

Sermon by Pastor Isaac Chan | Merdeka Sunday

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Pastor Isaac Chan shared about how he had experienced an empty nest syndrome for the past 9 years. His daughter had married an Australian while his son was studying in Pittsburg. His neighbors and classmates advised him to tell the son NOT to return to Malaysia. **What would you tell your son if you were him? Are you patriotic?**

God has a special calling for all of us in this nation. Will you trust Him to lead and carry you into a hopeful future?

We are His special treasure.

'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me.' Exodus 19: 4-5 NLT

God carrying us on eagles' wings signifies God's strong and loving care towards us, just as how an eagle would carry its young on its wings.

God protected His people in the howling wilderness as though they were the apple of His eye. Deut 32: 10-11 "He spreads His wings over them, encircled them, as an eagle overspreads her young. She carries them upon her wings— as does the Lord to His people!

Pastor Isaac illustrated how determined were the birds to build the nest in his exhaust pipe despite being repeatedly removed and obstructed to do so. God is determined to provide a safe place for us.

The nest

In every phase of life, God is purposefully shaping and molding us. As a baby eagle grows, the mother eagle begins removing comfortable, soft lining of the nest until the baby eagle is left in an uncomfortable and prickly nest.

1. Identify the 'nest' which is keeping you from flying. Why are you reluctant to step out from it? Share some of the questions you raised when you are kicked out of your nest and you are forced to learn flying or a skill you do not have?
2. Have you been kicked out of any comfortable 'nest'? Share how did you cope with it.

Lift off from our 'nest'



Can these wings really lift us up, the eaglets wonder? The PUSH was the greatest gift a mother eagle had to offer to its young. It was her supreme act of love. And so, one by one, she pushed them, and they flew. There are no ways to learn how to fly but by flying.

1. Share how God carried you when you obey to fly.
2. Share when God has carried you in your most difficult hour.

No matter how far you fall, you will soon fall on His wings. Like an eagle spreads its mighty wings and uses the current to soar to greater heights during a storm, God will carry you on His wings and soar above the storm.

Each of us has a story of how God love and nurture us.

Every person is a living testimony. Pastor Isaac also shared that we have a shared destiny with the people of this nation. We are 'exiles' in Malaysia. We are the minorities, in race and in faith. But God has placed a special calling in all of us for this nation.

1. How did you come to know Christ as your Savior and Lord? Was it miraculous and unexpected?
2. Share your opinion of 'It is not impossible that we can live purposefully with people of different races and religion'.

A man was walking along a deserted beach at sunset. As he walked he could see a young boy in the distance, as he drew nearer he noticed that the boy kept bending down, picking something up and throwing it into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things into the ocean. As the man approached even closer, he was able to see that the boy was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time he was throwing them back into the water. The man asked the boy what he was doing, the boy replied, "I am throwing these washed up starfish back into the ocean, or else they will die through lack of oxygen." "But", said the man, "You can't possibly save them all, there are thousands on this beach, and this must be happening on hundreds of beaches along the coast. You can't possibly make a difference." The boy looked down, frowning for a moment; bent down to pick up another starfish, smiling as he threw it back into the sea. He replied,



"I made a huge difference to that one!"

Hope

Read Jeremiah 29:4-14 together.

Discuss this. Our hope is built on God's faithfulness and not on the circumstances.

Ask yourself, why does the thrill of soaring have to begin with the fear of falling? Until the eaglets discovered their wings, there was no purpose for their lives. Until they learned how to soar, they would fail to understand the privilege it was to have been born an eagle. The PUSH, sometimes we need it, sometimes we need to give it. It will change a life forever.

Did you notice that God's love for us is displayed in the natural? Share some of your observations. Obey, have faith, and FLY!
