

December 8, 2019
 KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The Second Advent)
 Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Know That Kingdom of God is Near"

Text: Luke 21:25-33

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

21:26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

21:27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

21:28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

21:29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

21:30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

21:31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

21:32 "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Introduction

Now, we're preparing for Christmas in the church. Last week we lit our First Advent candle, the candle of hope. Today we light the Second Advent candle, the candle of Preparation. If you prepare before you do something, you will have peace in your mind. Advent is the time for preparing for Christ's birth. Our Savior, the Messiah, has come, and now is the "preparation time".

About two thousand years ago, the Jews, who were under the rule of the Roman Empire, looked forward to the coming of the Messiah (Savior). They longed for the Messiah to revive their country. When Jesus who is the true Messiah came to Jerusalem the God's city, a donkey's cot was prepared. Jesus foresaw and said to the disciples before He entered Jerusalem, **"If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."**

The savior didn't enter into the city by riding on a white horse or a gorgeous train, but on the donkey's colt. It seems to symbolize Jesus' poverty and humbleness.

Preparation ⇒ It is important to prepare in life. What do you prepare for your life? What is

the final goal in your life? ⇒ It is "Entering into the Kingdom of God" (Kingdom of Heaven). It is a place where evil does not exist. God reigns over as a king. The true **preparation** is to lead life to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, isn't it? Are you preparing to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

By the way, Jesus taught His people what happened in the last day. He said many signs would occur, that are recorded in Luke 21:25-2 as below—

Luke 21:25“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

21:26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

21:27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

However, they lived in the days before His second coming, therefore, He taught them to prepare to meet the Lord.

21:28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

This is what will happen when the Lord Jesus comes again.

Today we have the Second Advent Sunday. Let's be calm before before the Lord and consider **preparation** according to the following two points.

Main Points

1. The Kingdom of God is Near

Jesus told a parable. It went like this:

21:29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

21:30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

21:31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

1) We are able to learn that Kingdom of God is near from the signs of nature.

Verse 30 records the law of nature.

21:30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

In Matthew Chapter 24, **the eight warnings** are written [bud] that will come out for the last days.

- 1) Appearance of a false Christ (v. 5)
- 2) Rumors of war and war (v. 6)
- 3) Famine and Earthquakes (v. 7)
- 4) Persecution occurs (v. 9)
- 5) Loss of faith and apostasy, betrayed each other, or hate each other (v. 10)
- 6) A large number of false prophets will appear, and deceive the people (v. 11)
- 7) Love will grow cold (v. 12)
- 8) Gospel is preached all over the world (v. 14)

How do we observe this day and age? It says that Jesus Christ will come again, and he will have the judgment of authority at that time. If the Kingdom of God is near, what should we do? ⇒ We need to prepare.

2) What was the core of the Jesus' message? It was about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Mark 1: 15

The Bible mentions about **the Kingdom of God** many times. In fact, Jesus Himself is One who reveals **the Kingdom of God**. When Jesus comes, there will no longer be any evil, demons or disease. All the four Books of the Gospels record this **Kingdom**. Jesus came to fulfill **the Kingdom of God**. There are miracles and wonders, and also blessings.

Jesus wanted them to repent and believe the Gospel.

Mark 1: 15 "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

It was the message that Jesus Christ told. **It means that** there is a relationship between **the Kingdom of Heaven** and repentance.

2. God is the "God of Preparation".

1) God prepared for the people of Israel.

As you read the Old Testament, we come to understand that throughout the ages, God sent his messengers, the prophets, to His people. For example, the New Testament says;

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways (Hebrew 1:1).

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us (Hebrew 12:1).

God spoke to the people of Israel through the prophets many times, but they didn't listen. And so, to these same the Israelites, Jesus spoke this parable in Matthew 21:33-36. A landowner (God) loved farmers and planned to give them share of harvest (Verse 34). But farmers seized His servants (Prophets) and beat, killed and stoned.

21:35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.

Many of servants were persecuted and killed.

2) God sent Jesus for the salvation of mankind.

⇒ The landowner (God) sent His Son (Jesus) to the people of Israel.

21:38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'

The people of Israel killed the Son of their Master (Jesus)! We see what was in the hearts of the farmers. ⇒ Greed ⇒ Murder

The landowner (God) sent His Son because He thought the farmers would respect the Son. However, the son was killed. However, it was God's great plan! **The fulfillment of salvation was fulfilled by the cross of Jesus and resurrection.** We learn from the history of Israel ⇒ **God's preparation** for us.

3) God is the One who prepares His people

① John the Baptist

John was the last prophet to help prepare the way for the people of Israel.

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than

John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (Matthew 11:11).

John the Baptist said **“But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. (Matthew 3:11).**

He was the God’s instrument to prepare the way for Jesus.

② Peter, one of the Twelve Disciples

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people” (Luke 5:10).

Through Acts, we see his bold work and blessing from God.

③ Paul the Apostle

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel (Acts 9:15).

Paul became a person who had the greatest impact on the Early Church.

④ God also has **His plan (preparation)** in our lives.

God has a plan for my life. He also has His plan for your lives. Did God choose the Israelites because they were superior? ⇒ No, He didn’t. God simply chose them. It was simple the choice of God.

Do we reject the Messiah? Or do we accept the Messiah? We should choose one of them.

Jesus the Son of God was completely obedient to Father in Heaven.

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

2:7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

2:8 And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Conclusions

Theme: “Know That Kingdom of God is Near”

We have the Second Advent Sunday.

⇒The Second Advent candle means **Preparation**.

We studied the following two important points.

1. "Kingdom of God" is Near

Buds have come up already

2. Our God is the God of Preparation

God prepared John the Baptist, the last prophet in the days of the Old Testament.

He was prepared for the way for Jesus Christ who was coming.

God has a plan (preparation) for your lives.

How do you prepare before God? Are you obedient to the Lord?

* God bless you!