

May 6, 2018

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Lord Will Never Leave Us"

— Don't Worry About Your Weaknesses—

Text: Hebrews 13:4~6

**13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all sexually immoral.**

**13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."**

**13:6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"**

### Introduction

- Last Sunday, we listened to the Lord's voice, "Keep on loving one another." The Bible teaches us to love each other and it is the most important teaching of the Bible. We studied how important it is last week.
- A married couple is the smallest unit to love each other. There is no smaller unit like husband and wife, man and woman. God wants the unit to love each other.
- At first, God created human beings to love one another. However, when Adam and Eve, the first human beings, committed sin, they began to put the blame on each other. Their relation of love became a relation of hostility. Their relationship became a terrible one, which should have been blessed one.
- Please remember that God created Adam and Eva to marry. Therefore, marriage was not an idea of human beings. God didn't think of the idea after human beings committed sin. God created man and woman who were supposed to be husband and wife before sin came into the world.
- However, marriage came to have various problems since human beings committed sin. Some people separate from their lifelong companions and walk their own ways. (Divorce) Marriage is a practical way to experience the Word, "Love one another." Therefore, if those who are given a gift of being unmarried, they should live by practicing love. The Bible teaches that such life is more precious than that of marriage.
- Paul, the apostle, was unmarried.

**1Corinthians 7:7 I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.**

**7:8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.**

### {Illustration}

- **An evangelical organization called the "Sisterhood of Mary" is in Darmstadt, Germany. The organization is well-known for its founder's books, *Bride of Christ* and *Realities of God*. It has been developed from *the Bible Meeting* in the town of rubble after the World War II.**
- **Many hundreds of sisters lead communal living today. Their lives are full of miracles. (I'm sorry I don't have enough time to mention about their lives.) I really recommend you to read books of the Sisterhood of Mary.**
- **One day, a certain well known Japanese evangelist visited the Sisterhood of Mary in Darmstadt. I accompanied him as an interpreter at that time. The area where they live together is called Canaan (the Promised Land). There was a small pond named the Sea of Galilee. We sat beside the pond, and listened to their testimonies about God's amazing miracles**

- **After listening the testimonies, the evangelist asked them, “Is there anyone who would leave here and marry?” The sisters were really surprised at his question and replied, “We have blessed lives with the Lord here in Canaan. We can’t imagine marrying men of this world.”**
- **I still vividly remember their testimonies and faces with joy.**

• Married life should be a happy one. And spending an unmarried life like Paul is more blessed than even that. However, not everyone can live like him. I think that only people who God decides can live unmarried.

• I don’t speak concrete things about married life today. However, please remember that it is very big and important theme that the Bible teaches about. The author of the Epistle records as below—

**Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all sexually immoral.**

- Let’s study the following two point from the Word of God today.

### Main Points

## 1 Marriage that God Is Pleased with

### 1) Marriage

- What marriage is God pleased with?

⇒ It is a marriage according to the principles of the Bible.

The Bible teaches as below—

**Matthew 19:5 and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?**

**19:6 So they are no longer two, bur one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate.”**

- Generally, when we want to marry, we seek our marriage partners according to our criteria to decide. A man may look at a partner’s appearance, educational background, and so on. On the other hand, a woman may see a partner’s job, income, educational background and so on. Their criteria may be quite different.
- The problem is that many believe that if they choose their partners by their own criteria their married lives will be happy. However, the most important thing is whether their partners believe God the Creator or not. Because human beings are not perfect the criteria of those who choose are imperfect. Therefore, the Bible teaches “what God has joined together”.
- It means that marriage is done by God’s will. If it is so, they can find partners who are chosen by God in this world. Those who are able to meet their partners this way would be really happy.
- Various problems happen in the marriage life. If a married couple believes that their partners were given by God, they won’t be shaken by problems. On the contrary, they would try to overcome problems in married life together. It is very crucial how they start their marriage lives.
- Then, what about people who start their marriages without knowing God’s will? Some of them may think that they got married by mistake when they face troubles. When they have problems, they look back their married lives and doubt their decision. When people have problems, they usually judge them as they like.

The Bible records as below—

**1Corinthians7:12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who**

**is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.**

**7:13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.**

**7:14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.**

- The Scripture above teaches us that the unbelieving husbands or wives **are sanctified** through the saints who have faith in God. Therefore, the Bible teaches that they shouldn't divorce. It is God's grace!
- My friends. The married couple that is already living together, they should not think if their marriage lives were right or wrong, but they should think how they can change their lives into a better one. They should not look back at their lives. They should humbly think why their married lives go wrong and admit that their ways of thinking are quite different. However, it is impossible for them to change their ways of thinking and lives. Only God can change them.
- My friends. You should remember that if God didn't allow your marriage, you couldn't start married life at all.  
**Matthew 19:6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate."**  
**They are no longer two, but one. The secret of God is hidden here.**

## **2) Marriage Should Be Honored by All.**

**13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all sexually immoral.**

- **"Marriage should be honored"** means that they should think married lives are important. They should think about their partners and practically learn how to love. They both show their faults in their married lives. Married life is the place to carry out in practice what the Bible teaches.
- "The adulterer" originally refers to *prostitute*.  
"Sexually immoral" refers to have an affair.  
Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Abraham and Pompeii of the days of the ancient Rome were the cities of pornography. The city of Corinth was also like that. Japan of today is just like them, or it may be worse than that. We feel pain when we consider the Japan of today. God does not absolutely overlook it.
- "Marriage should be honored" means to not have a sexual relationship with those who are not their married partners. If the couple really loves each other they wouldn't do such a thing. Many people commit immorality and adultery because the married couple don't have a solid relationship.
- We show our good points and also bad points in their married lives. Therefore, it is not easy to love each other. If we really don't love their partners, we may be lured by other people, who don't know our real nature.
- My friends. We should be careful, because this world has great influence on Christians. Many married lives and families are broken down by adultery. Weekly magazines and T.V. gossip shows report other people's scandals and they sell well or have good ratings. My heart really aches.
- We need to love each other with Christ's love that Jesus loved church and sacrificed Himself to establish good marital relationship. However, we can't love by ourselves. It is not until we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ that we really love each other with Christ's love.

- The author of the Epistle also teaches the following important thing.

## 2 Be Content With What We Have

### 1) The Important Encouragement

- **13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**
- Everyone should follow the encouragement above. A certain psychologist said that those who felt humiliated because of poverty in their childhood, they are often greatly concerned about money. Those people seem to have strong love of money. Please don't misunderstand. I am not saying that we should not care about money at all. However, if you think money is more important and attractive than Jesus that is the point.
- Economic materialism spreads like a malignant disease.

The Bible teaches as below—

**Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

- The love of money is similar in many ways to people who feel attracted to other people than their married partners.  
As the Scripture writes, **“Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate.” (Matthew 19:6)** We should, **“be content with what you have.” (Hebrews 13:5)** Money is means of trade but the Scripture teaches, **“Keep your lives free from the love of money.” (Hebrews 13:5)** Don't you envy rich people around you?
- Then, how should we keep on living?

Jesus taught as below—

**Matthew 6: 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”**

**6:26 Look at the birds of the air: they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?**

**6:27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[e]?**

**6:28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.**

**6:29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.**

**6:30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?**

**6:31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**

**6:32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.**

**6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

- The Scripture above teaches us that we must seek God first, then God the Father in heaven will give us food, clothing and shelter.

Paul also teaches as below—

**1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.**

**6:8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.**

**6:9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.**

**6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

## 2) The Secret to Be Content

- The author doesn't simply teach that the love of money is evil thing and we should be content with what we have, but he teaches us quite different thing. He teaches the reason that we are able to be content with what we are given. Why are we content?  
**13:5 God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."**
- What a powerful Word He said. The One who created the heavens and the earth said, **"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** It is the most hopeful Word for us.
- However, human beings want much money and sometimes are attracted to the other sex. Why are we so weak? Let's think about the reason.
- **Those who love money and those who are married but love other people have one thing in common.**  
**. They don't know our Lord Jesus Christ. If they really understand who Jesus is, the love of money and of other things pale in significance in comparison with Jesus' love.**
- When we understand that God the Lord is always with us and He will never forsake us, we don't need to seek money for ourselves. We come to rejoice to store up treasures in heaven. Jesus taught following,  
**Matthew6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**
- The author of the Epistle records as below—  
**13:6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"**  
We have the One who completely supports and helps us.

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: "The Lord Will Never Leave Us"

— Don't Worry About Your Weakness—

- We listened to the important teaching today. It protects us not to walk toward the wrong ways of life. Mainly we studied the following two points: ① about Marriage, and ② material things. The similarity between them is that they are very attractive for us.
- The problem of both points is we don't understand how great and precious Jesus is so that we give priority to other things than God. It is very dangerous idea. We Christians also be careful not to do so.
- Then what should we do? ⇒ To understand Jesus deeper

The important points are :

1. To follow the principles of the Bible
2. To have a good fellowship with the Lord

For that, we should give priority to daily devotional time (quiet time) and ask Jesus to guide us.

God Bless You!