

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 14th August 2022 (KEC Hybrid Service)

The livestream can be accessed at

https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/ or <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

Welcome to church! Here at BEM KEC, these are our core convictions:

- To be centred on the gospel
 - To be driven by God's Word
 - To be focused on growing disciples
 - To be a community of truth and love
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1. CALL TO WORSHIP – Ephesians 5:15-20

2. Worship in SONG (with Alison Nicholas):

SONG 1: All Creatures of our God and King

SONG 2: Behold our God

SONG 3: He will hold me fast

SONG 4: Yet not I but through Christ in me

3. Prayers

4. Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 9:13-11:6

¹³ I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: ¹⁴ There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. ¹⁵ Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. ¹⁶ So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.

¹⁷ The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.

¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

10 As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

² The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

³ Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are.

⁴ If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offenses to rest.

⁵ There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler:

⁶ Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones.

⁷ I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.

⁸ Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

⁹ Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them;

whoever splits logs may be endangered
by them.

¹⁰ If the ax is dull
and its edge unsharpened,
more strength is needed,
but skill will bring success.

¹¹ If a snake bites before it is charmed,
the charmer receives no fee.

¹² Words from the mouth of the wise are
gracious,
but fools are consumed by their own
lips.

¹³ At the beginning their words are folly;
at the end they are wicked madness—

¹⁴ and fools multiply words.
No one knows what is coming—
who can tell someone else what will
happen after them?

¹⁵ The toil of fools wearies them;
they do not know the way to town.

¹⁶ Woe to the land whose king was a
servant^[a]
and whose princes feast in the morning.

¹⁷ Blessed is the land whose king is of
noble birth
and whose princes eat at a proper
time—

for strength and not for drunkenness.

¹⁸ Through laziness, the rafters sag;
because of idle hands, the house leaks.

¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter,
wine makes life merry,
and money is the answer for everything.

²⁰ Do not revile the king even in your
thoughts,
or curse the rich in your bedroom,
because a bird in the sky may carry your
words,
and a bird on the wing may report what
you say.

11 Ship your grain across the sea;
after many days you may receive a
return.

² Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight;
you do not know what disaster may
come upon the land.

³ If clouds are full of water,
they pour rain on the earth.
Whether a tree falls to the south or to the
north,
in the place where it falls, there it will
lie.

⁴ Whoever watches the wind will not plant;
whoever looks at the clouds will not
reap.

⁵ As you do not know the path of the wind,
or how the body is formed^[b] in a
mother's womb,
so you cannot understand the work of God,
the Maker of all things.

⁶ Sow your seed in the morning,
and at evening let your hands not be
idle,
for you do not know which will succeed,
whether this or that,
or whether both will do equally well.

a. [Ecclesiastes 10:16](#) Or *king is a child*

b. [Ecclesiastes 11:5](#) Or *know how life (or the spirit) / enters the body being formed*

SERMON OUTLINE: Living wisely in the face of folly (Eccl. 9:13-11:6)

The scenarios:

- Frustrated
- Fearful

What today's passage shows us

1a. Wisdom should hold the upper hand (9:13-15a)

How good wisdom is!

Wisdom can rescue

1b. Folly holds the upper hand instead (9:16-10:1, 5-7, 16)

i. It is seldom heeded

- Forgotten
- Despised

ii. It is easily reversed

Fools seem to keep getting promoted over the wise (10:5-7, 16)

What should we do with these reflections?

- Calibrate our expectations
- Don't be too disappointed when recognition doesn't come
- Walk away with some degree of frustration

Helps us not to buy into a wrong view of the world

2. Though foolishness reigns, don't walk the way of the fool (10:2-20)

The map and the bomb

The biblical definition of a fool

When you are wise, you can be an agent of *shalom*...

- i. By the way you bring calm into conflict (v.4)
- ii. By the way you navigate potential snares (v.8-11)
- iii. By the way you tame your tongue (v.12-14, 20)

Walk the way of the foolishness of the cross

Consider Jesus

A wisdom that does not seem to gain the upper hand

The bigger picture: Mark 8:35-36

If that's true...

3. You can take risks for God (11:1-6)

There is risk in every area of life (v.2, 6)

Don't let risk hold you back!

Sometimes, playing it safe is the foolish thing to do (v.3-5)

Yes, get frustrated....but don't let put you off being wise & taking risks for the Lord!

Response Song: All the way my Saviour leads me

COFFEE QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt frustrated by the foolishness of others, as well as yourself? Have past experiences made you a little more reluctant to live openly for Jesus?
- How can you be an agent of *shalom* in the coming weeks? Ask God to help you put into practice his ways of wisdom.
- How might we sometimes play it too safe as a Christian? Consider Jesus' words, pray and take a step of courage and faith to follow him wholeheartedly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- **Admissions for Tadika Rajawali** is open for the year 2023/24. We welcome all children aged 4, 5 and 6 to join us! Contact the Tadika Rajawali Office. (082-550251)
- **Tadika Rajawali** is looking for an **admin clerk**. At minimum, an SPM qualification is required, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office and knowledge of English, Bahasa Malaysia, and Mandarin. You may obtain the full job description and criteria from either our church administrator Julie Kong, or from the Tadika Rajawali office.
- BEM KEC (English) is looking for a **full-time cleaner cum gardener**. He or she must be a member of BEM KEC, aged between 18 - 60 years and fit to do manual tasks. Interested applicants are required to submit their resumes to our Church Administrator Julie Kong not later than 20th August, 2022.
- As our Ecclesiastes series draw to a close, **we'll love to hear from you!** What has this wisdom book been teaching you? How has it challenged you, provoked you (in a good way!) and changed you? You can **share your reflections** (anonymously if you prefer) at <https://bemkec.my/eccreflections>. We will curate and share some of them at a future Sunday service.
- Our next **Equip Bible classes** will be starting on **Saturday, September 17th (10.30am-12.30pm)**! Join us for **Old Testament 1**, where we will cover the first 5 books of the Bible, and discover how they are held together. This class will take place over 10 weeks. Fee: RM160 (concessions available). It will take place on Zoom. Register today at <https://bit.ly/22T3OT1BEM>
- We will be taking a **special collection** next week for the *Konferensi Pastor dan Pemimpin BEM*. This is an annual conference for pastors and elders of BEM, taking place at BEM Canada Hill, Miri from 8-10 Sept. The purpose of this collection is to help reduce the financial burden of organizing this particular conference.
- Our **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting** will take place from 8-9.15pm, in person, in Conference Room 1, this week.
- **There are refreshments available after Sunday service today!** We will be serving simple refreshments again in the courtyard after service. Do stay back for fellowship, and discuss coffee questions over actual coffee!

Home Fellowship Groups

Most groups have started meeting! (Usually Thursday/Friday evenings). If you would like to register your interest in joining a Home Fellowship Group, please do so at

<https://bemkec.my/home-fellowship-groups/>

English Youth Ministry

Our youth group meets every Saturday evening at church (Conference Room 1), 8-9.30pm.

If you're interested to come, do let us know at <https://bemkec.my/english-youth-ministry/>

Sunday School

Sunday school lessons will be held in the classrooms located in the Apartment Block as follows:

- 1.1 Group 1 (Children ages 3-4): Conference Room 1, 1st Floor.
- 1.2 Group 2 (Children ages 5-6): Room K1, Ground Floor.
- 1.3 Group 3 (Children ages 7-9 i.e. Primary 1 to 3): Room 2B, Ground Floor.
- 1.4 Group 4 (Children ages 10-12 i.e. Primary 4 to 6): Conference Room 2, 1st Floor.

If your child is below 3 years old, please do not send them to Sunday School but utilise the creche instead.

Sunday School S.O.Ps

If you would like to see the current Sunday School S.O.Ps in full, please refer to our Sunday School notice board.

BENEDICTION

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17