

October 4, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Returning to the Shepherd Who Is Overseer of Our Souls" (1)

—The Good Shepherd—

Text: 1 Peter 2:21~25

**2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.**

**2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.**

**2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.**

**2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

**2:25 For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

#### Introduction

Mr. Goro Hashimoto, a senior staff writer of the Yomiuri newspaper, wrote about Dr. Lee Teng-hui who was the former president of the Republic of China. (2020.9.5 morning edition) I have heard that the former president Lee Teng-hui was a very great person. The article about him was very impressive so I would like to share a part of it now.

**On July 30, Mr. Lee Teng-hui completed his life of 97 years. He was the one of five great politicians whom I have ever met. Mr. Hashimoto pointed to three reasons why he was a great leader.**

**Firstly, he was a faithful Christian. He looked back on the days of great responsibility as the president and said he had fought hard every day. When he faced a difficult situation, he always took the Bible and prayed to God. He opened the Bible and read the verses that pertained to that issue and thought how he should have dealt with it. However, his faith was not an exclusive one.**

**Secondly, he had a strong philosophy of life. Mr. Hashimoto writes the third reason that he had a good Japanese spirit.**



**I think it is very unusual thing that a Japanese general newspaper commented like this. It means that the way of Mr. Lee Teng-hui's life greatly influenced not only Taiwan but also Japan.**

When I read the commentary on Dr. Lee Teng-hui, the former president of the Republic of Taiwan, I was impressed by his Christian faith that supported him. **It is very blessed to believe in Jesus Christ. The Bible is the book of God that teaches the wisdom to live to the ultimate sovereign and also a person of the lowest state. How happy that we are allowed to listen to the word of God from that same book, the Bible!**

By the way, we studied most of 1 Peter, Chapter 2 and it is finally ending. Last time, we studied that Peter advised servants (slaves) in those days and he also wrote about Jesus Christ's suffering.

He taught the meaning of His suffering on the cross at the end of Chapter 2. It is a very important part, so I would like to divide the chapter into two parts and study both. Today, let us study Jesus' **suffering unjustly** and his **enduring suffering**.

And next time, let study His suffering for us. Let us study the following two points today.

#### Main Points

### 1. Suffering Unjustly

**2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.**

#### 1) Jesus Was Regarded as a Dangerous Man in Those Days.

Jesus was caught at Gethsemane and taken to a courtyard of Caiaphas the high priest. Jesus had an inquisition. The Sanhedrin that was the Jewish Supreme Council was organized with Jewish factions, the Sadducees, and the Pharisees in those days.

Why did they plot to kill Jesus?

1. The Sadducees belonged to the priest class and were established as a privileged position at the Temple. They thought that Jesus threatened their position.
2. On the other hand, the Pharisees instructed people at Jewish synagogues and supervised their religious lives. They feared that Jesus would made them lose their authority.

Therefore, Jesus was a dangerous man to the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

However, it was not easy for them to prove that Jesus committed sin, so that He could be sentenced to death. They called false witnesses, but their testimony was contradictory or was not strong enough to be a deciding factor. Finally, the high priest asked, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?"

The Bible records as below.

**Matthew 26:63** But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

**26:64** Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

**26:65** Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

**26:66** What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”

The high priest and the members of the Sanhedrin sentenced Jesus to death because they thought that he uttered blasphemy.

Peter writes in Chapter 2, “**He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.**” (2:22) Peter lived with Jesus approximately three years. Literally, if man lives under the same roof, inevitably, his weakness, faults, selfishness will be revealed. However, Peter said, “**Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.**” (2:22)

That man was regarded as a dangerous one in those days. The Sanhedrin (the Jewish supreme council) judged that Jesus **deserved death**. It is one of the points about Jesus.

## 2) **Suffering Unjustly**

Jesus was judged to deserve death. How was He treated after that? He **suffered unjustly**. Firstly, Jesus was judged a criminal and was subject to suffering unjustly.

### **Jesus' suffering unjustly**

- ① **His hands were tied, and people spat in His face.**
- ② **He was struck with people's fists and was slapped.**
- ③ **He was flogged by the Roman soldiers.**
- ⑤ **He was forced to wear scarlet robe and also set a crown of thorns and put a staff in His right hand. He was mocked, “Hail, king of the Jews!”**
- ⑥ **He was forced to carry the cross and walk to the place of execution.**
- ⑦ **He was robbed of his clothes and both His hands and feet were nailed to the cross.**
- ⑧ **He was insulted by the people that passed by, “Save yourself if you are the Son of God.”**
- ⑨ **He was mocked by the chief priests, teachers of the law and elders, “You the king of Israel, come down from the cross!”**

I am not an expert of law, however, the action of Jewish people, who were very excited emotionally, must be unjust.

**2:23**When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten,

Those are the things that Jesus Christ received. Now we must not forget that Jesus did not

struggle against **suffering unjustly**. Peter records how Jesus received **suffering unjustly**. Let us study the second point.

## 2. Suffering that Jesus Endured

**2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

### 1) Jesus Endured.

The Lord Jesus Christ endured suffering.

**2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten,**

In those days, a criminal who was crucified cursed the men who crucified him. Having difficulty with their breathing, they cursed the people who caused them to suffer. It was revenge, paying back twice times, three times...

Generally, it is a human's nature. However, Jesus was different. Some people say that Jesus was **the Son of God**, so He could do so. He had power to endure suffering because He was **the Son of God**.

Yes, indeed He was. He was the Son of God, however, was it the reason that He could endure?

The Bible records that the three titles of the Messiah were given to Jesus.

**The Son of God: The Messiah who was sent by God**

**The Son of David: The Messiah who came out from the family line of Israel**

**The Son of Man: The Messiah who saves all human beings**

However, Jesus who suffered, did not use authority of **the Son of God**. Why He did not do so? The reason was that He completely realized that He was sent as the Son of Man, the Messiah, the sacrificial lamb, for all human beings.

John Chapter 12 records as below:

**12:27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose, I have come to this hour.**

Jesus clearly knew the purpose for which He came to this world.

Jesus acted as **the Son of Man**. How precious His deed was!

Jesus said,

**John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

Jesus Christ endured as **the Son of Man** for salvation of all human beings.

What did Jesus speak as **the Son of Man**?

### 2) The Word of Jesus On the Cross

The Lord Jesus said on the cross as below,

**Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.**

Jesus prayed for people who made him suffer. It means that He **entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly**. It refers to the perfect faith that is the highest peak of faith.

He trusted so much in God the Father.

Luke Chapter 23 records.

**23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.**

I have heard that His word means, "Good Night!"

Jesus trusted in God the Father in Heaven until the very end. We see the attitude of Jesus Christ's faith (trust). Then, what does it mean that Jesus endured suffering unjustly?

Peter writes as below,

**2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

The Scripture above refers to the two important things.

① **We should separate from sin and live to righteousness.**

② **You have been healed by His wounds.**

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was to allow us to separate from sin and live to righteousness. Peter records that we have been healed by Jesus' wounds. How surprising! God the Creator prepared the way of salvation before we realized it.

The way was prepared by Jesus, **the Son of Man**, who committed no sin. A man is not made righteous by his deeds. He needs only to believe in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is the central theme of Christianity.

He is the One (Jesus Christ) that is **the Shepherd of our souls**.

A man receives true forgiveness, peace and comfort from Him.

**{Illustration}**

**I have heard a story about Pastor Max Ruched. He was born in Texas, in the USA, and had grown up there. He had never seen the ocean until he was 10 years old. He has always wanted to see the ocean and even had a dream about it.**

**When he became ten years old, he visited Santa Monica Beach in California where his uncle lived. Looking at the white sandy beach and a boundless expanse of the Pacific Ocean,**

he was most impressed by the constant surging waves. He said, “Uncle, the waves are continuously surging to the beach.” His uncle said, “Max, do you know that the waves keep surging to the beach even at night.”

Max was surprised and said, “No way, uncle. There is not enough water.” The uncle answered, “You know, Max, the waves were surging even 1000 years ago like today. And the waves keep surging even after our death.” Max played with the surging waves all day on that day.

Pastor Max was talking about his experience of his childhood and he kept silent for a while and said, “God’s grace is like this, even if we fall down 1000 times, His grace surges toward us.”

**My friends. If you understand God’s grace, it is not true grace. If you can measure it, it is not grace, because it is within our expectations. Even though you may desperately think that God never forgives this apart from that, the waves of God’s forgiveness and grace are continuously surging to us. It is God’s grace for us that we cannot understand in our minds, hearts, or through experiences.**

My friends. God’s grace through Jesus Christ is like surging waves that never fail.

The Scripture teaches,

**2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

God’s grace through the cross of Jesus Christ is unchanging. Our mind is healed by His wounds. Those who accept it by faith are blessed.

### Conclusion

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—The Good Shepherd—

Today we studied that Jesus Christ endured suffering unjustly. Why did Jesus suffer? Let us remember what we studied.

1. He suffered for achieving the word of the Bible.
2. He suffered for fulfilling God’s salvation.

Let us give thanks for unfailing salvation (grace) of Jesus Christ from the bottom of our hearts. Let us walk with Jesus Christ this week, who is **the good Shepherd and the Shepherd of our**

**souls.**

\* Gd bless you!