

December 1, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (the 1st Advent)

Meessge by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (1)

—The Lord Needs Them—

Text : Matthew 21:1-9

21:1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

21:2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

21:3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.

21:4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

21:5 "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

21:6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.

21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Introduction

We have the first Advent Sunday today. I can't believe how quickly the time runs. Christmas is just around the corner. What do you imagine when you hear Advent? I think you have your special memories.

More than anything, an Advent wreath is a typical symbol of Advent. It is a wreath made of fir tree branches and four candles are set on it and one candle is set in the middle of it, which

symbolizes Jesus Christ. The first candle is lighted on the first Advent and the second one and the third one in sequence. When the fourth candle is lighted, Christmas begins. The candle in the middle is lighted on Christmas day.

Each of candles has a significant meaning: the first candle on the first Advent has **expectation**, the second one on the second Advent has **preparation**, the third one of the third Advent had **light** and the fourth one on the fourth Advent has **promise**.

Now we would like to think about **expectation** on the first Advent day. As we learn from today's text, the Jews in the days of Jesus were eagerly waiting for Messiah the Son of God. They were expecting that Messiah would set free them from the imperial control of the Roman Empire.

The crowds have heard about Jesus. Jesus' many miracles and deeds were become widely known. People came to know that Jesus healed the sick and the disable. In such circumstances, the crowds expected that Jesus was real Messiah. When they heard that Jesus came to Jerusalem, they were extremely excited and welcomed Him spreading their cloaks on the road. They shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Verse 9) Hosanna! (Save us now!), that was their shout of **expectation**.

Son of David : This title meant "the Savior (Messiah)".

Hosanna : "Save us now"

⇒This shout is from all human beings. The Israelites expected much of Jesus.

The Israelites welcomed Jesus like this.

By the way, what do you expect in your life? Everyone wants to lead a blessing life. It is our expectation. He who lives a life with expectations is very lively. This is because expectations make him hope and get motivated.

Let's study the following 2 points from Scripture of the first Advent Sunday **"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

Main points

1 . The Lord Needs Them.

In those days, Jewish people always used to go up to Jerusalem at the Passover every year.

Jesus and His disciples arrived to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives 6 days before the Passover that was Friday, the Sabbath and they entered Jerusalem on Sunday after the Lord's Sabbath day.

The city was very crowded and people who recognized **that Jesus of Nazareth** began to shout, **"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**(Matthew 21:9)

The Bible records about the crowds who welcomed Jesus as below—

21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.

21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

My friends, who in the world could have imagined that this event would greatly affected the human history? In fact, the world history was divided into two by Jesus. Every book of the four Gospels records Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The world became changed and divided into light and darkness.

Jesus foresaw and said the word before He entered Jerusalem as below—

21:2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

21:3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.

The crowds shouted to Jesus, **"the Son of David!"** and it means the title of the Messiah (the Savior), because the Messiah comes from a descendant of King David of Israel. Therefore, it is written that the Messiah is called **"the Son of David!"** The savior doesn't enter into the city by riding on a white horse, but on a donkey's colt. It seems to symbolize Jesus' poverty and humbleness.

Then, why did Jesus ride on the donkey's colt?

① The true owner of the donkey is Jesus (God).

The Gospel of John records, **"He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. " (1:2-3)**

② Jewish people followed the Law of Moses. In Israel, a donkey that no man rode on was thought sacred and an offering to God. The first fruit of grain was also an offering to God and sacred.

③ The owner of the donkey was faithful to the One who created the world. "The Lord needs them." The Bible does not records about the owner, however, he had prepared to offer the donkey.

Are we ready to offer when we are told "The Lord needs"? Can we offer God that He thinks something most important and sacred?

2 . They Welcome the Lord.

1) Zechariah the prophet said (BC 518-520) as below,

9:9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 21: 8,9 records that a very large crowd shouted and welcomed Jesus like a king of the world. **"Hosanna! Blessed is he!"** ⇒ **"Save us now" (Aramaic)**

① The Gospel of Mark

11:10 "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven1"

② The Gospel of Luke

19:38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

③ The Gospel of John

12:13 : They took palm branches and went to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

All the statements above refer to Jess who is the Messiah and the Lord.

They shouted, **"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he!"** What do we shout to Jesus Christ the Son of David, now? Do we really praise the name of the Lord? Do we really come to meet the Lord and welcome Him?

2) What does it mean to come to meet the Lord?

The Bible records many stories that people went out to meet Jesus.

Jesus who resurrected appeared to His beloved disciple John by the Sea of Galilee.

John 21:15 Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Jesus first asked him, **"Do you love me more than these?"** The word love that Jesus said was **agape love** (unconditional love). Peter answered, **"Yes, Lord, You know that I love you."** The word love that Simon said was **philia love** (friendship, philanthropy, human love).

Then, why did Jesus ask Simon with **agape love**? ⇒ It makes out that there is fellowship with God. Jesus who has completed death on the cross and resurrected asked His beloved disciple to respond the Lord with agape love and it became possible for Peter.

Of course **Philia love** is also important, however, it is like of the crowd in Jerusalem who later left Jesus and scattered. Humans are like this. They expected Jesus with **philia love** and it was limited. To welcome Jesus means to do with Lord's love (agape love). What do you think?

We often excuse that ① we are too busy to have enough time (Yes, exactly we are.) and ② we hardly want to praise God. (We have no room in our mind to do so.) It means that we can't lift up our motivation, because nothing goes well or we hardly get any response of prayers. Our situations don't change as we expected.

However, when we think them precisely, we understand that they come from human and selfish things. (I-center thinking) The crowds in Jerusalem, who selfishly thought and came to meet Jesus, welcomed Him as the king who made them free from the Roman Empire

However, they had limitation and our condition is also true. What are we seeking and expecting at church, and in our fellowship?

On the other hand, Jesus loved those people and was crucified and rose from the dead on the third day. Hallelujah!

Jesus has already completed His Salvation.

The Bible: We love because he first loved us.

I John 4:19

To welcome the Lord is to respond with the same love that God has welcomed with His agape love.

Then, what should we do? ⇒ We should soak up God's love and to filled up with **agape love**.

We are nobody nor have anything if we don't hide behind the cross or we aren't be

embraced by God's love. We don't need to do everything, rather it is good for us that we are helpless.

God doesn't use you because you can do something. No, He doesn't. He wants to wait us who are hopeless. He wants to glorify in you who are not able to do anything.

God allows you to have training (trials) to become helpless so that you become to trust in Him. When we look back astonishing works of Christians in the past, those who achieved them invariably were those who trusted in God, not they were efficient ones.

Even though we are under trials, the Lord absolutely goes with us and supports us not to collapse. It is just like father who supports his child who is practicing riding a bike. The child feels easy and pedals her bicycle because she knows her father supports behind the bicycle. Meanwhile, the child comes to ride the bicycle by herself. Like this, father teaches how to ride the bicycle.

Our biological parents wait to help us in case of emergency. Needless to say, the God of love who created the heavens and the earth never leaves us. Yes, He is always with us. Let's expect and remember that the God is absolutely with us. It is faith.

Conclusion

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—The Lord Needs Them—

Today we have the first Advent. With what attitude do we have the advent ?

The first advent candle symbolizes **expectation**.

Jewish people in Israel had great expectation to Jesus and shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! "

We studied the following two points today.

1. What is our response when we are asked, "The Lord needs you"?

The Lord may ask you something.

2. Today, with what attitude to welcome the Lord?

Do we respond to the Lord with **agape love**?

God bless you ! !