

A People Belonging to God

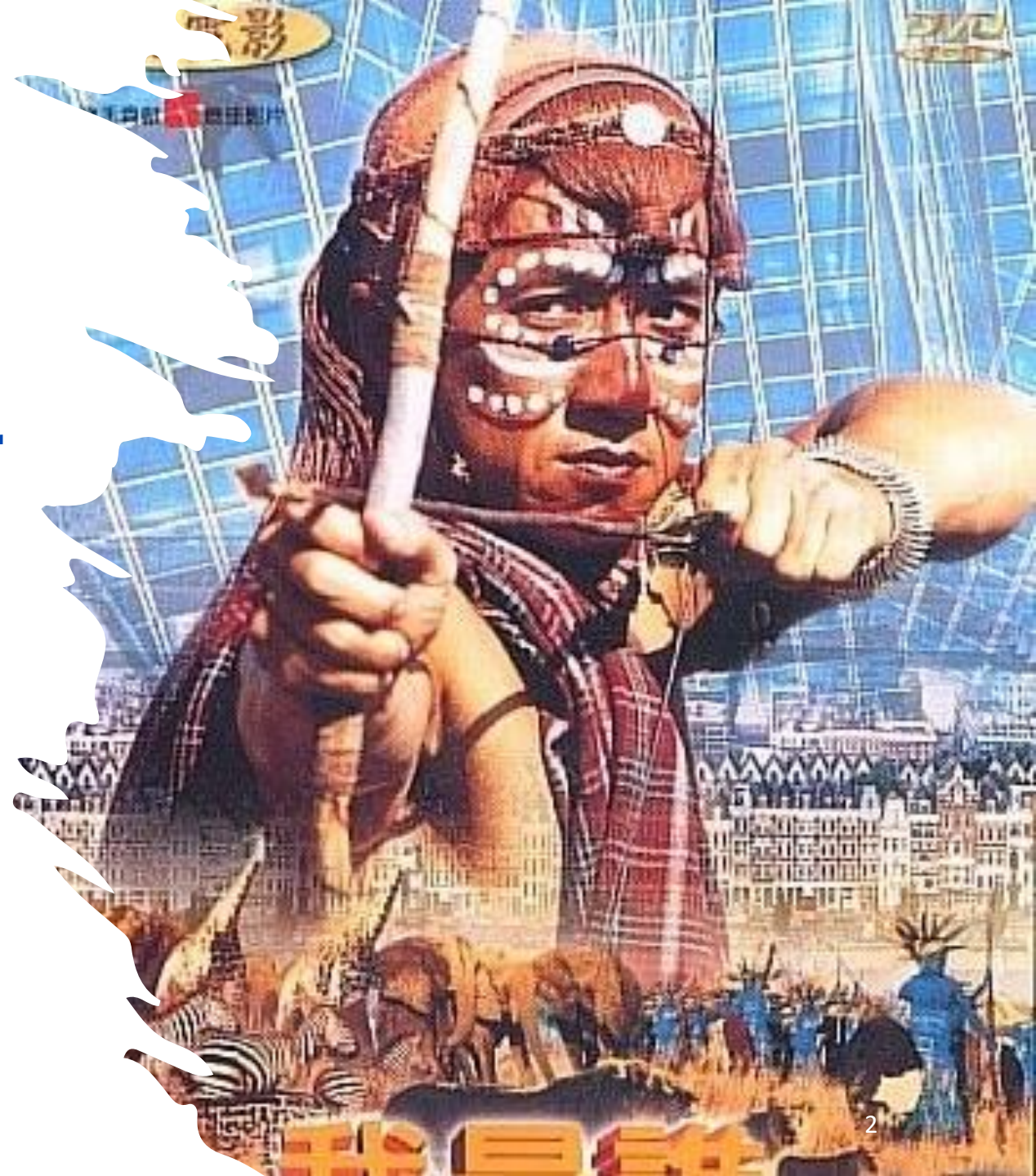
Exodus 19:1-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10

SJSM Sermon | Ven Wong Tak Meng | 11-12 June 2026



As Christians and as SJSM Church, what is our Identity?

1998 Jackie Chan movie:
Who am I? 我是谁?



If we misunderstand our Identity...



Superiority: Looking down on others



Judging Others' Weaknesses With Our Strengths

Lack of Purpose and Confidence, False Guilt, Self-condemnation



Splintering the Body of Christ

Our True Identity: **A People belonging to God**

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- The background image depicts a vast, bright, and hazy landscape filled with a massive crowd of people. In the center, a figure dressed in a long grey robe with a yellow sash stands with arms outstretched, facing the crowd. The crowd consists of many individuals, mostly seen from behind, wearing white robes. The scene is set in a wide, open space with a light-colored ground that reflects the bright, overcast sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a grand, divine gathering.
- 1. Privilege**
 - 2. Purchase**
 - 3. Purpose**

1. Privileged to be Chosen

- “But you are **a chosen race**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...” (1 Peter 2:9)
- The word for **“chosen”** is “eklegōn” which means “picked out from among others”.



1. But why were we chosen?

- **Not because** of our own qualifications:
 - **Achievement (Jacob was chosen before he was born):** “not because of works...” (Rom 9:11)
 - **Intellectual Superiority (Daniel was chosen to serve King Nebuchadnezzar):** “not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living...” (Dan 2:30)
 - **Size (Israelites were chosen to be God’s people):** “It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples...” (Deut 7:7)
 - **Moral Superiority (Israel was chosen):** “Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land...” (Deut 9:5)
 - **Any special background (the Corinthian Church was chosen):** “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.” (1 Cor 1:26)

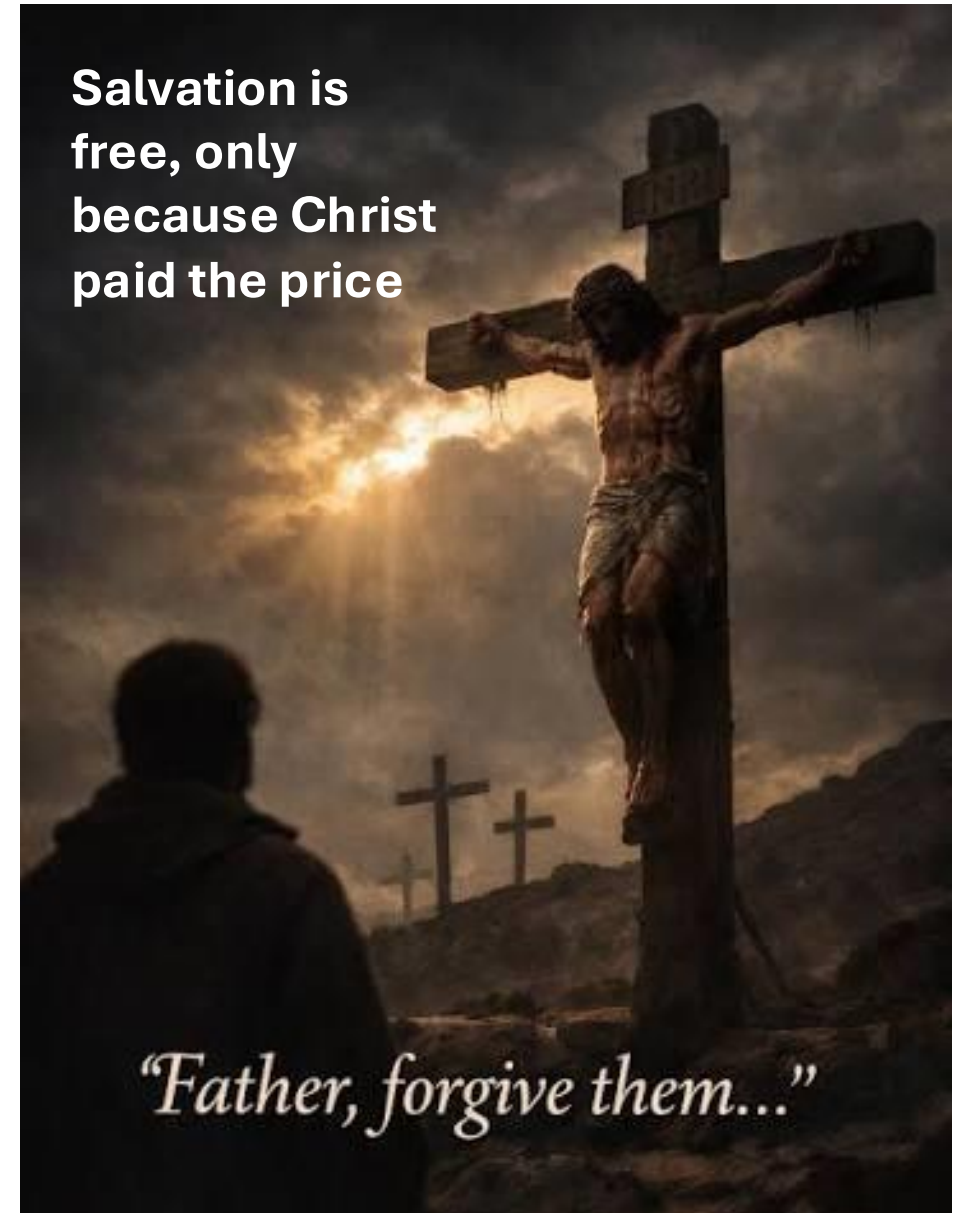
1. Privileged to be Chosen

- We can never understand why God chose us, except that He loves us with **an everlasting love**.
 - “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jer 31:3)
 - “You did not choose me, but I chose you...” (John 15:16)
- **RESPONSE: Be humbled and grateful** that He did.



2. Purchased at the Ultimate Price

- All humanity has sinned and are **“vessels of wrath”** deserving God’s judgment.
- But God has chosen to spare those who put their faith in Christ—to be **“vessels of mercy”** (Rom 9:22-23).
- So, **“you shall be my treasured possession”** (Exodus 19:5) and **“now you have received mercy.”** (1 Peter 2:10)



2. Purchased to be Priests of God

- Priests are called to worship God, reveal God to people and bring people to God as worshippers.
- “you shall be to me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**” (Exodus 19:6) “...you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood...**” (1 Peter 2:9)
- In Exodus 28-29, **priests are consecrated** by:
 - **Offering of blood for the guilt of sin** → Redeemed by Christ’s sacrifice
 - **Washing of water for cleansing** → Beginning a new life in Christ
 - **Garments conferring a new identity** → Growing in Christlikeness
 - **Anointing of oil as God’s empowerment** → Christ’s Spirit working in us and through us

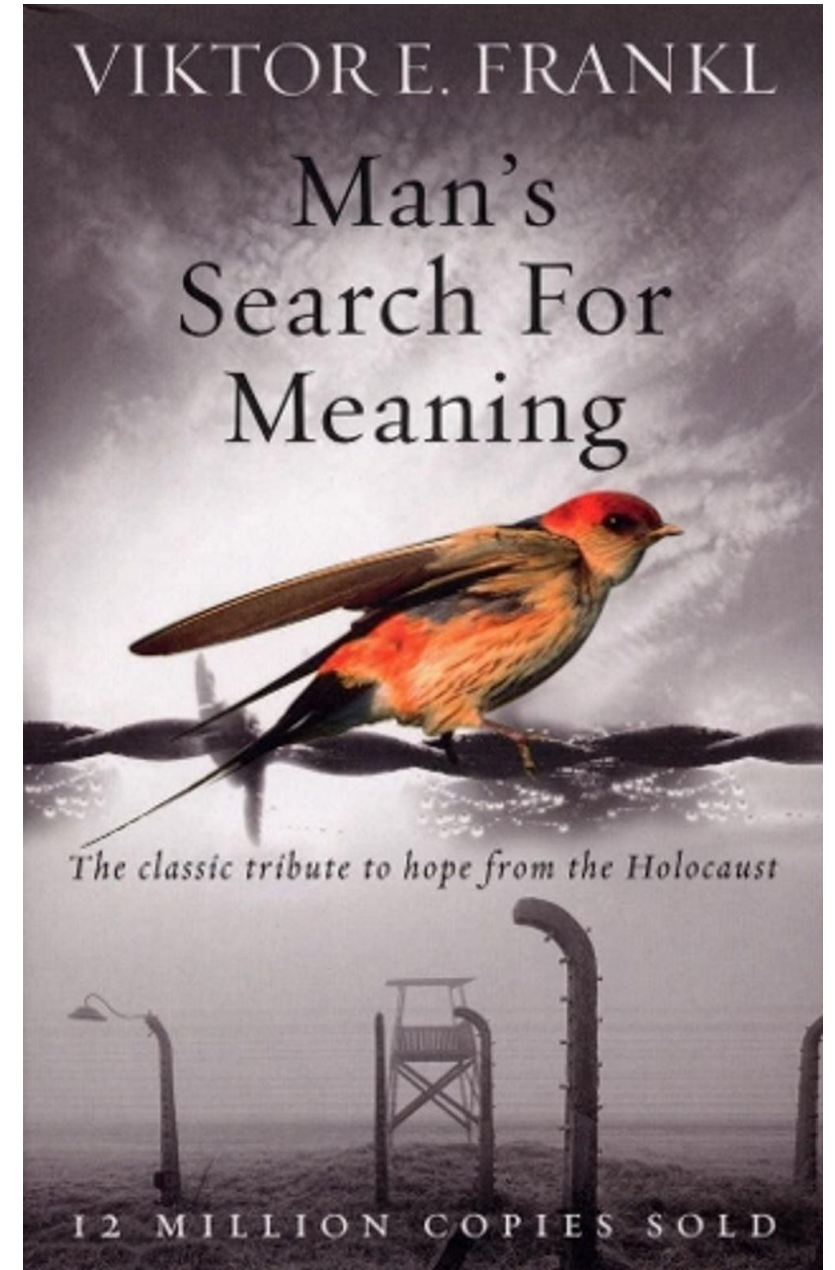
2. Purchased to be Priests of God

- Christ paid the ultimate price, not merely for our salvation, but that we may live out our sacred calling as His priests.
- RESPONSE: Let's not just be saved as children of God, but let us **serve as the Royal Priesthood of God.**



3. Purpose: A Matter of Life and Death

- **Viktor Frankl** (Jewish psychiatrist suffering in a Nazi concentration camp) observed:
 - Inmates who live only for themselves succumb sooner to fatigue, sickness or suicide-by-guard.
 - Inmates who have a purpose to live for, other than themselves (e.g., look after another inmate, etc.), stayed alive much longer.
- **His conclusion:** A human being's greatest spiritual need and the meaning of life is to have a purpose to live for.





3. Our Purpose: To be a Signpost pointing to God

- Our God-given purpose:
 - “that you may **proclaim the excellencies of him** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...” (1 Pet 2:9)
 - “Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us.” (2 Cor 5:20)
 - “...be my **witnesses**...” (Acts 1:8)

3. Our Purpose: To be a Signpost pointing to God

- Our God-given purpose:
 - “...be my **witnesses**...” (Acts 1:8)
 - “In him was **life**, and the life was the **light** of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:4-5)
- **RESPONSE:** Let us live our lives, individually and as a church, to **point people to Christ.**



A People belonging to God

1. PRIVILEGED TO BE CHOSEN

**2. PURCHASED AT
THE ULTIMATE PRICE**

**3. PURPOSED TO BE
SIGNPOSTS TO CHRIST**



Exodus 19:1-6

Ex. 19:1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:

⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, **you shall be my treasured possession** among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

1 Peter 2:9-10

1Pet. 2:9 But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are **God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.