

January 7, 2018

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The New Year Worship Service)

Title of the Message: "What Decision Will You Make?"

—In God's Hand—

Text: Hebrews 11:23–28

11:23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

{Illustration}

- The other day, I heard a story and I was encouraged very much. A woman dreamed that she was standing in front of a store and God was its owner. She wanted to have the most precious things and said, "I want peace, love, happiness and wisdom in my heart and also freedom from fear!"
- God answered her with a smile, "I think you are a little mistaken about what I sell. Unfortunately, I don't sell fruits but I only sell seeds."
- God gives us many seeds of blessing (seeds of the Word). In 2018, if we willingly receive the seeds and improve our thoughts and conversations by following them, we will surely bear fruits in various situations.
- In the year of 2018, we all wish that we will have fruitful lives.

Introduction

- The New Year, 2018, has started. Together, we would like to have blessed Christian lives in the Lord this year.
- We don't know what will happen this year. We must choose and decide many things in our daily lives. Those who are involved in businesses will always have to make difficult decisions. Those who are not in such positions may also have to make many difficult decisions.
- As you know, it was exposed late last year that a well-known manufacturer in Japan committed a great injustice by its organization. Japan boasts its products to the world as, "Made in Japan". Those who knew about the unlawfulness must have had a mental conflict between their consciences and fear of degradation or dismissal. They knew that they had to follow their consciences but on the other hand they feared that if they protested against the misconduct they might have been fired.
- When we choose or decide things, we sometimes feel uneasy or fearful. Sometimes, fear clouds our correct decisions. Those who have children may be troubled if they let their children join school events that are non-Christian in nature. They find difficulty in finding the correct course of life for their children.
- We sometimes have to make decisions between wives and husbands. Like this, we have many opportunities to choose and make decisions. What do you think about this year? What decisions are you going to make?
- Many people make decisions according to their own thoughts. And their choices sometimes result in miserable outcomes. It is because human nature is always selfish and focused on self-protection so that human beings often cannot decide things correctly. They make decisions according to their own interests. They are often not correct. They decide without seeing a thing correctly and entirely. This is a weakness of human beings.
- Then, what helps us decide correctly? Obviously, only God can make perfect judgements. Therefore, we need to ask Him for a correct judgment. It will not be an imperfect and selfish judgment. Asking God for His judgment means to ask Him by faith. It means that it is only possible for us to make correct decisions by faith.

- Moses in today's text judged things correctly by faith. Let's learn a precious lesson from Moses, our forerunner in faith, about how to choose and make decisions.

Main Points

1. Moses, A Great Leader of the Israelites

1) The Life of Moses

① His Birth

- When we look Moses' life, we see his fear when he made decisions by faith. Around the days of his birth, the Israelites had increased in numbers and became numerous in Egypt. Pharaoh, the king who feared their power, gave an order to kill all boys who were born to the Israelites.
- Some of the midwives who did not fear the king but loved God left the boys alive. Then, the king gave the order to all his people to throw the Israelite boys into the Nile when they saw them.
- Therefore, the parents of Moses must have been afraid to hide the baby. However, they hid him in their home by faith. Moses survived miraculously.

Exodus 11:23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

- Moses' parents hid him for three months. When they could hide him no longer, probably because of his loud crying voice, his mother made a papyrus basket for him. Then she placed Moses in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. Miriam, his sister, stood at a distance to see him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe.
- She saw the basket among the reeds and opened it. She found the baby who was crying. She felt sorry and thought to take care of him. Then Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter if she had a woman to nurse the baby for her. Miriam recommended her own (and Moses') mother. Pharaoh's daughter asked Moses' mother to take the boy and nurse him.
- Moses was miraculously brought up by his mother and when he grew older she took him to Pharaoh's daughter. It was not that his parents were not afraid when they disobeyed the king's order. However, they decided to follow God's will by faith.

② Moses who had Grown Up

- Moses must have been taught by his parents that he was an Israelite (a Hebrew).

One day, he went out amongst his own people were and watched them doing their hard labor.

Exodus 2:11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.

2:12 Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

- Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. He was filled with fury and killed the Egyptian. He thought no one saw it.
- The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He blamed the one in the wrong, but he talked back to Moses.

2:13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

2:14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

- As the Hebrew brought up Moses' killing the Egyptian, he was afraid because he thought his murder had become known.

2:15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

- When the Pharaoh heard of Moses' killing the Egyptian, he tried to kill Moses. Then, he fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian.

The author of the **Hebrews** records as below—

2:24 God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.
 2:25 So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

2) Moses' Choice and Decision by Faith

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

• Moses' life was in God's will. He should have been killed when he was born as an Israelite. However, he was taken by Pharaoh's daughter and brought up in the royal palace.

The Book of **Acts** records as below—

7:22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

• He could have lived as a prince of Egypt, who had wealth and power at his command. However, he chose a life of persecution together with God's people by the Egyptians. It was his decision by faith. Of course, he feared because he knew Pharaoh's anger and the Egyptians' hostility toward him.

• Then, why did he choose the difficult and painful way?

Hebrews 11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

• The author of the Epistle records, "disgrace for the sake of Christ." It means the hardship of belonging to the people of Christ, God's people. The name of Christ here teaches that God in the Old Testament and God's people in the New Testament are present on the same line of history.

• Moses lived 1300 years before Christ was born. In spite of that fact, the author records that Christ was the hidden helper in the days of the Old Testament.

Christ Himself said as below—

John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

8:57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

8:58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

• John, one of twelve apostles, said as below—

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

• The Epistle to the **Hebrews** record as below—

11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Moses persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. His faith was truly great.

• However, when you read **Exodus**, Chapter 2, you may think it strange. It is

written as below—

2:14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

• The content seems to be contradictory. It was written that he was afraid and the other hand he wasn't. Yes, he was afraid because Pharaoh tried to kill him. However, Moses went to live in Midian not only because of fear, but he left Egypt by faith. We understand it by referring to, "**He persevered because he saw him who is invisible.**"

• My friends. When we choose the course of faith, it is not that we are not afraid. However, when we trust in God and decide by faith, our fears are mitigated. We understand that Moses, who was discouraged because of his weakness at first, was made strong by God and became a great leader who led about 20 million Israelites.

• It means that the way that Moses chose and decided was a difficult and painful one. It was the way of faith. God, who made the covenant, was with him. God promised that He would protect and lead the Israelites. (The Abrahamic Covenant.)

• Moses' choices and decisions led to another precious secret.

3) Choices by Faith Derive From Obedience

Hebrews 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

• God sent Moses, the leader, to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to deliver the Israelites from Egypt. God made

Moses to speak to Pharaoh to set the Israelites free. However, his heart became unyielding so that he wouldn't let the Israelites go. As a result, God sent Egypt nine plagues and He said to Pharaoh that every firstborn son in Egypt would die.

- On the other hand, God told the Israelites to slaughter a lamb without defect and take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses. The Lord's angels came down and visited every house to kill the firstborn sons in Egypt. However, they passed over the houses that had their doorframes covered with blood. People who stayed in their houses survived. This is Passover that Jewish people celebrate now and is also the secret of the Communion in the days of the New Testament.

- As we studied, when Moses had to make a decision he was able to choose correct ways. It seems to be dangerous to choose from a human's viewpoint. We may think that the way that other people choose to go is not dangerous and it may seem rather safe.

- It is just like a saying, "If everyone crosses during a red light, then there's nothing to be afraid of." We definitely need great courage if we choose the way no one else seems to go. However, if we have faith, we can go.

- Faith gives us courage to make good decisions. However, faith by itself has no power to do it. It is Almighty God who is the object of our faith. He is the One who created the Heavens and the Earth and guides us with love and truth. We need to see the One (God) who is invisible and goes with us. It means to live by faith.

- What does it exactly mean to live by faith?

2. Learn Lessons by Moses' Life by Faith

1) Moses was an Ordinary Man

- Moses, who is called a great man, committed murder, a fatal mistake. When he made decisions, he was afraid. However, he also overcome fear. As a result, he became God's great tool. Why? The reason was because of God's covenant, the unilateral covenant.

- Those who are loved by God and are chosen as His tools are blessed. We are also loved by God and given His covenant. It is only because of God's grace.

2) Moses' God is our God.

- We are also in God's hand. We are blessed to walk with the One who is invisible. We live by faith.

- Our God is called Immanuel (God with us) who is always with us. To live by seeing the One who is invisible is to walk by faith.

- Then, how can we live by seeing the One who is invisible? God's absolute promises never fail. Therefore, we should trust in them. And the important point is to have daily devotion time. (To make it a daily routine in our Christian lives)

- God speaks to us through His Word and the Holy Spirit today. Therefore, it is very important for us to be quiet before God and listen to His voice every day.

Let's make it a rule to have the devotion time in our Christian life in 2018. We absolutely need it because we are going to make many decisions this year.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "What Decision Will You Make?"

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- We studied the life of Moses who was the leader of the Israelites and also our great forerunner of faith. He had to make many important choices and a decisions. We studied his life by faith and learned the secret that he was used by God and became a man of God is hidden in his life by faith.

- Today, we studied very important things: when we make a choice or a decision, we are often afraid. However, when we trust in God and make a choice or a decision, we are not afraid because we understand that God guides us.

- Important points are:

1. Moses' God is our God.

2. We must make our choices and decisions by faith.