

July 28, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Blessed Are Those Who Are Troubled"

—The Solution for Life—

Text: Matthew 6:5~9

6:5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

6:6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

6:7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

6:8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Introduction

When you have some trouble, what do you do? There is no one who has no troubles. When we face troubles, we think about how happy we would be if we had no trouble. Isn't that true?

{Illustration}

A certain middle-aged woman told me about her life. She said, "When I was a first-year student in junior high school, my mother left home to live with another man. As I was at a sensitive age, I couldn't forgive her. I was deeply hurt and became desperate and began to cut my body. I hated her and thought that I was abandoned by my mother. I thought I was the most miserable girl and I have been trapped in the past."

"Meanwhile, my father was ill and had been hospitalized for ten years while I was 10 to 18 years-old. He passed away on his forty-fifth birthday. I grew up and married, however, my heart has been never healed. A year and a half ago, my brother has passed away at the age of 42."

"The other day I met my mother. I said, 'I don't think you are my mother. You lived as you liked.' I'm not sure but after I said these terrible words to my mother, I came to feel that my life was a burden to me. I couldn't understand what life meant. I only thought about the negative side of things and finally I wanted to die."

"In those days, my child meant everything to me. I was clingy to my child. I couldn't find a purpose of my life when my child was independent of me. I also couldn't trust people, so I gradually avoided meeting them."

“Wonderful to say, when I began to go to church, I was freed from my past and I realized that I became a quite different person, who was terribly suffering in her past. I heard at church that God always watched and loved me. Since then, I understood that I was not alone and my life was given by God, no matter how hard it was. I give thanks that I was able to trust in God and received my life according to His will.” (She was baptized and became a Christian.)

My friends, fortunately the woman was led to church, believed in God and began to live a new life. Everyone has troubles. There is no one that has troubles to a greater or lesser degree. God has power to change us even if our lives are dark and lonely.

By the way, Jesus taught many things to His beloved disciples. Among them was **The Lord’s Prayer**. When His disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He taught **this prayer**. It begins with “Our Father in heaven,”

Matthew 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

6:10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

6:11 Give us today our daily bread.

6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

6:13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

However, Jesus said a strange thing as below—

“Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:8

My friends, Our Father in heaven knows our need. Then, we understand why He encouraged us to pray. Let’s think today about our lives, that we are allowed to live only once.

Main Points

1 . What are The Problems For Us, Human Beings?

1) A Fundamental Problem

We often think:

“Nobody understands me! Nobody listens to me! Nobody accepts me! Nobody evaluates me! Nobody loves me!”

Something at the root of those problems is derived from human weakness; we don’t know our real nature. As we don’t see their real selves, we think nobody understands them. Like this, we

think nobody evaluates or loves us.

My friends, Jesus said a really strange thing as below—

“Your Father knows what you need.”

It means that there is the One who really watches us. The One is the God who created the heavens and the earth. On top of that, He really understands and accepts us. It is **God** who created the heavens and earth.

My friends, He is not a god that human beings made. He is the Creator. He created the heavens, the earth and everything and controls still now. However, we are not taught about the God. Therefore, we worry and have troubles. The Bible clearly teaches that there is the Creator.

2) Human Beings Don't Know the Way to Solve the Problems.

“Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:8

What a great word of comfort, courage and power God gives! It is the God who created the heavens and the Earth that He knows everything about you.

I would like to introduce you this God today.

2. Where Is the Solution for the Problems of Life?

1) The Way to Solve the Problems

The answer is in **God** who created the heavens and the Earth. He is the solution.

What should we do if we have problems and worry? The Bible gives an answer to the question **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.” John 14:1**

The answer is to believe in God the Father in heaven. It is the solution. God knows everything we need. We should change our eyes from our lives to the One who knows everything.

You should look at the One who understands you.

You should trust in the One who understands you.

You should trust in the One who accepts you.

You should trust in the One who correctly evaluates and encourages you.

You should completely trust in God.

My friends, adversity examines one's recuperative powers, management capability and perseverance against a countercurrent. Adversity is painful but it is a tutor that makes us grow at the same time. At first, we do not think so, however, when we look back later, we sometimes give thanks to adversity.

{Illustration}

Thomas Carlyle, who was President of the University of Edinburgh, essayist and historian, said, **“Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man, but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity.”** There are few people who succeeded in life and live a prosperous life with keeping a good ethical, spiritual and monetary balance.

Ironically enough, they would study better in their relegated situation than their transferred situation. Why? It is not so difficult to explain the reason.

When a man faces adversity, his life becomes simple. What he needs at least is to survive a day and spend a night. He studies precious things in life through these experiences.

On the contrary, when he lives a prosperous life, he needs countless things and finally his life sometimes becomes a very complicated one. We all are always tested. There is only one who can stand on the course till the end of life among a hundred people. Human beings are so weak like that.

It is time to trust in God when we are in pain and confronted with troubles. He is worthy to trust in. The Scripture says;

“Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” Romans 10:11

2) Why Aren't We Disappointed?

Then, why doesn't God want us to be disappointed? Because, He really loves each of us. God is love; therefore, He doesn't want us to be disappointed.

{Illustration}

Rev. Arnold Rose, whom I respect, was a German-Russian and was born in former Soviet Union and became a world itinerant evangelist. At the beginning of 20th Century, the Soviet Union became a socialist country and persecuted a thousand Jewish and German people who were thought to be the lower class. (Please read my book *God Who Creates Things from Nothing* for further details.)

When he was a boy, his family was sent by a freight car to a Siberian labor camp. He said that those were fearful days and many people starved to death. The houses of the labor camp were barracks and powder snow came into through the openings in the walls.

His parents were Christians and their children (8 children?) lay on the floor in a row at night. However, Arnold couldn't sleep because of the cold and hunger. He saw his parents through the straw that covered them to pray for their children.

His parents knelt down and lifted their hands toward their children and prayed, “My God, we give thanks to you for bringing us to this place. You never fail to fulfill your plan.” Rev. Rose never forget his parents who prayed in a barrack that powder snow came into.

He said, “In those days, approximately 300,000 people starved to death, however, not one of the Rose family died of starvation.

He shared his testimony that God responded to his parents’ prayer and protected his family. God’s love poured on them. God never forsakes His beloved people.

The Bible: “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” Romans 10:11

God sent Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to this world and He died on the cross. However, Jesus was raised on the third day by defeating death. Why was He crucified? The reason was that He died for our sins. We all are sinners before God.

The Bible says,

Romans 3:10 says: There is no one righteous, not even one.

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

Sinners cannot have fellowship with the Holy God, much less enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Then, God crucified Jesus Christ by taking the place of sinners. It is God’s love. God fulfilled the way to be saved only by faith that is to believe that the cross of Jesus was for my sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1John 4:9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

My friends, let’s receive God’s love. Let’s pray to God that we may have eternal life and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Blessed Are Those Who Are Troubled”

—The Solution for Life—

Man has various kinds of troubles. Many people have problems and are troubled.

How about you? What is your solution for the problems in your life?

1. There is the God who knows our need. God prepares us the solution for problems.
2. What we need is to trust in God.

Jesus said, **“Your Father knows what you need.”**

Therefore, He taught to pray, “Our Father in heaven.”

The Bible:1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I pray for you that you trust in Jesus Christ and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

* God bless you!