

September 22, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Secret to Lead a Creative Life"

—One Who Remembers the Word of Jesus—

Text: Mark: 14:66~72

14:66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

14:67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

14:68 But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.

14:69 When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them."

14:70 Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

14:71 He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you are talking about."

14:72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Introduction

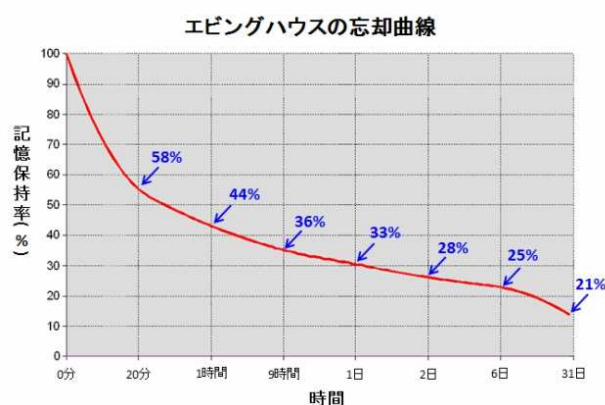
Today I would like to give a message entitled *The Secret to Lead a Creative Life*. The word creative may sound unfamiliar to some of you. Its means positive, productive, imaginative, and so on.

By the way, we human beings easily forget. We sometimes forget a thing that happened even a little while ago. Have you had such an experience? A certain politician replied at the Diet, "I don't remember," and it became a political issue. They said that his word was untrustworthy as a politician.

When we forget things easily, our daily lives are affected. It is very important to **memorize well** and **to not forget**. However, we are not able to remember everything, so it is good for us that we need to memorize what we need and forget what we don't need.

1) H. Ebbinghaus, a German psychologist, published the experimental study of memory, **the forgetting curve**, that says that **human memory decreases exponentially**.

According to Ebbinghaus' experiment, learners will rapidly lose approx. 42% of memory of learned knowledge within 20 minutes and lose approx. 56% within an hour, approx. 64% within 9 hours and gradually lose memory and lose approx. 75% within six days. Unless the information is consciously reviewed, only 25% of the information is left even if man thinks he perfectly memorized. Therefore, they should repeat what they learned before they forget it. Even though they try not to lose memory, they forget 75% of it. That is why human beings easily forget like this.



Then, how can we, who easily forget, activate our brain? How can we become creative?

People who are creative are needed in business, study, family, school and so on.

2) Kenichiro Mogi, a neuroscientist, says as below —

There are two important things to activate one's brain. (How to activate human beings who easily forget.)

① To continue

To repeat it many times and make it a habit, not to make it routine, but avoiding surprises.

② To remember

To create something begins to remember. Man creates new things from the materials of the past.

* These two points seem to be clues. In fact, the Bible also records the important lessons like this.

Main Points

1. A Man in the Bible Who Forgets the Important Thing

About 2000 years ago, there was a man in Israel named Jesus. He taught many people, healed

diseases, did miracles and mysterious things. The crowd disregarded the leaders of Israel but followed Jesus who came from Galilee in the country.

The leaders of the Israel of that time couldn't accept it. The Roman Empire that also ruled, didn't like it. Therefore, they rebelled against Jesus and their feeling gradually escalated and turned into hatred and finally they plotted to arrest and kill Him.

Then Jesus was arrested and was taken into the courtyard of the high priest (the supreme authority in Israel)

The Bible records as below—

Mark 14:65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

Peter who was one of Jesus' disciples was looking at Him. He probably looked the One who was his master from hiding. The Bible records the scene.

14:66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

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Verse 72 records, **"Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him. And he broke down and wept."**

Peter remembered **the Word** of Jesus: **"Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me**

three times.” He listened to Jesus’ **word**, but he forgot the Lord’s precious **Word**.

My friends, this is not Peter’s problem. Yes, I sometimes forget important things. This is one of our weaknesses. However, God loves weak people (each of them). God watches us and does not want us to fall down.

Then what should we do? How can we lead life positively (creatively)? The word of Kenichiro Mogi is helpful.

2. A Creative Man Is Able to Continue

He who gained the top of a certain field is the one who kept continuing one thing. He keeps making efforts to achieve the goal.

{Illustration}

Ichiro, a Pro-Baseball Player, Who Marked his 3,000th Career Hit

Ichiro holds the MLB(Major League Baseball) single-season record for hits (with 262), in total, finished with 4,367 hits in professional career (4,257 hits in total set Guinness World Record) and a record holder who appeared a record number of games (3,604 regular season games).

Mr. Yuichiro Miura, A Climber

Mr. Miura is a famous climber whom everyone knows. When he was 65 years old, he climbed Mt. Moiwa (531m high) in Sapporo in Japan as he gave up climbing at the two third point. He had Metabolic syndrome in those days (163cm high, 80kg weight). He began training carrying a 15~20 kg backpack.

It’s astonishing that:

In 2003, he reached the summit of Mount Everest at age of 70

In 2008, he reached the summit of Mount Everest for the second time at age of 75

In 2013, he reached the summit of Mount Everest for the third time at the age of 80

He achieved a splendid record in mountain climbing.

***Do they have anything in common ?**

→ They constantly made efforts to achieve the goals.

The Bible says that he who keeps walking and making efforts to reach heaven (goal) is a man of prayer. Prayer is continuous action.

→ to make it a habit → to activate it

Therefore, he who continuously prays makes progress in giving thanks to God, in praising God, in repentance, in desiring and in interceding.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, “Pray continually.”

Like this he who continuously seeks God becomes creative.

What is another way to become creative?

3. He Who is Creative is He Who Remembers

1) Man creates a new thing by using materials in the past.

Let's look Peter's betrayal.

Mark 14:72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

What we learn here = experiences x intention (will)

2) To read the Bible

It is important for us to remember Jesus' miracles and His work: What word did Jesus speak and what miracles did He perform? Why was Jesus arrested even though He helped people who were in trouble? Why was Jesus crucified? Jesus' body was buried, but he was raised on the third day according to the Scripture. Why was Jesus resurrected?

My friends, why does reading the Bible leads to becoming creative? It is that the Bible is the book written by the God the great Creator. How many people has the Bible gave wisdom, encouragement, power and comfort to! The Bible is the eternal best-seller.

My friends, the core of the Bible is the cross of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

→ We should remember it.

It makes us more creative. The Bible is really mysterious book and it makes us creative and alive.

When Peter remembered Jesus' Word, he wept.

However, → It was his turning point (starting point).

He realized how he was weak, poor and miserable he was. However, experiencing the turning

point, his later life was greatly changed.

He became a preacher whom God greatly used. He was God's great tool to lead thousands of people to repent at the same time, in addition, he became one of the key leaders in the days of early churches.

Peter carelessly forgot the important **Word** of Jesus and turned his back on Him. However, when he remembered **the Word** of Jesus, his new life began since then.

How about today's message? We have to face various things in our life, but do we listen to the important things? Do we remember the important things? Let's take time and consider.

Conclusion

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—One Who Remembers the Word of Jesus—

We listen to the Lord's voice about the important things. We easily forget and are slow to remember the important things. Peter, who was Jesus' beloved apostle, was like us and he was greatly changed to become later the main leader of the early churches. His turning point was when he remembered **the Word** of Jesus.

What are the important things for us to become creative?

- 1) A creative man is able to continue.
- 2) A creative man is able to remember

How about you? What things do you remember?

* God bless you!