King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judea would be defeated by the Syrians?
10. What is Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz?
11. Complete the verse - A double minded man is \_\_\_\_\_.
12. What is the name of the place where Jacob wrestled with God?
13. Who was the father of James and John?
14. In Revelation, what was the name of the star that fell on the waters which made them bitter?
15. Where did Jesus ask the blind man to go and wash?

Correct answers to previous edition crossword given by:


**Tia, Jenila, Sharon Angel, Gladys Kiruba**

Send in answers to the Bible Quiz to 8971705050 before 26th July

Send your articles, testimonies, art to [info@shelterhouse.in](mailto:info@shelterhouse.in) to feature in TUVIA.

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