

April 1, 2018

KIBC Easter Sunday Worship Service

Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Why Are You Crying?"

Text: John 20:11-18

20:11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

20:12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

20:13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away, she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

20:14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

20:15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni! (which means Teacher.)

20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

20:18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Introduction

1. "Happy Easter!"
2. A book entitled *A Litter of Tears* has published a short while ago. This book has been made into a drama and became very popular. It is a true story about a fifteen-year-old girl who had serious disease (spinocerebellar degeneration) of unknown cause and died at the young age of 25. It has become a best seller and 1.1million people who had read the book cried for her story.
3. This "1 litter tears" are sympathetic tears and tears of sadness. My friends, you may know two kinds of tear.
 - ① Tears of sadness ⇒ tears of frustration, tears of disappointment
 - ② Tears of joy ⇒ tears of rapture, tears of impression
 - The Bible tells "a true story" in which "tears of sadness" change into "tears of rapture" and "tears of joy". People face various pain, hardships and sadness in their life and shed tears. If your "tears of sadness" change into "tears of joy", you will be encouraged and given power. You will be given hope, too.
 - My dear friends, what do you think the greatest sadness in life?

⇒ It is “death” of the dearest person.

Let's study today's Scripture.

Jesus died on the cross and was laid in a tomb. Mary went to the tomb after the Sabbath. She stood outside of there crying. She was shedding “tears of sadness”. But she met Jesus who had risen. He couldn't possibly have been alive, but he has risen.

“Tears of sadness” ⇒ became “tears of joy”.

- A sentence, **“Why are you crying?”** appears two times (verses 13, 15) in today's text. This is the message about people who are in “sadness” change into “joy”.

Today, let's think about God's word **“Why are you crying?”** You may be filled with sadness now. If it is you, this is the message for you.

Main Subjects

1 . Words of encouragement to Mary

1) First, two angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

- Angels ⇒ God gives His message through the messengers.

God still gives His message through a man today.

This woman Mary spoke frankly.

“They have taken my Lord away, she said, “and I don't know where they have put him.” (Verse 13)

- The Bible writes, **“At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.” (John 20 14)**
- Mary saw Jesus but she did not realized that it was Jesus. Why she didn't? She must have been upset.

2) Then, Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” Verse 15a

- Jesus' word ⇒ **“Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Verse 15a**

What was her answer? ⇒ **Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” (20:15)**

- Mary eagerly wished to see Jesus. And then, she said **“Rabboni! (which means Teacher)”**. At that very moment she realized that Jesus who had risen stood before her. It is written in verse 17, Jesus said, **“Do not hold on to me.”**
Can you imagine how she had been shedding “tears of joy”?

2 . What was the crucial factor to change Mary?

- Mary didn't realize Jesus at first because she was very upset.

The Bible: “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” (20:15)

- She was ready to accept (to get) Jesus. This was the crucial factor. Then, she cried,

“Rabboni! (Teacher). **“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” (20:18)**

This is her testimony, what she had experienced. At that very moment her deep sadness changed into the great joy.

{Example} Reverend Sundar Singh (1889-1929);an Indian Saint

- **Sundar Singh who was a devout Sikh hated Christians and was dare to tear up the Bible. Sikhs are a minority party compared to Hindus. A turban on a head identifies Sikhs. They are exempting from wearing a helmet in England now. It is said that they are rich and have a high education. Sundar Singh who was called the saint in India was that Sikh. And he had a mystical experience to meet Jesus the Resurrection. He had converted and his life was completely changed. He loved Jesus truly and gave his life to become a faithful servant of Jesus.**
- **One day, Sundar Singh was preaching around deep in the mountains in Tibet. The wind became strong and it began to snow. It was getting cold quickly. He was in dangerous situation. As he came to a cliff, he found a man who was almost unconscious. Another man was near him who still looked fine.**
- **Sundar Singh asked him, “Let’s carry him together to the village.” However he refused to help him unmercifully saying “If we are taking care of him, we will be frozen to death. He must be dying. I go down alone.” The man didn’t listen to Sundar Singh. He left his company behind and had gone.**
- **Sundar Singh began to walk ploddingly carrying the heavy man in a snowstorm. Being all in a sweat he went on through knee-high snow. His body heat made the dying man awake. When he saw the village off in the distance, he found a dead man in snow. It was that man who left his company behind.**
- **My friends, on His shoulders Jesus Christ is carrying us who are almost dying by cold. We are almost abandoned, but we are here now carrying by Jesus Christ on his back. Yes, He is the Savior indeed. He died once and has risen from the dead. He is alive as the winner today.**
- **What do you think about today’s text? Do you want to lead a life with Jesus who defeated death and became the winner? “Why are you crying?” You may be shedding tears of sadness. However, if you trust in Jesus Christ who has risen from the dead you are surely saved. Your name is written in the Book of Life in heaven and you will be changed into a man of joy. Jesus said, **Matthew****
 - 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**
 - 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**
 - 11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**

Conclusions

Title of the Message: "Why Are You Crying?"

Mary was in deep sadness in the morning of Easter. She had listened to two times, "**Why are you crying?**" The angel spoke to her first and then Jesus did, who are resurrected. Why did Mary change who was in deep sadness?

She said, "**Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.**" (20:15)

When she said, "I will get Him (accept)", she realized He was Jesus who has resurrected.

- * Would you like to welcome Jesus in your life? If you come to trust in Him, your tears of sadness surely change into tears of joy.