

September 10, 2017

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Memorial Worship)

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "A Way to Live with Hope"

—Jesus' Promise—

Text: John 11:17~27

**11:17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.**

**11:18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,**

**11:19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.**

**11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.**

**11:21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died.**

**11:22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."**

**11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."**

**11:24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."**

**11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;**

**11:26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"**

**11:27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."**

#### Introduction

- **Japan is one of the countries that have many natural disasters. September 1<sup>st</sup> is Disaster Prevention Day in Japan. Disaster drills are conducted nationwide on the assumption that various natural disasters might occur. Being well prepared means no worries.**
- **I have a traumatic memory of the large Typhoon No.12 that hit Wakayama Prefecture, Mie Prefecture and Nara Prefecture 6 years ago. More than 100 people were left dead and missing by the typhoon. Hundreds of people in Nara Prefecture where the lifeline stopped were isolated.**
- **I can't forget the tragedy of Mr. Shinichi Teramoto who was the mayor of**

**Nachikatsuura-cho, Wakayama Prefecture. He stayed overnight at a town office to prepare measures for dealing with disaster on that day. At the time around 2 a.m., his wife called him that his daughter who went out to see the outside situation got washed away. On that very day, his daughter and her fiancé were going to have a ceremony of exchanging betrothal gifts.**

- **Mr. Teramoto also lost his wife. What a tragedy that was! I cannot find the words to express such agony, it was beyond imagination.**
  - We must face unavoidable and painful events in our life. Human beings are helpless against natural disasters. We really feel *the value of life*.
  - My friends. When we go through trials, there is a great difference between those who stand on the firm basis of life and those who don't stand on such a firm basis. We only live once. What life do we want to live? If we can live a meaningful and purposeful life, imagine how happy we can be!
  
- The Bible records a sorrowful story in today's text. It occurred about 2000 years ago. In Bethany, Israel there were Martha and Mary, who were sisters, and Lazarus, their brother. Unfortunately, Lazarus died and had been put in a tomb for four days.
- Many people had gone to comfort Martha and Mary. Jesus also went there. Martha said to Jesus as below—
  - 11:21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died.**
- Martha knew that Jesus had authority to heal the sick.
  - Jesus said,
  - 11:22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."**
  - 11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."**
  - 11:24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."**
  - 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;**
  - 11:26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"**
- Jesus continued as below—
  - 11:43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"**
  - 11:44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the**

**grave clothe and let him go.”**

- This was the miraculous *deed* that Jesus Christ had done. It is impossible for human beings to make the dead rise again. However, Jesus did *the work* that only God could do to demonstrate that He had authority to make the dead rise again.
- Let’s study the following two points according to *the work* of Jesus today.

**Main Points**

**1 . We Have Pain in Our Life.**

**1 ) We face unavoidable pain in our life.**

- The most painful thing is *death*. On top of that, the *death* of a family member or relative is really painful. *Death* means a separation. No one can get back from death or no one can stop *death*.
- Many people fear death. Then, why are they scared of it?
  - ① No one knows the afterlife and has no guarantee of it. It is only darkness.
  - ② Everyone feels guilty. ⇒ Our life bases on the events of the past life.  
A man has a conscience. A person’s heart feels pain due to sins that they committed in the past and they must take responsibility for them.

**The Bible: Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. People reap what they sow. Galatians 6:7**

- The evil people are prosperous and carry on a good business in this world. There are many unreasonable things that we can’t understand. However, God knows everything. He is the One of righteousness. After all, human beings lead a life before God.
- By the way, how do we accept such an unavoidable *death*?
- \* When do we experience such pain throughout life?

**2 ) They have no helper when they are in need.**

- Let’s look Martha in today’s text. She said as below—

**11:21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.**

**11:22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”**

- Martha believed in Jesus. As she had greatly trusted in Jesus, when Jesus was not there, she became very discouraged. She thought that if Jesus was there, Lazarus, his brother, would not have died.
- We also feel helpless. Because, we can’t see the light of hope.

**Jesus wasn't present there when Martha desperately needed Him. However, God had His plan.**

Have you ever had such an experience like her? God isn't far from you. He is always with you.

- **The Bible : Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25**

**2 . Jesus' Word of Promise**

- Martha and Mary were discouraged by an *unavoidable grief* and *having no help when they were in need*. Some of you may feel sorrow and be hopeless today. You may think that your life is *meaningless*.
- What did Jesus say to them who were in the midst of grief?  
**"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25**
- What powerful words of Jesus! He said that He was the resurrection and the life . On the top of that, He said that anyone who believed in Him would live. Lazarus was raised from the dead as Jesus said.
- Our body goes to decay, however, our soul lives forever. Jesus Christ died on the cross and He has risen from the death on the third day. Therefore, He said, **"Anyone who believes in me will live (like Me), even though they die."**  
We are given hope.

**{ Illustration }**

- **My father passed away several years ago. He was a Christian. His last word was, "I see heaven!". He went to heaven in hope.**
- **Then, why is heaven a happy place? Because, it is the place to meet the people we love. Death is a mere milestone in our life for those who believe in God. We are given heaven where we live an eternal life with those whom we love.**
- **However, those who don't believe in God are not given hope to live in heaven. Because, they don't clear up their debts (sins). When those who clear up their debts through Jesus Christ, their names are written in *the Book of Life*. The faith in God saves you and this is the promise of God.**
- My friends. We should face various things such as unreasonable things and unavoidable things. We sometimes have no helpers when we are in need. We should not look at our life as a part but in full.

- Do you want to live a meaningful life that is given only once?  
**Life that trusts in God, it gives *hope*.**  
Jesus : **“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die.”** **John 11:25**
- Then, how can we get *hope* in our life?  
**We should trust in the Word of Jesus Christ.**  
**11:26 “and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”**
- Jesus took all of our anxiety, pain and grief on the cross.  
He also took our sins. Therefore,
  - We don’t need to get lost in the darkness.
  - We don’t need to be afflicted with a sense of sin.
  - Jesus Christ took everything.
 Those who trust in Him lead a victorious life.
- **The Word of Jesus : “and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”**

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: “A Way to Live With Hope”

—Jesus’ Promise—

- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead by His Word. He has authority.  
We live our lives today. However, are we alive in a real sense?
- The Bible teaches that life without God is just like life that died in spirit.  
God speaks to you now.  
**11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;**  
**11:26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”**

\* God bless you !