

THE FAITHFUL LOVE OF GOD



PSALM 107:39-43

SP LAWRENCE CHUA

29 DECEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION

(a) Year-end reflection



INTRODUCTION: (a) Year-end reflection

Two messages

- **Closing of the year of Jubilee**
- **personal reflective approach today**
- **Corporate reflective approach**
- **at Watchnight Service**



INTRODUCTION

(b) Attention grabbing



PSALM 107:43 (NLT)

Those who are wise will take all this to heart; they will see in our history the faithful love of the Lord.

INTRODUCTION: (b) Attention grabbing

Two sets of phrases:

- **“Our history”**
- **“The faithful love of God”**



INTRODUCTION: (b) Attention grabbing

- **History of the children of Israel**
- **History that shows the faithful love of God to His people**



INTRODUCTION: (b) Attention grabbing

- **To discern the meaning and significance of the past year.**
- **Tell us about ourselves and God.
What can we learn from 2024?**



PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

**¹ Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy (goodness; lovingkindness,
faithful love) endures forever. ² Let the
redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has
redeemed from the hand of the enemy,**

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

³ And gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; they found no city to dwell in.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

⁵ Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. ⁶ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. ⁷ And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

**⁸ Oh, that men would give thanks to
the Lord for His goodness, and for His
wonderful works to the children of men!**

**⁹ For He satisfies the longing soul,
and fills the hungry soul with goodness.**

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons— ¹¹ because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High, ¹² therefore He brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

13 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. 14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! ¹⁶ For He has broken the gates of bronze, and cut the bars of iron in two. ¹⁷ Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

**¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all manner of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.**

**¹⁹ Then they cried out to the Lord in their
trouble, and He saved them out of their
distresses. ²⁰ He sent His word and healed
them, and delivered them from their
destructions.**

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

²¹ Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

²² Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing. ²³ Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters,

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

²⁴ They see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep. ²⁵ For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

28 Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. 29 He calms the storm, so that its waves are still.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

**³⁰ Then they are glad because they are quiet;
so He guides them to their desired haven.**

**³¹ Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord
for His goodness, and for His wonderful works
to the children of men! ³² Let them exalt Him
also in the assembly of the people, and praise
Him in the company of the elders.**

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

**33 He turns rivers into a wilderness, and
the water springs into dry ground;**

**34 A fruitful land into barrenness, for the
wickedness of those who dwell in it.**

**35 He turns a wilderness into pools of water,
and dry land into water springs.**

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

³⁶ There He makes the hungry dwell, that they may establish a city for a dwelling place, ³⁷ And sow fields and plant vineyards, that they may yield a fruitful harvest. ³⁸ He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; and He does not let their cattle decrease.

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

**³⁹ When they are diminished and brought
low Through oppression, affliction, and
sorrow, ⁴⁰ He pours contempt on princes,
and causes them to wander in the
wilderness where there is no way; ⁴¹ Yet He
sets the poor on high, far from affliction,
And makes their families like a flock.**

PSALM 107:1-43 (NKJV)

⁴² The righteous see it and rejoice, and all iniquity stops its mouth. ⁴³ Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

ROADMAP

- 1. History and faithful love of God**
- 2. Good framework to guide our reflection**
- 3. See the works and faithful love of God**



1. History and faithful love of God

- **Believers do not know the Word of God and do not know the ways of God.**



1. History and faithful love of God

- **failed to study the Word**
- **neglect to spend sufficient time praying**



1. History and faithful love of God

- **Word of God or the ways of God.**
- **Works of God, specifically God's works to His children.**



PSALM 107:43 (NLT)

Those who are wise will take all this to heart; they will see in our history the faithful love of the Lord.

1. History and faithful love of God

- **We have achieved a 50-year history.**
- **Incredible achievement for a church.**



1. History and faithful love of God

Principally about the faithful love of God.



PSALM 107:43 (NLT)

Those who are wise will take all this to heart; they will see in our history the faithful love of the Lord.

1. History and faithful love of God

- **Take to heart the works of God**
 - **To consider, to ponder, to understand.**



1. History and faithful love of God

- **Take to heart the works of God**
 - **Doing some collective reflection today as a congregation.**



2. Good framework to guide our reflection



PSALM 107:43 (NLT)

**Whoever is wise will observe these things,
and they will understand the
lovingkindness of the Lord.**

2. Good framework to guide our reflection

- **“these things”**
- **5 sets of events**
these things and the events



2. Good framework to guide our reflection

5 sets of events:

v.2 - in the hand of the enemy (defeated)

v.4 - wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way (drifting)



2. Good framework to guide our reflection

5 sets of events:

v.11 - Because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High because of their transgression (disobedience)



2. Good framework to guide our reflection

5 sets of events:

v.17 - And because of their iniquities, were afflicted (disease)

v.23 - Who do business on great waters (demands)



2. Good framework to guide our reflection

- **Common events and common experiences in life.**



2. Good framework to guide our reflection

- **5 interventions**

- **God came through for His people**
- **5 times how God intervened**
- **The works of God**



- **5 interventions**

PSALM 107:2 (NKJV)

**² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of
the enemy,**

deliverance

- **5 interventions**

PSALM 107:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. ⁷ And He led them forth by the right way...

direction

- **5 interventions**

PSALM 107:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces.

forgiveness

- **5 interventions**

PSALM 107:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. ²⁰ He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

healing

- **5 interventions**

PSALM 107:28-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. ²⁹ He calms the storm, so that its waves are still.

confidence

2. Good framework to guide our reflection

- **5 acknowledgements**

- **The acknowledgements relate to the faithful love of God.**
- **Works of God speak of the faithful love of God.**
- **Repeated it 5 times.**



- **5 acknowledgements**

PSALM 107:1 (NKJV)

**¹ Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy (goodness; lovingkindness,
faithful love) endures forever.**

- **5 acknowledgements**

PSALM 107:8 (NKJV)

**⁸ Oh, that men would give thanks to
the Lord for His goodness, and for His
wonderful works to the children of men!**

- **5 acknowledgements**

PSALM 107:15 (NKJV)

**¹⁵ Oh, that men would give thanks to the
Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful
works to the children of men!**

- **5 acknowledgements**

PSALM 107:21 (NKJV)

**²¹ Oh, that men would give thanks to
the Lord for His goodness, and for His
wonderful works to the children of men!**

- **5 acknowledgements**

PSALM 107:31 (NKJV)

**³¹ Oh, that men would give thanks to
the Lord for His goodness, and for His
wonderful works to the children of men!**

2. Good framework to guide our reflection

- **5 acknowledgements**

- **Psalmist acknowledge that the faithful love of God endures forever.**
- **Love that endures over a long period of time.**



JEREMIAH 31:3 (NKJV)

³ The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

2. Good framework to guide our reflection

- **5, 5, 5, and one grand statement**
 - **We have:**
 - **5 sets of events**
 - **5 sets of intervention**
 - **5 acknowledgements of the goodness of God**



PSALM 107:43 (NKJV)

**43 Whoever is wise will observe these things,
and they will understand the lovingkindness
of the Lord.**

3. See the works and faithful love of God

- **God created Jubilee for the individual that ultimately blesses the community too.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(a) Rest

- When God bless His people, or community, with rest, I get to enjoy the blessing of rest, as an individual.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(a) Rest

- **Not a year of total inactivity but a year when the activities associated with daily living tended to a less hurried pace, compared to the past.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- Jubilee year required us to be God-dependent as we took steps of faith.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- Self-sufficiency blocks one's view of God's work to His people.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- God dependency will help one see the work of God.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- Involves us taking radical measures that require daring faith.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- Required faith from individuals and community to believe in God's ways in Jubilee.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- To trust Him in my work in the law firm.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- At home, Cindy experienced a huge health challenge that also affected me.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- At church level, the lease renewal has a huge challenge to my faith.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(b) Faith

- When you exercise faith, others will be blessed, and I will be blessed by your exercising faith.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(c) Joy

- Joy in the midst of living life in tune with God who cares in the widest perspective.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(d) Time, simplicity and other values

- look at time with a different perspective



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(d) Time, simplicity and other values

- God's idea of cycle of time not in terms one year, but 7 years, and further length of 50 years.**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(d) Time, simplicity and other values

- value of time**
- value of living in simplicity**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(d) Time, simplicity and other values

- avoid over-consumption**
- stop wastage**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(d) Time, simplicity and other values

- values of family and clan**
- the value of gaining freedom by releasing forgiveness**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(e) See in works the faithful love of God

- See God's works in our life and see in His works, His faithful love for us.**



PSALM 107:1 (NKJV)

**¹ Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy (goodness; lovingkindness,
faithful love) endures forever.**

3. See the works and faithful love of God

(e) See in works the faithful love of God

- mercy means:

- **goodness**
- **lovingkindness**
- **faithful love**



3. See the works and faithful love of God

(e) See in works the faithful love of God

- Jubilee reminds me of God's faithful love for me.**
- Love that endures over a long period of time.**



CONCLUSION



PSALM 107:1 (NKJV)

**¹ Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy (goodness; lovingkindness,
faithful love) endures forever.**

PSALM 107:2 (NKJV)

² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...

PSALM 107:22 & 32 (NKJV)

22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

32 Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, and praise Him in the company of the elders.