

May 12, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Live by Following the Wisdom from Heaven"

—The Peacemakers—

Text: James 3:17~18

3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Introduction

The other day I went to a driving school to take **a lecture for elderly persons**. There are many car accidents caused by elderly persons these days, and it becomes a subject of public concern. I became a student at the driving school and had a good two hours of studying the traffic rules and driving skill.

Just before I took the lecture, an 87-year-old man let his car run out of control at Ikebukuro, Tokyo and killed a 31-year-old mother and her 3-year-old daughter who were at a pedestrian crossing. This included 10 people injured, some slightly and others seriously. According to a drive recorder, the car seemed to crash at the pedestrian crossing at a speed of about 100 kilometers per hour. The daily life of the victims' family was changed completely.

The old driver said to a police officer that an accelerator pedal didn't return to the original state. It means that the driver couldn't control the car and it resulted in a fatal accident. It was an awful accident.

By the way, James said as below—

3:8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is restless evil, full of deadly poison.

The tongue (our words) are evil, and it is impossible to tame and the source of false wisdom.

James taught on false wisdom in the passage we previously studied, and he teaches the true wisdom (the wisdom from heaven) in today's passage. The tamed tongue is the source of true wisdom.

Let's study the following two points today.

Main Points

1. He Who Lives in the True Wisdom

1) The True Characteristics

James pointed out seven characteristics of true wisdom.

- ① It is **pure**. **“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure...”**

Usually, the word comes first, so it is the most important characteristic. It means **clean** and **innocent**, and **it is not become dirty by the worldly wisdom**. It is the characteristic that shows an attitude of mind. The other six characteristics come to the outside attitude.

The others are ② **peace-loving**, ③ **considerate**, ④ **submissive (to have an ear to listen and is easily taught)**, ⑤ **full of mercy and good fruit** and ⑥ **impartial and sincere**.

1 John Chapter 3 records as below—

3:3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The verse above gives a definition of the word **pure** in other word. Purity means pure before God. God is pure and clean, so it is the secret that God blesses.

2) What The True Wisdom Brings In

3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Now let's understand the different results between false wisdom and true wisdom. The perpetual fruit should be fulfilled by only those who have the wisdom from God.

By which wisdom do we try to achieve results? The results achieved by worldly wisdom won't last long. He who acts according to worldly wisdom absolutely fails and collapses. On the other hand, true wisdom (the wisdom from heaven) has power and eventually fulfills bringing peace. Those who live in true wisdom are blessed.

Then what is the true wisdom like?

2. The Peacemakers

1) He Who Makes Peace

The Gospel of Matthew records that Jesus said, **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (5:9)** He who makes peace is called a peacemaker. How wonderful if we are said, **“When He/She is with us, we feel peaceful.”** Such people are said in the family, the office and every place that **they feel safe because he/she is with them**. On the contrary,

there is a man who is said, “**When he/she is with us, trouble happens every time.**” They are a **troublemaker**. There are peacemakers and troublemakers.

However, do you know that there are two kinds of troublemakers?

Paul records as below—

Acts 24:5 We have found this man to be a troublemaker (a pestilent fellow), stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect.

In the past, the word ‘pest’ referred to an acute infectious disease called the Black Death (bubonic plague). It is generally spread by animals and contracted through human skin and mucous membrane. Symptoms include fever, weakness, and headache. Usually, this begins one to seven days after exposure. Tissue dries and turns black. The risk of death is very high. Paul was called a pest. (Another example may easily understand today.) If you were called that, what would you think?

Jesus said as below—

Matthew 10:34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Like this, there a real troublemaker and a man of God who becomes a troublemaker. Therefore, they are quite different troublemakers: the troublemaker who is selfish and seeks only his/her benefit and the troublemaker who seeks God’s righteousness. God sees the troublemaker who seeks God’s righteousness as a peacemaker. They are the **peacemakers**.

James advises them to become a peacemaker to reap a harvest of righteousness even if they have trials and troubles. They are people who really bear fruit of righteousness.

Those who make peace sow in peace.

2) To Sow in Peace

3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

- ① The verse above records a very important phrase, **in peace**. Even though we have a mission and stand up for righteousness and want to become peacemakers, we should remember the important thing that it is not by the worldly mission, but **we ourselves should become to have peace in mind** as we have studied.

When we cannot accept immortality and begin to stand up to fight for peace, what will happen if we take action without peace in mind?

When the Holy Spirit lights our mind, and we become humble before God, we really come to understand our motivations. Jesus says,

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Jesus made a promise that He leaves peace and gives it. How thankful!

We stand up in peace that Jesus has given and take action with His peaceful heart.

My friends, God is not pleased with our deeds if we don't have God's peace, even though they are righteous actions.

It is worthless when someone acts only for their own satisfaction and self-advertisement or if they do only what they want to do. Even though Christians may become troublemakers, they should keep in peace on their mission as peacemakers if it is for the sake of true peace and God's righteousness. They really become peacemakers.

How about you? Are we trouble makers or peacemakers in that kind of meaning?

① **A Sower**

James said,

3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

A farmer patiently continues sowing. Then, God reaps a harvest with His love. We should also keep sowing to reap a harvest of righteousness even today. We don't need to sow in a stormy time but do it in peace. Jesus gives us that peace.

There are some people whose family members are non-Christians. They may have some troubles when they go to church and sometimes they may explode with anger and don't accept the situation and then complain.

However, they should look towards God and pray with love and in peace. I hope they keep walking with the Lord's help and overcome troubles in peace. They need to pray to God what the best thing they should do. The important thing is to have Jesus' peace or not.

Are we mere troublemakers or God's troublemakers? Don't we keep silence according to the saying, "Silence is the most precious treasure." and think everything is going to be okay. We shouldn't do such a thing, because there are lots of immorality in our offices and schools. We need to sow God's Word with the love that Jesus gives.

True peace is fulfilled in Jesus. Those who fulfill it are called **the peacemakers**. They are given Jesus' peace and sow God's Word and will reap a harvest of righteousness.

3) To Reap a Harvest of Righteousness

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What is a harvest of righteousness like? Righteousness is justice that is one of God's characteristics, He gives help to human beings. It means the seed (God's Word) to bless human beings.

Then, what is the purpose of reaping a harvest of righteousness? The reason is that this world is filled with immorality. There are lots of immorality in our workplaces and society. God wants to fulfill His righteousness (It is not human righteousness, but it is God's righteousness). God's righteousness must be real peace.

Jesus said about the peacemakers as below—

Matthew 15:13 You are the salt of the earth.

Matthew 15:14 You are the light of the world.

One of the works of salt is preservation from decay. One of the works of light is to shine the darkness. It is a harvest of righteousness, indeed. God's Word brings a harvest of righteousness.

If those who believe in God are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, they have to confront with immorality whether one likes it or not. We cannot avoid having troubles. Jesus fulfilled the true peace on the earth (to fulfill the kingdom of heaven) at the risk of His life until He was crucified. The purpose of Jesus' coming to this world is **to fulfill the kingdom of heaven**. He couldn't avoid using a sword in the immoral world.

Paul also preached the Gospel of Christ at the risk of his life.

The seed of righteousness has been sown in peace by the peacemaker. It is amazing that innumerable people believed Jesus (the Savior) and were saved through Paul and a great number of churches have been founded by him. That was surely brought by the peacemaker who had sown in peace the seed of righteousness .

My friends, sowing is hard labor. However, we don't think it painful when we sow the seed in peace (joy, thanks). Jesus gives us that peace. How thankful!

Jesus appeared at the Sea of Galilee after His resurrection. What did He say to Thomas who was doubtful? Jesus said, "**Peace be with you.**" Thomas became a peacemaker later and sower in the peace of righteousness. His life was greatly changed. It is also possible that our lives are changed in Jesus and we become peacemakers like them. How blessed we are! The Bible says it **grace**. Let's give thanks to God.

Conclusion

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Today, we studied God's grace that is given by the wisdom from heaven, not by the false wisdom. It is sown in peace by the peacemakers.

How can we receive God's grace? •

1. To receive Jesus' peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

2. To sow the seed that reaps a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

* God bless you!