

April 16, 2017

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Easter Worship Service)

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Peace Be with You!"

Text: John 20:24~29 (Verse27)

20:24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

20:25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord! But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Introduction

- 1 . **" Happy Easter ! "**
- 2 . Every society is based on relationships of trust. However, it is hard to build relationships because everyone is different.
Sometimes we can trust in people, but other times we can not. Why is this?
 - It is not difficult to trust in others within the allowable range of experiences. On the other hand, it is difficult to trust in others if its range is beyond what we have learned. (Beyond our expectations)
- 3 . A certain man appears in the Bible who couldn't believe the words that he heard. He was Thomas, one of twelve disciples of Jesus. He lived with Jesus under the same roof during Jesus' public life. But when he heard that Jesus rose from the dead, he couldn't believe the story. He said, "It is impossible. Unless I see Him with my eyes, I wouldn't believe it."
 - Let's study about Thomas from the following two points this morning.

Main Points

- 1 . **Thomas, Who was Loved by Jesus.**

- When we read today's text, we understand how Thomas, who was skeptical, was changed.

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

- We can learn three points from the verse above.

1) **Thomas's frankness. (He was skeptical.)**

- Thomas couldn't believe Jesus' resurrection. Why he couldn't? The reasons were:

① When Jesus appeared to His disciples, Thomas was not there.

② He couldn't believe the words of other disciples.

He couldn't believe the other disciples who said they had seen Jesus who had resurrected.

③ He wanted to see with his own eyes.

He wanted to check the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands.

* Thomas was such a man. He was honest with himself.

2) **Checking the nail imprints.**

John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands.

Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and Believe."

- Jesus is merciful. ⇒ He said to Thomas, who was skeptical, **"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."**

* We understand how Jesus responded to Thomas' unbelief.

3) **Thomas' Confession**

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

"My" ⇒ **Grammatically**, this is the possessive case. It means that Thomas said that Jesus was his possession. It is amazing how he had changed.

We understand his great change in only one verse between v. 27 to v.28.

- My friends, we don't need a long time to trust in Jesus!

It doesn't take us a long time to trust in Jesus. ⇒ That's how we come to have faith.

* Thomas confirmed Jesus' resurrection and believed in Him. However, let's take a look at Jesus' word now.

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have Believed."

⇒ **"The faith(to believe) is not a matter of whether a person sees or not!"**

2. How Can We Accept Jesus Who Has Risen ?

- The Bible teaches that Jesus has risen, but we can't see Him with our physical eyes. Therefore, some people say that it is impossible for them to believe in His resurrection. {Do you remember what Jesus said to Thomas?}

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

- **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**
⇒ **This is the center of Christian faith.**

Then, what does it mean to believe? ⇒ It occurs beyond of the level of the five physical senses.

{Illustration} A Man in Poland, Who Woke Up After 19 Years of Sleep

- **This is the true story that happened in Poland in 1988. A man named Jyan Gruzebskie who used to work at the Poland National Railway company. One day he had an accident while he was working and lost his consciousness. Doctor told to his wife Gertruda that it seemed very difficult for him to recover. She was very depressed, but she did not give up for taking care of her husband. Every hour she moved and changed her husband's body position in order to avoid bedsores. Her family members also visited Jyan Gruzebskie in turn.**
- **19 years passed since the accident occurred. Jyan suddenly woke up from his long sleep. What did he see at that moment? It was his wife's face.**
- **A rehabilitation specialist said, "It was almost impossible for him to recover without his wife's devoted care." Then, Jyan began to move his limbs and began to feel things. He was said that he could also carry light things and soon he could walk. That was a miraculous healing!**
- **Jyan was very surprised at seeing a greatly changed world from 19 years before. It was 1 year after his accident when the communism in Europe collapsed. His wife Gertruda said that he was so amazed at seeing colorful shops on the streets and many different kinds of goods at stores. He said that this world has totally changed and became colorful. God was present with him for 19 years.**
- God was present 19 years ago and He is present now and He will be present in future. He controls time. Jyan Gruzebskie was with God who controls time.

* **To believe in God who controls time (our life) is to simply trust in Him and accept**

Him.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Peace Be with You!"

- Jesus said to Thomas who was skeptical.

John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and Believe."

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

- What does it mean to trust in Jesus Christ?

- 1 . To trust means to rely on completely

We can trust without confirming through the five physical senses.

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- 2 . To trust in God mean to posses Him as one's own property

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

- What do you think about today's message? How will we respond to God?

* God bless you!