

June 9, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The 21st Anniversary of the Foundation)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "But, I Will Follow Your Word"

— The Blessing of Pentecost —

Text: Luke 5:1~5

5:1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

5:2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

5:3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5:5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Introduction

Today, we really give thanks to God, because we celebrate **three happy things**.

They are:

- ① We celebrate **the 21st Anniversary of the Foundation of KIBC** today.
- ② It is **Pentecost** today according to the liturgical year.
- ③ We also have **baptism** today. Seven people will be baptized, who believe in Jesus Christ and testify to their faith through baptism by immersion.

Therefore, we give special thanks to God and worship Him for celebrating **this special happy day**. We have such a happy day here, but how about our society?

{Illustration}

The new Reiwa era has started. The Yomiuri News Paper looked back over 30 years of the Heisei era and listed some contributions that were sent to the advice column of the

newspaper. They found that the most popular contributions that the readers asked for advice was about their inner emotional conflicts, such as when they suddenly lose their tempers.

What were people's minds like during 30 years of the Heisei era? The following are some examples that were sent to the advice column.

a. **< A third-year high-school girl >** When I lose my temper, I can't control myself. I speak violently and use violence on my parents. When I regain my sense a short time later, I often start hating myself. What should I do?

b. **< A teen-age girl who is a service worker >** I was told, "You must immediately apologize to the middle-aged customers who are easily lose their tempers." That I can't understand.

c. **< A 30-year-old housekeeper >** My husband is unmanageable when he gets angry. He is amiable with his relatives and doesn't use violence. Please give me some advice.

c. The phrase, 'to lose one's temper' once referred to a young man's attitude, however, it is also starting to refer to middle-aged men. It is said the reason is that they are concerned about a long life in retirement and also are under stress of keeping work.

d. **< A 62-year-old man >** I was reemployed by an affiliate company. I am embarrassed by my short temper. When I feel uneasy with high-handed attitude of junior employees, I fall into a rage and immediately speak up. They seem to think me a man who does nothing but complain from morning till night. What should I do?

It is said that there were many contributions about their anxiety.

An expert of psychiatry replies as follows.

"Our society as a whole is becoming increasingly strict like a compliance with laws in a company. People are always under a lot of pressure and tend to reject people who don't keep everything fine. Many of them often feel alienated. They are getting nervous and have little comfortable time today."

It is true that our society has highly developed, however, there are many people who have anxiety on the inside. How should we live in a time like this?

Let's firstly study life of Simon Peter who is Jesus' beloved disciple and secondly Christian life in the days of Pentecost

Main Points

1 . The Way of Life of Peter

Luke 5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5:5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.

It is rare occasion for a fisherman that he has worked hard all night and hasn’t caught anything. However, Simon could get nothing. Jesus told him to let down the nets again. Simon (later called Peter) followed what Jesus said and let the nets down. Then,

5:6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

A miracle has happened! From that time, Simon left his nets, became Jesus’ disciple and followed Him. Simon’s life was greatly changed by an encounter with Jesus. What is Jesus like who changed Simon’s life?

What do we study from today’s text? Let’s study the following three points.

1) Everything Is in God’s Hands.

There are many incomprehensible events in our lives. There are things that we don’t understand and are unreasonable. However, we should remember that God reigns everything.

5:3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

The important thing is that the Son of God who created the world asked a **mere fisherman** to let Him get into his boat and put out a little from shore. What an amazing thing! Simon responded and followed Him. If he didn’t follow Him, his story would not have developed like it did.

A certain man said, **“God sometimes comes close to us and humbly asks us.”** When He does, what response do we make?

Jesus continues,

5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let

down the nets for a catch.”

The verse above is written in an imperative form. Jesus ordered, **“Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”**

Simon faithfully followed, and he caught a large number of fishes so that their nets began to break.

Now we learn an important principle. The first thing is that Simon was **faithful** to Jesus’ Word. As a result, he experienced **God’s blessing** (a result) that he caught a large number of fishes.

2) We Don’t Need to Trust in Human Abilities

5:5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.

Simon, who was a fisherman, thought based on his experience. Was it his fault? Human beings usually set criteria on their experience, ability and power. Is it a mistake? No, not at all. If I was there, I would have answered like Simon. Christians sometimes judge according to their ability and capability. Then, what is a problem?

When Jesus was there (His presence), Simon did not need to trust in his experience. The place that Jesus is present is the place that the Kingdom of Heaven is fulfilled

Please don’t misunderstand what I say. I don’t mean that human experiences are unnecessary. God uses human ability and capability. However, it is more important that God glorifies Himself through His faithful vessels.

We should remember the following thing, human experiences, ability and capability are important, however, the more important thing is that if the Lord is present and speak to us, we should be faithful to His word.

{Illustration}

Kitahama Church is probably a unique church in Japan because believers, who have various background, come to attend and its characteristics are openness and respect of individuals. There are many members who are given various gifts, abilities and talent.

Originally, Kitahama Church began with my business lecture meeting in 1990. And the church fulfilled its ministry as a center church in Osaka downtown and now it is growing as the local church.

My oversea ministries through The Voice of Mission has continued more than 37 years.

Many people both the inside and the outside of Japan have prayed and supported us. In this sense, Kitahama Church has worked for foreign and home ministries.

I have done: ① businessmen ministry ② foreign ministry and ③ founding of a church!

I have concurrently worked with these three ministries, but I clearly understand that it is beyond human power and ability.

Our church is not founded by human beings. God has begun and has founded it. It is doubtless that God has always been present with us. This is the church that the small work of Pentecost has been fulfilled. Therefore, we don't make a boast of our human ability and power. We only praise the Lord and give thanks to Him.

3) The Faith of "But"

5:5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.

Simon said, "But". It shows his hesitation and doubt, however he decided to follow Jesus' word. It shows Simon's faith.

He continued, "because you say so."

⇒ It is on 'your word' (English) and 'auf dein wort' (German)

Simon casted a net of faith on Jesus' Word. It is **faith**.

Like this, Simon said "but" and he casted his net of faith on Jesus' word. He was blessed by his faithful action. Here we understand God's principle of His blessing.

{Illustration} A Step of Faith of "But"

Our church was founded in 1998 and moved three years later to VIP Kansai Center in Kitahama. When I look back, it was God's work. When I looked up my notebook, I found the following things.

January 27, 2002 Summoned a general meeting

February 23, 2003 Moved to VIP Kansai Center. Necessary expenses (move, renovation, furniture, etc.): approximately ¥1,200,000

Miraculously the necessary expenses were completely given without borrowing money!

How amazing! It was a proof of great love of brothers and sisters. How deeply they loved the Lord! Honestly it was the faith of "But, I will follow you" from the human viewpoint.

Nevertheless, God thankfully responded to our faith! Hallelujah!

When I read my personal prayer notebook, I was surprised even more what I wrote and prayed: “May God allow us to found a church of 200 seats in Kitahama business area!” The prayer was really answered. Hallelujah!

My friends. When we faithfully followed the Lord in the faith of, “But, I will let down the nets” He blessed us. Let us of Kitahama church continue trusting in the Lord by keeping the faith of the beginning in mind. Simon said to Jesus, “But, I will let down the nets,” and followed Him. Then they caught a large number of fishes.

5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

At that very moment he understood who Jesus was. ⇒ It is an attitude of a man who met the living Lord. (He realized his real being.)

Let’s study one more point today.

2. Blessing for the Saints

1) Pentecost

It is the festival of Pentecost today. What things happened at that time? The Bible records what happened in detail.

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

The Holy Spirit came down on each of them who believed in God. It is on that day that the church has begun. Jesus taught the disciples as below—

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.”

And He continued,

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

They received the Holy Spirit and went out to preach the Gospel of Christ through the country.

This is the fulfillment of the Jesus' word.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.

2) The Signs of Pentecost

Three signs were given at the time of Pentecost.

① **"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven" (Verse 2)**

The first sign was audible and every one heard.

② **"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated" (Verse 3)**

The next sign was visible to people.

③ **"They began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Verse 4)**

The third sign was that they began to speak the word of God in other tongues. The Gospel is preached in languages. The Lord said that the Gospel would be preached in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, the place of Jewish people, and Samaria, the place of the Gentiles. **It means that the Gospel is preached throughout the whole world. It is God's master plan.**

* The three signs of Pentecost are very significant things.

3) The Purpose of Pentecost

By the way, why did God send the Holy Spirit?

Jesus said,

John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to help us as the Advocate.

The Pentecost is the beginning of church and also the beginning to entrust our anxiety to God. Today, churches and individual persons have anxiety. They hardly have relaxed time and are easily lose their tempers and build up stress. ⇒ This is our generation.

My friends. We celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Foundation and our church and each one and those who are baptized today start the new beginning. When we experience the new beginning, we should meet something difficult. The Holy Spirit walks with us and is ready to help us as another **Advocate**. It is today that we begin to leave our anxiety with God.

Jesus said,

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

Faith is to trust in God’s promise and leave behind the place where we had lived for many years.

How about you? Let’s trust in God’s word and take a step forward like Peter who said “But, I will follow your word.” In those days of Simon Peter, the Holy Spirit had not come down yet. However, we thankfully live in **the time of God’s favor** and **the day of salvation**. How blessed we are!

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “But, I Will Follow Your Word”

— The Blessing of Pentecost —

We are given three blessings today. Let’s give thanks to the Lord.

① The 21st Anniversary of the Foundation of KIBC ② Pentecost worship ③ Seven people are baptized

With what attitude do we walk our Christian lives? God the Father in heaven sent another Advocate. The Holy Spirit is Advocate and Comforter. Let’s give thanks to God.

Our faith is enough to respond with “But, I will follow you.”

Let’s conclude today’s message with today’s Scripture.

Luke 5:5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.

* God bless you!