



Newsletter

No. 420
October, 2021

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Elder Ze-Yen Kuo

Service Schedule

Date	Beg	End	Services	Remark
Tue	7:30pm	9:00pm	https://www.youtube.com/user/tjccerritos/	Tuesday , On Line
Thur.	7:30pm	8:30pm	http://www.uberconference.com/room/tjccerritos	Or, Tel 562-4448177 (Family Service)
Fri.	7:30pm	9:00pm	https://tjc.org/usa/swr	SWR Online
Sat.	10:20am	12 noon	At Church or On line	https://www.youtube.com/user/tjccerritos/
	1:30pm	2:45pm	Registration before Wed. for attending Church service	https://forms.gle/8zBGCwqqByeg6uQs6
RE	11:00am	12:15pm	Class (K)	Hybrid (Sat.)
			Class (E1)	
	Class (E2)			
	1:30pm	3:00pm	Classes (J1 & J2)	Classroom (Sat.)
Oth-ers	At Church	All Events	Choir, Truth seekers class, Fellowships, , , .	Please follow the Health Guidelines (See ** below)
**	Before Church	Bring Your own	bible, Hymn book, Face Mask	No COVID Symptoms
	In Re-stroom	Keep door open	Max Capacity 2, wait outside when it reaching the capacity	Use paper towel to turn off faucet after each use.
	In Chapel	Open door	Temperature will be checked. Wear masks at all time.	Group for each family, Group Distance 2M+
	In Love Hall		Social Distance, Sit with your family, Clean after each use	Outdoor seating available, Get your own chair

Bible Reading, Oct. Genesis, John, Romans			
Date	Book	Date	Book
1	G 44	17	J 10
2	G 45	18	J 11
3	G 46	19	J 12
4	G 47	20	J 13
5	G 48	21	J 14
6	G 49	22	J 15
7	G 50	23	J 16
8	J 1	24	J 17
9	J 2	25	J 18
10	J 3	26	J 19
11	J 4	27	J 20
12	J 5	28	J 21
13	J 6	29	R 1
14	J 7	30	R 2
15	J 8	31	R 3
16	J 9		

Garden of Prayer

- Pray for those who are affected by COVID -19, may the Lord' s mercy, and the protection be with them.
- Various preaching and pastoral work of the church.
- Pray for God to help the church grow in faith, hope, and love.
- Pray for Sister I-mei Tsai. Pastor Tsai,' s wife . She is faced with some urgent health challenges
- Pray for fall ESSC (10/6-10/10) for Lord' s guidance.

Events Calendar, October

- 10/2 Church Cleaning
- 10/5 Truth Research Committee Meeting
- 10/16 RE Prayer
- 10/30 Church Council Meeting (Nov.)
- USGA Theological Seminar
 - ⇒ 10/1 - 22 Pastor Huang
 - ⇒ 10/25 - 11/19 Elder Chou

2021 NATS

- Date : 11/15 - 11/21 in Irvine Church
- Participants : Must attend 5+ days
- Registration : <http://events.tjc.org> or registration form. Before 10/10/21
- Details, Please refer to USGA Notice.

Construction Project Report

- Chapel construction was completed.
- Additional projects ::
 - ⇒ Roof cover for the cooridor
 - ⇒ Kitchen cabinets & Playground
- Construction Funds Status (9/7/21)
 - ⇒ Total Construction cost : \$2,948,088
 - ⇒ Contribution pledged Bal. \$ 90,000
 - ⇒ Loan from Irvine Church \$ 200,000

22-23 Council Members

- Brother Joseph Chiang
- Brother Peter Hsiao
- Brother. Ricki Purnomo
- Brother Ethan Wang
- Sister Sherrin Yang

2021 Fall ESSC

Gospel Tea Fellowship

9/26/2021

Sunday at 10:30 am

Lunch Provided

10/6-10/9

Wednesday to Saturday

Message at 7:20 pm

Evangelical Service

Catch the Little Foxes that Spoil the Vineyard (3)

According to the Scripture: "Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes" (Song 2:15)

VI. How to catch the little foxes

As title, it symbolizes the fall of individuals due to indulgence of lust. This is affecting the church because of the lack of spiritual cultivation from greed, pride, jealousy, etc. It cannot be ignored. In the beginning, it was only differences in thought; without much vigilance to suppress it, this little desire becomes like the little foxes in our heart and then causes disasters. This is an obvious fact. So, how to catch these little foxes? It is easier to say than done. There are a few approaches and steps to follow.

The first step: Having "self-awareness"

The ancient saints said, "It is easy to break a thief in the mountain, but it is hard to break a thief in our mind." If we were not aware of a little thief in our hearts, how could we overcome it? Thus, we must have self-awareness. Paul said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find," and he also said, "I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good" (Rom 7:18, 21). Paul's understanding and self-conscience is the key to his successful spiritual cultivation. Whoever conceals himself from self-understanding would not be able to know more of himself. As the Lord Jesus mentioned "the light that is in you" (Mt 6:23) is not given outwardly but "inwardly." When we were the Gentiles, our foolish hearts were darkened (Rom 1:21) and blind (Eph 1:18). Now our spiritual eyes are opened by believing in the Lord and our hearts are illuminated by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:18). This is the "light within." This light can make us "understand" and "be conscious" that something bad are lurking in our hearts, like the little foxes. In other words, this "light" gives us "self-awareness." The flesh which has evil attempts or ideas are the nutrition for the dark side of us without our self-awareness. Therefore, to catch these little foxes, we must first be illuminated by the Holy Spirit and the truth (Eph 5:13; John 3:20, 21), the Holy Spirit is a wonderful counselor and can compel us to rebuke ourselves. When we are being rebuked by the Holy Spirit, we are illuminated by the light. In this manner, we acknowledge that our evil desires are warring against the law of our mind (Rom 7:23). When our spiritual eyes are illuminated by the Holy Spirit of truth, they become "eyes of wisdom," observing others and the world, looking up towards God, and examining our inner selves. The Laodicean church was blind that they could not see their spiritual deficiency and had grown lukewarm. They believed they have not lacked in anything. Therefore, the Lord said, "I advise you to anoint your eyes with eye salve so that you may see" (Rev 3:18). We ought to plead for the Holy Spirit of truth that lives in us to illuminate us so we may become self-aware, and able to use our eyes of wisdom to examine the lustful desire in our flesh. Paul said, "Now the works of the flesh are evident." That means, in the light of the Holy Spirit, we can easily be aware of the lustful things inside of us. It is like the military searchlight that constantly illuminates the inside of us on the little foxes so we may see them clearly, and they have no way to escape.

The second step: Abstain from fleshly lusts

Peter said: "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, ab-

stain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Pet 2:11). If we understand our fleshly lusts, we may be able to abstain from it. For example, our pride may grow when someone praises us. We must abstain from pride and believe that we receive our grace from God. We have done little that we should not be prideful of it but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself (Phil 2:3). In this manner, we may abstain from our pride. When we see a person who is more gifted than ourselves, we must trust that God loves him and uses him for His own. We must respect him and have the capacity to receive him (Num 11:29) and learn from him, so we may enrich ourselves in many aspects. In this way, we may abstain from jealousy. Most importantly, we must fear God. Gamaliel said, "If it is of God, you cannot overthrow it, lest you even be found to fight against God" (Acts 5:39). We should believe that our brethren and ministering workers in the church are sent by God. When we are jealous and strike a gifted person, are we not striking God? If all things come from God, there is no reason that we dishonor a person for his imperfection or his works that did not meet our guidelines. We ought to know that the Lord's praises to those who gained two talents are the same as the five talents (Mt 25:21-23). Thus likewise, there is nothing for the person who made five talents to boast about, and the person who made two talents is not fallen short of the Lord. Therefore, do not favor the talented over the less talented (1 Cor 4:6). We must be aware that people are gifted differently and they use their talents differently as well. As quoted in a Chinese aphorism, "The flowers on plum tree are not whiter than the snow but the snow has no fragrant like the flowers," we must treat everyone the same to their own merits so we may not overly praise one over the others, lest the person becomes prideful and arrogant, and the others may be despised and lose their courage. "Abstain" from freshly lusts which extensively direct to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and etc. We must abstain ourselves from all these in every moment so that the little foxes in our hearts will be abstained. In this manner, we may bear fruits and glorify God. As it is not easy to abstain from our selfish desires, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish" (Gal 5:16-17). The power of the Holy Spirit is important in warring against our lustful desires. When we receive the Holy Spirit, it is not only the guarantee of our future inheritance (Eph 1:14), but also as the good tool to overcome the lustful desires of the flesh (Rom 8:13). If we do not rely on the Holy Spirit to abstain from our lustful desires, we will be in the "captivity to the sinful nature" (Rom 7:23) and presented ourselves as slaves to the sin (Rom 6:16). Then, we may be disqualified from receiving this inheritance. As this verse, "When I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Cor 9:27); a preacher who cannot discipline his body and bring it into subjection will be disqualified.



(Adapted from "The Album of Elder Guo Ziyuan" by Guo Ziyuan: published in September 1983 by Taiwan GA)