

May 19, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"

— Trust in God —

Text: John 14:1~11

14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

14:2 My Father's house has plenty of room; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Jn 14:4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

14:7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?'

14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

Introduction

There is a saying, “Life is like walking on a tightrope.” It is one of acrobatics, and an acrobat performs on the tightrope that is stretched out over a high place. It implies that our lives are very unstable, like walking on a tightrope.

{Illustration} A Precious Experience of a “Tightrope” in Nepal

I took a mission trip to Nepal some time ago. It was a wonderful trip, and I still remember it well. I saw Mt. Everest (the world’s highest peak, 4.800m) located in the Himalayas that form the highest mountain range extended north and south separating the Pamir plains from India and Tibet.

Katmandu, the capital city of Nepal, is at an altitude of 1,400m. There are many high mountains and gorges, so people hardly move from a village to a village and have to walk. It took many hours.

One day, I had to go to the other side of a gorge and a river. There was a suspension bridge (about 100 m long) over the river. They said if we didn’t cross it, we had to go down to the river and take a detour. It would take about 4 hours.

I am afraid of heights, so I was scared of crossing that bridge, however, I at the same time, I didn’t want to walk four hours to reach the other side. I summoned up the courage to cross the suspension bridge.

When I saw the bridge, it was exposed to wind and rain and badly damaged. In the middle of the bridge, the boards (about 40cm in width) were floored, and nets were put up on each side. A walker took a tight grip on the ropes on the right and left side. That was all there was for the walker.

However, the boards were decaying, and I saw a muddy stream 50m below through the holes of the boards. I’ve heard that there were fish that eat human flesh, so I felt horrible. If I fell into the river, it would be terrible. On top of that, the bridge swung very much. As I walked in the middle of three walkers, the bridge swung more and more, and I felt like I was going to die!

When I finished crossing the bridge, I drew a really deep breath. At that very moment, I found out that a part that fixed the ropes had decayed and was almost torn off. I was really astonished by seeing it and heaved a sigh of relief. It was my unforgettable memory in Nepal.

My friends. The only thing that I had to trust was ropes on both sides. If I had understood that ropes might have torn off, I would not have crossed the bridge.

When we take time to think about our life, it is just like tightrope walking, which is so uncertain!

We don't know what is going to happen in our lives, even about our life itself. If our life is like the suspension bridge I experienced, it is natural that we cannot help feeling anxious.

The only one who knows our future life is God.

Jesus said as below,

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”

What (Who) do we trust in our life?

Some person suffered great damage because he trusted his friend and stamped his seal. Another person was involved in business trouble and may lose the power to live. Things that trouble our hearts are countless. Then what should we do?

My friends. What should we trust in?

⇒ God the Creator (Jesus Christ)

Jesus said, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” - John 14:1**

* What is the One who we really trust in like? Let's study the following three points.

Main Points

1. He is The One Who Is Righteous.

We see corruption in every social field such as politics (elections), education (entering a school through the backdoor), business, and so on.

The Bible records as below—

Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

3:11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

3:12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

The Righteous One (He is righteous.) ⇒ The One who we trust in.

The Bible teaches as below—

Romans 9:33 “The one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

* What is the One we really trust in like?

2. He is The One Who Gives Us Peace.

As we need a rest for our body, we need **peace** for our **heart**.

Our society becomes more convenient by advancing science and technology, however, at the same time, our life becomes very busy. The society seeks increasing efficiency and producing results, and stress builds up in people.

As a result, people’s hearts become uneasy. Nowadays, many people are seeking peace in their soul. The young people who have a bright future give up hope. They feel anxious about their future and ask themselves, “What purposes do I live for?” and “What does my existence mean?”

My friends! For what purposes did God create human beings?

The Bible teaches;

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - Ephesians 2:10

We are created **to do good works**. There is true peace and meaning! It is God’s purpose that He prepared for us.

Life to understand God is the way to understand the purpose of existence. Jesus said, **“I am the way and the truth and the life.” - John 14:6** The truth gives people **peace**.

Jesus was crucified and rose on the third day. Later He appeared to His disciples on the Sea of Galilee. His first words were, **“Peace be with you!”**

A gift that God gives us is peace. When we trust in Him, we are given His peace.

* What is the One we really trust in like?

3. He is The One Who Blesses You.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” - John:6 14

Jesus gives you the life of truth and makes you alive. Jesus loves you, and therefore, He wants to bless you.

{Illustration}

I have a Bible study meeting called “the Bible meeting” once a month. One day a certain woman who was a Catholic believer came earlier to the meeting, so I had time to have a conversation with her.

She said, “I couldn’t forget what happened about 30 years ago. In those days, I worked at a preschool belong to the Catholic church as a nursery teacher. When I laid children down to take an afternoon nap, and I also laid down. As I did this, I saw a picture of the boy Samuel and the word answering to the Lord, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

Then I took children’s hands and prayed, “Jesus, we take a nap now. Please give us a rest.” It was amazing that I repeated it every day, and children came to have formed the habit of praying every day.

I couldn’t forget that scene and prayer even after 30 years. I couldn’t stop thinking about the days when we prayed in peace with children. Then I began to come to church.”

God’s Word that was etched into children’s hearts will remain forever.

What words have we received? Did we receive the word that encourages us and gives courage and power? The Bible records, **“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” - 1Corinthians 1:18**

It is very important for children what word they receive and by what word they are nursed. On the contrary, it takes a long time for children to be healed, who were hurt in their childhood. However, they have hope. The word of the Bible speaks to us and blesses our life because the Bible is God’s book.

Jesus said,

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” - John: 14:6

My friends! When our hearts are troubled, remember:

- ① God is present.
- ② We will be absolutely given a solution(a precious lesson).
- ③ God gives us the word of promise. (John 14:1)

What do you think about your life? Our hearts are often troubled in our lives.

However, Jesus said,

14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”

Let's trust (faith) in Jesus Christ and walk in peace.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled”

—The One Who We Trust In—

We listened to the blessed Word of the Bible today. The important thing is **to trust in God**. Do we understand the One (God) who we trust in?

We studied three characteristics of the One we trust in as below;

1. He is the One who is righteous.
2. He is the One who gives us peace.
3. He is the One who gives us blessing.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” - John 14:11

* God bless you!