

March 19, 2017

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Do You Know the Real Intercessor?"

—The Privilege that was Given—

Text : Hebrews 5:5-10

5:5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a High Priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

5:8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered

5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

5:10 and was designated by God to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Introduction

- A pastor of a certain church in the USA asked one of his church members to make a pair of scales and gave a presentation message.
- The pastor put a small stone on a scale and a paper cup on the other scale. He said that people of an ancient world weighted gold and silver with a pair of scales. They put a small stone of a balance weight on a scale and put gold or silver on the other scale. When the horizontal posture maintained even, they could measure weight of gold or silver.
- The pastor said, **"This paper cup symbolizes us. We are not able to attain the level that God's righteousness requires."**

The Revelation of John records as below—

5:12 In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory ad praise!"

- The Lamb, who was slain, refers to Jesus Christ who was crucified. The pastor put the same weight of stone in the paper cup so that the horizontal posture came to maintain even. He said, **"The added stone in the paper cup symbolizes Jesus Christ. We are as light as this paper cup. Jesus Christ came into it so that we are able to attain the level that God's righteousness requires."**
- We are worthless before God the Creator. However, He looks at us as precious beings more

valuable than gold and silver. When Jesus came to live in us, we became worthy beings before God. Christians who believe in God are such beings. The right is given to those who believe in Him.

Then, what is Jesus Christ like? Let's study the following two points today.

Main Points

1. Jesus, the True High Priest

- We have learned in the first part of the Hebrews 5 that the High Priest needed four qualifications. Today's text demonstrates that Jesus has all four qualifications as below.

1) Jesus is the fulfillment of four qualifications.

① The High Priest must be a human being.

- Jesus was called by God to receive the honor of becoming a High Priest. The author of the epistle quoted the Book of Psalms to testify about Jesus.

(1) 5:5 **"You are my Son; today I have become your Father."**

Quoted from Psalm 2:7

(2) 5:6 **"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."**

Quoted from Psalm 110:4

② The High Priest must be selected from the priest class.

- The High Priest must be of the descendants of Aaron. Jesus is the High Priest like Aaron.

③ The High Priest must have compassion on people.

- Jesus had compassion on the weak. **The Gospel of Matthew**

9:36 When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus played a role of a priest.

④ The High Priest was called by God to receive his job.

- Jesus fulfilled a role of the priest. Moreover, he played the part in the order of Melchizedek, not like the priest Aaron. The priesthood of Jesus was given by God's great love and it was superior to the priesthood in the days of the Old Testament. Jesus Christ is the true High Priest.

2) Jesus Christ is the true High Priest.

- **5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.**
- The Scripture above seems to show Jesus' attitude that He prayed at Gethsemane before His crucifixion. Jesus was in anguish and prayed more earnestly at that time. His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

The Gospel of Luke

22:44 And being anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

This scene particularly moves our heart. Christ prayed, "Father if you are willing, **take this cup (the cross) from me.**" However, He finally prayed, "**...but yours be done.**"

- We should remember Jesus' sufferings and follow His footprints. Jesus went through hardships, nevertheless, He faithfully followed God the Father in heaven. The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews records that Christ "**was heard because of his reverent submission.**" As Jesus went through the Passion, he can help all those who follow Him.
- How about our lives? Do we have any problems in our heart? Are we suffering from anything? If so, we should remember the way Jesus walked. Let's consider the meaning of Jesus' hardships. We will find God's plan there.
- My friends, sometimes unfortunately we learn through hardships . We make various mistakes and commit sins. And then we repeat it. A Jewish wise man said, "A wise man learns from others' mistakes, not from his own mistakes." I can't say for sure that I am a wise man according to the saying.
- However, there is a case that we can't simply pass over. ⇒ It is a matter of sin. We must pay off our sin whether it is light or serious. Moreover, no one can settle sins that he committed before God. The debt of sin is too great to atone by ourselves.
- God, who is agape love, sent Jesus Christ His Son to settle our sins. Jesus died on the cross but He was raised on the third day. Those who believed in Jesus, who defeated death, were forgiven of their sins by Jesus' blood that was shed on the cross. This is salvation that we are given.
- Jesus the Son of God faithfully followed God the Father. Therefore, He became our intercessor and continuously prays for us even today. God prepared for us the way that we are saved only by our simple faith. How blessed we are!

2. The High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek

- **5:8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered**
- 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him**
- 5:10 and was designated by God to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.**

1) Melchizedek the King of Jerusalem

- Why is Jesus the High Priest in the order Melchizedek?
Abraham is the greatest in the history of Israel. Moses, Aaron, David and

Jeremiah were his descendants. Therefore, even though Aaron was a high priest, he was not superior to Abraham.

- However, there was only one person who was superior to Abraham in the Old Testament. It was *Melchizedek*. The Book of Genesis records as below —

14:17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,

14:19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

14:20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your Hand." Then Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.

- Melchizedek was not completely identified who he was or who his parents were.

The Epistle to the Hebrews

7:3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

- This Melchizedek, the priest, blessed Abraham. Usually, the elder blesses the inferior. Abraham gave him a tenth of the loot. As you understand, the greatest person in the Old Testament, that is in the history of Israel, was Melchizedek.
- When the Scripture calls Jesus Christ the High Priest, it doesn't refer the one of Aaron's family but the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

2) Jesus in order of the Melchizedek

5:6 "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Quoted from Psalm 110:4

- The Gospel of Mark records the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Chapter 1. When we carefully read it, we understand that Christ was born from the descendants of David. He is Jesus Christ. He is called the eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Jesus, the eternal High Priest, always lives to intercede for us.

The Epistle to the Hebrew

7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

- Christ not only became the High Priest but also He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice. Up to that time, the High Priest had offered blood of a bull, sheep and a goat for sins of Israelites including him.
- The Israelites and all human beings don't need to offer sacrifice more because of Christ who became *the source of eternal salvation*.

The Bible, the New Interconfessional Translation

5:9 After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

- Therefore, there is no distinction between Judaist, Muslims or Buddhist. If anyone believe Jesus Christ as his Savior, he is given the grace of eternal salvation.

**{Illustration} Many Refugees from the Middle East
Become Christians in Europe**

- **The massive horde of refugees from the Middle East were surging into Germany. Something new has been happening in Germany since the year before last. The biggest charismatic church, called the Gospel Forum, was there in Stuttgart, in South Germany.**
- **Forty Muslim refugees from the Middle East believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior and were baptized. They left their country with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They worshipped Allah, who the Muslims believe is the god of laws. It is terrifying a god who severely judges believers if they break the law. On the other hand, God of the Bible is God of love, who forgives sins. They met the God of love.**
- **Muslims being baptized reached the rate of 20 percent among people who were baptized last year. They all attended a preparation class for baptism and then were baptized.**
- **This church has Bible gatherings at home in Arabic and Persian and the Sunday message is simultaneously interpreted into 12 languages. Rev. Peter Wenz, who is a senior pastor, says, "Churches should preach the Gospel with an international outlook. The refugees should be specially given love of Christ."**
- **Gospel Forum Church provides various supporting activities such as providing clothes, domestic help, language help and so on. Pastor Wenz says, "German people and refugees should equally experience God's love and power." There are 40 church staffs. They take care of about 5000 refugees from 80 countries who come to church every weekend. This is the church that God is working.**

**The Bible : "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free,
neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."**

Galatians 3:28

- Jesus Christ is the real Messiah who leads the Gentiles as well as Jews to salvation. Jesus is the intercessor between us and God.

Conclusion

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—The Privilege that was Given—

- We studied that Jesus Christ is the true High Priest . He is the Messiah and the source of salvation and the true High Priest. We are given God's grace that we receive the eternal life only by simple faith in Jesus, not according to deeds. Jesus Christ is the true intercessor between God the Father in heaven and us.
- Then, how should we live a life?

Let's read the following Scripture in conclusion.

1 . We should hold firmly to the faith.

- Our faith is also shaken today. Therefore, we should put our axis foot on the solid rock.

4:14 Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

2 . We should approach God's throne of grace with confidence.

4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Our God is One of love and forgives those who confess sins. Therefore, we are able to approach God's throne of grace with confidence. Let's give thanks to God.

* God bless you!