

March 31, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Go in Peace"

— The Place Where My Heart Is —

Text: Psalm 46:1~7

46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

46:3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

46:5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

46:6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

46:7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Introduction

Our living standards in Japan have improved and we enjoy a prosperous life. We really lead convenient lives. Those who live in a city can get anything they want. Nowadays, the internet is ubiquitous in our society, so we easily connect with each other. On the of that, we can see what is going on in the world and get various kinds of information.

When I was in Germany, a letter took about a week to get to Japan by post and it took about a week to get its answer. Therefore, it took approximately two weeks to go out and return. An international phone call was very expensive those days. I, who was a mere student, couldn't use it. Now, it is quite different from those days. We can make an international phone call easily, and sometimes it is free of charge.

AI (artificial intelligence) has improved and it helps find one person among tens of thousands of people by surveillance camera. As for cars, autonomous cars will be made practical in the near future. Like this, everything has changed as time goes by.

But on the other hand, we hear about bullying, child abuse, illegality (bribery) and so on. We

have the convenient lives, however, are our hearts completely satisfied?

Young people are seeking their places. Adults are also seeking their places. Senior people are also seeking their places.

It is true that every generation has its own problems. They have no place to feel relaxed and comfortable. They are seeking a real place to feel peaceful.

Where can we find a real place where we can feel comfortable and peaceful?

We must find the place where the heart is.

Let's consider about the place where our hearts are comfortable and peaceful today.

Main Points

1. The Characteristics of the Place

1) The true place gives ⇒ **rest**.

Man is seeking **peace** in his mind.

The author of the Psalms records as below—

Psalm46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

46:3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

God gives us a sense of relief. The author of the psalm records,

46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

What a helpful psalm!

I'm safe here! I'm all right if I trust in Him! God is great! He gives rest (peace)! The author said that God is his most comfortable place. The author said that it is God who was the source of rest and peace.

{Illustration} The Christian Church in Damascus

The civil war continued in Syria in the Middle East. Many people were killed by the heavy fight against IS. Syria consisted of 18 tribes and religious groups under the one-party regime. They fought the terrible battle against IS that attempted establishing the Caliphate kingdom. More than three million refugees fled outside the country because of terror of beyond all imagination.

The Christian church (Pastor Abdullah) in Damascus, the capital city, reported, “Our church rations supplies (wheat, rice, sugar, milk, medicine, clothes, etc.) from the West to 1300 families and teaches love of Christ in the midst of the war.”

Even in that situation, Christians came together to church to attend worship. They didn’t come to get supplies. Among them there was a girl who came to Sunday school. She lost her two legs by a rocket bomb. However, her father held her in his arms and came to church.

He said that the church was the place for her. He said it is the church that her heart was peaceful there.

I will never forget the words that he said.

2) The true place is ⇒ the place where his heart rests.

It is the place that completely accepts me as the whole being. It is like the place where a child peacefully sleeps in his/her mother’s arms. It is the place that gives peace deep in his/her heart even though he/she has pain.

{Illustration}

My Memory of Jakob Esau, who was an Evangelist in Germany and Russia.

Jakob Esau said, “I had never my youth.” I got a lot of encouragement from him. He was imprisoned in the labor camp for 25 years and experienced five terms of imprisonment.

Even though he was in prison and had a challenging time, he, who accept God in his heart, always felt peaceful. He said, “The days with God were my place.”

A man is blessed if he has the true place even though he has hardship (battles, trials).

The author of the psalm sang as below—

46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

46:3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

2 . Seek Your Place.

{ Illustration } Sister Kazuko Watanabe, the Former President of Notre Dame Seishin University in Hiroshima, Japan.

Sister Watanabe who was a Catholic sister and educationist regrettably passed away. I won't forget her word.

She has published many books. One of them is *You Should Bloom Where God Has Planted You*. (2012) She wrote in the book as below—

When I was in a very difficult position in the covenant, I once made a decision to leave there. However, I came to my senses when Father, who was my supervisor, said, "If you don't change, nothing will change wherever you go or whatever you do."

If I become happy or unhappy depending on attitudes of people around, I am only a slave of the environment. It was only when I work positively, I become happy.

A certain student got depressed because he couldn't get a job offer from the company he wanted to work for, even though he did his best. Sister Watanabe said to him, "You should bloom in the company of the job offer. Even if it seems difficult, you should not hate people around you because you yourself decides what is happy. You should think it important to change yourself, not think that your boss is wrong or something bad."

No one can always have exceedingly smooth sailing There are many turning points. What do we do in adverse circumstances? Do we become ill-tempered or smile?

What do you think now? We are allowed to live only once. Our lives are very precious. How do we lead that precious lives? Those who have the comfortable places are blessed. The true place is the one where God is present. The author of Psalm 46 sang about the place that gave him peace.

God speaks to you, "Try to bloom there!" He who has the place (your place) where the Creator of heavens and earth is present is blessed.

The Bible encourages us as below—

Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

The place where God allows us to be is the place that God is present. We don't need to bloom there by ourselves. No not at all. God helps us bloom and bear fruit.

Jesus said as below—

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

God makes us bloom and bear fruit in the place where God is present. Jesus came to this world

to fulfill it.

What do you think about today's sermon? Let's believe in God who is our true place and lead the comfortable and peaceful lives.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Go in Peace"

— The Place Where My Heart Is —

We listened to God about the precious **place where our heart is**. God speaks to us, "Go in peace."

The place that God gives is:

1. The place that completely accepts me as a whole being.
2. The place that my heart rests in peace.

I hope that you believe in God and have the true place and live a good healthy life.

God bless you!