

February 9, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Encouragement by Hiroko Komai

]title of the Encouragement : "Blessing and Joy of Gathering Together"

—To Serve One Another and Love One Another—

Text: John 13:1

**13:1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

#### Introduction

When I was asked to do encouragement at Sunday Worship, I felt it a little bit difficult for me, however, I have joy in leading Christian life and I am excited to be Christian every day. Therefore, I would like to share my happy feeling with my brothers and sisters. I pray to the Lord for His help and guidance and today I am allowed to b here.

I began to join Sunday Worship at KIBC since December, 2017. Before that, my Christian life was a painful one. I tried my best to be a good Christian and also I blamed myself for my weakness and sinful nature. I was deeply hurt in those days. Even though, I faithfully went to church every week, I never felt peaceful and happy at church. I think that the Lord had mercy on me so He guided me to KIBC.

A few years ago, when I was preparing my lunch for Sunday, my daughter said, "Mother, you look very happy at church. Good for you. I'm happy, too." In those days, I was really blessed and had a positive Christian life. Now, I look back my life at church and examine why I have such a blessed time every day and I would like to share my testimony as my encouragement for you.

#### Main Points

##### 1 . **Jesus Christ Loved His Disciples to the End at His Last Evening Meal.**

**13:1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

Jesus had the last meal with His disciples just before the Passover. He understood that the hour has come for Him to leave this world. He had to leave His disciple in this world after His death on the cross. Jesus knew well that they faithfully followed Him for three years but they were still very weak and powerless.

In the epistle of John, from Chapter 13 to 17, it is written how Jesus fervently loved His disciples. Jesus kept teaching them and encouraged and made promises of hope for their future. Then He

went out to Gethsemane to pray and was arrested. Until then, Jesus spent time only with His disciples and had meal. I think His Word seems like His last word.

I couldn't forget my Christian friend who passed away more than 30 years. She had two children in a primary school. When I visited her, she said in a small voice, "What will they do from now on?" I, as a young Christian, couldn't say anything helpful. I never forget her face and words.

Jesus taught His disciples very important things before His crucifixion and they also are very important teaching for us who live today.

### 1 ) **The Jesus' Example — To Serve One Another**

The first thing that Jesus did in Chapter 13 was to wash His disciples' feet.

**13:4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.**

**13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.**

We may easily think that roads in those day were dusty and they put on something like sandals, so they should wash their feet. At that time, slaves (a servant) washed feet. It was their task, therefore, the disciples might washed Jesus' feet who looked up to as their Lord and master, however, they never thought washing their feet each other. Jesus who was the Lord served them like the slave.

When Jesus began to wash Peter's feet,

**13:8 "No," said Peter, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."**

**13:9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"**

**13:10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."**

Peter could not understand the secret of the spiritual cleansing hidden in Jesus' amazing deed. His deed has very deep meaning though, to cut a long story short, **to have a bath** means to believe in Jesus and be baptized and **to wash one's feet** means to take one's dust (sins) before the Lord every day and be cleansed by Him. It is the time to realize how we are forgiven and loved by the Lord.

Judas who Jesus said, **"And you are clean, though not every one of you"** went out to betray Jesus. Judas sold Jesus for thirty shekels' silver and it was the same price of one slave at that time. The chief priests and elders of the people set a price of a slave for Jesus.

Jesus served His disciples as a slave by washing their feet before He was sold as a slave .

**13:12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.**

**13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.**

**13:15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.**

How surprised the disciples were by Jesus’ word **“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”**

On the contrary they were arguing at that time,

**Luke 9:46 An argument started among disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.**

However, Jesus Christ,

**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!**

After this, Jesus was arrested, put on trial and crucified.

**Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,**

Jesus set an concrete example to the disciple by washing their feet. He taught them to wash one another’s feet, it means that they should become humble and value others above themselves.

How different between Jesus Christ and the disciples! This is the disciples and we.

## **2) Jesus Gave A New Commandment — Love One Another**

Jesus, who set the amazing example to the disciples, said as below—

**John 13:34 “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**

**13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**

The love commandment is written in the Old Testament, so it is not new.

**Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and** 。

**Leviticus 19:18b ...love your neighbor as your self.**

Jesus Himself quoted from the Old Testament,

**Matthew 22:34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.**

**22:35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:**

**22:36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”**

**Mt 22:37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’**

**Mt 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.**

**Mt 22:39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

**Mt 22:40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

Therefore, Jesus didn't deny the Law, however, He said, **“A new commandment I give you.”** What is new? What new standard did Jesus give?

It is **to follow Jesus' sacrificial love** (as I love you,)

**John 15:12 My commandment is this: Love each other as I have loved you.**

We should love each other by following His example: **as I have loved you.** It means to love each other by following His humbleness (becoming a servant).

Jesus' new commandment **“Love each other as I have loved you.”** is to love each other as that Jesus, the Son of God, loved His disciples and became humble and served them. In fact, Jesus loved human beings and came to this world to be crucified. We should start by following Jesus.

Then, why did Jesus give the new commandment of love?

**John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**

**13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**

It means that the disciples show that they are Jesus' followers by loving one another. Like this we, who follow Jesus, are changed into His witnesses by love among us.

### **3. Church — The New Christian Community**

#### **1) Jesus' Prayer**

Jesus who taught **to serve one another** and **to love one another**, prayed to God the Father after the evening meal before the Passover. Firstly, He prayed for Himself, secondly for His

disciples as below—

**John 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.**

**17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.**

Jesus prayed to God the Father for His disciples to protect them in this world, not to take them to heaven from this world. The disciples must to preach what Jesus taught.

And, thirdly Jesus prayed to God the Father for all believers (including us) who trusted in Jesus' word, so that we may become one in the Lord.

**17:20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,**

**17:21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

**17:22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—**

**17:23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

As Jesus and God the Father are one, He prayed that we become one in Jesus so that the world may know that God the Father sent Jesus to this world and He loved us as He loved Jesus.

Then, what is the concrete example of Jesus' prayer, to **become one**?

## **2) The Christian Church, the Body of Christ — The Unity in Christ**

Paul examples in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, that the church is the one body that Christ is its head. He records an interest example if each part of the body , for example, if a hand selfishly said to a foot , if an ear selfishly said to an eye, what happen. Please open the Bible later and read 1 Corinthian, Chapter 12. The church becomes one because of people who are loved by Jesus Christ and also of people who love Him. We are able to achieve unity in Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.**

**12:26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**

**12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**

We Christians, who are in Jesus Christ, are asked to show Christ concretely by following

**the Christ's new commandment of love and the unity in Christ.**

## Conclusion

I think it becomes clear why I feel happy and excited at church after finishing my encouragement.

First of all, I was given privilege to worship God at the beginning of the week. God makes me repent, teaches me, makes me free from various problems, gives me new power and makes me ready to begin the new week through attending worship, praising songs and listening to the sermon every Sunday.

Secondly, I am able to enjoy fellowship of church family members through **servicing one another** and **loving one another** that we studied today. Good fellowship, good communication, suitable worry and consideration make me happy and excited. I am able to begin the new week by receiving encouragement, comfort and love from brothers and sisters. I sometimes hear “we are family members, aren’t we?” The church is the place that we become peaceful and relaxed. We don’t need to pretend to be a good person. We are accepted as what we are. Therefore, we feel relaxed and free. Therefore, my daughter looking at my church life, she said, “Mother, you look happy.”

Now, I would like to close my message by quoting verses from Acts, Chapter 2.

**Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,**

**2:47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

It may be difficult for us, who are very busy, to come together every day, but I hope that we also receive blessing of God through meeting together. I continue praying so that our church has favor with the all people around and the Lord may add many people who are saved

Thank you very much.