

September 27, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Prevention is Better Than the Cure!"

—Dehydration of Heart—

Text: John 4:7~15

4:7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

4:8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

4:11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

4:13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

4: 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

4:17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';

4:18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

Introduction

Today we have an open church worship service. I would like to speak about the God of the Bible in a comprehensible way. We welcome all of you who have attended and will listen for the first time. I try to speak in a plain way as much as I can.

I have heard an interesting story. A certain man took a chimpanzee into a forest to carry out an experiment on it. The chimpanzee likes bananas very much. The experimenter hung bananas on each branch of the tree.

When the chimpanzee was set free and came to the tree, it took a banana, peeled it, and

began to eat. Finally, as it was getting full, it did not eat any more and lay down to sleep.

After a while, it got up and when it became hungry again, it took the bananas and peeled and began to eat them. When it got full, it slept again. It repeated this over and over.

My friends. What does this experiment teach us? It tells us that the chimpanzee ate bananas and when it got full it slept. It did this repeatedly.

However, we, human beings, are not satisfied with eating what we like until getting full like the chimpanzee. We are not satisfied with only our appetites.

It is possible that we can get anything we want if we have money these days. We can travel. We can buy a car and we can live in a fine house. However, are we completely satisfied with that? No, not at all. Human beings are not satisfied in a real sense even if we get what we want.

The chimpanzee ate until it became full and it was satisfied and slept.

There is a substantial difference between human beings and chimpanzees. It is a thing that human beings have, and that chimpanzees do not. It is heart (conscience). It means that if our hearts are not satisfied, then we are not satisfied. If you go to the department store and ask a clerk, "Where can I buy peace of mind?" they would absolutely say, "We don't sell anything like it."

By the way, man quenches his thirst with **water**. We had unusually hot days this summer. On top of that, sweltering nights lasted for 40 days. Those who (especially elderly people) lived without an air conditioner and drinking water often were taken to hospital by ambulance. Some of them died of heatstroke. It is said that heatstroke occurs more at night than during the daytime. Why does it occur at night? because they did not **take water** at night.

One of the important ways of preventing heatstroke is to drink water often. If we have dehydration of the heart, we should take water that heals it. The problem is that when one thinks that they are fine and never feel the effects of dehydration. (Many of them who had dehydration and were taken to hospital by ambulance say so.)

Are we all right? The Bible records a certain woman who asked for **water**.

I would like to speak about her today.

Main Points

1 . Seek for the Living Water.

Approximately 2000 years ago, a man called Jesus Christ lived in what is known as present day

Israel. There was a place called **Jacob's well** in Galilee. People drew water from the well. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he went to sit beside the well.

It was about noon. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. In those days, Jewish people (Jesus) and Samaritans (Gentiles) did not have any relationship. However, Jesus said to her, **"Give me a drink."** Jesus' disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said,

4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus came to her and said,

4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to Jesus,

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The woman said,

4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

She was serious. She really wanted to have water, so that she would never be thirsty. However, she had a dark past. Jesus said to her,

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4:17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';

4:18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

Jesus pointed to dark past and implied that she should leave that life and received the living water from the true God, so that her life would be really filled.

My friends. What was her sense of happiness? She was interested in men that made her happy. She expected that if she married this man, she would have a happy family. She thought that men would make her happy. She changed men one after another. She lived together with the sixth man by the time she met Jesus. My friends, you can imagine how thirsty her heart was!

In those days, society did not accept that kind of life. On the contrary, it was a serious sin. Therefore, she could not even walk around in the daytime. So, she came to draw water avoiding public eyes. (Usually, they came to draw water during the cool time like morning and evening.) It was hot and painful work to come to draw water. However, she was really thirsty, so she came to draw water.

4:15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

Nowadays, we are given enough with material things such as food, clothes, and a place to live and it is very convenient. However, what about your heart? Do you think that our heart really is truly satisfied? Don't we have **dehydration of the heart**? We need to drink **water** often to preventing dehydration.

What do we set as the goal of our lives? What do we work for? What do we study for? What is the purpose of life? Do you have the answers to these questions?

Jesus said,

4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Then, what should we do? We should know Jesus Christ.

2. Looking at Jesus Christ

Let us consider the conversation between the woman and Jesus.

1) Life Learning from Experiences (Mistakes)

We experience various things throughout of our lives. There are always some mistakes behind a successful life. We learn important lessons through mistakes. If we do not use them in a positive manner, they are only mistakes and we never improve by using them. However, if we learn lessons from mistakes, we are blessed.

{Illustration} We Can Predict Errors written by Dr. Masayuki Nakao, published by Kobunsha 313

Professor Masayuki Nakao, who is a professor at Tokyo University and an authority of the science of mistakes, writes an interesting thing.

“As long as a man is alive, mistakes are a part of his life. There is an error that causes a big accident where many people are killed, a mistake that causes losing a wallet after drinking, a common mistake such as failing an employment examination. The list goes on and on. However, Professor Nakao writes that there is some similarity between a certain mistake and another mistake.”

Professor Nakao writes that man can predict errors if he realizes similarities among errors in the past. It is a very interesting idea. For example, he compiled errors of operating machinery (accidents and incidents) and presented a database of knowledge about mistakes. It says that there are mainly three causes as below.

- ① Human errors 46 cases
- ② Lack of an engineer's personal ability to design 1064 cases
- ③ A problem that an organization that an engineer belongs 825 cases

The data indicate that human errors can be avoided. Remarkably, **fortuitous accidents rarely happen**. It is said that its probability is only 4 %.

According to Professor Nakao, it is possible to avoid mistakes. However, someone who does not accept his/her mistake and as long as they insist on their rightness, someone like that cannot be dealt with anymore.

My friends. If we make a mistake, how can we make use of it? Let us consider the case of the Samaritan woman.

2) Learning from the Samaritan Woman

What was she like? I think there are at least three points as below.

- ① Her married life was failure. (Even though she changed five men.)
- ② She experienced social discrimination. (She was despised as a Samaritan.)
- ③ She experienced and realized that there was no true salvation in the ancestral well. (Even though she drew the water from the Jacob's well that had more than 1000 years history, she felt thirsty. She had to draw water repeatedly.)

On the contrary, Jesus gave answers for those all three points.

4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

We can study another point from the Samaritan woman.

3) An Encounter Changed Her Life.

Let us read carefully. Jesus talked to her first.

4:7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

The Samaritan woman had an encounter with Jesus. Jesus is invisible today, but He is present spiritually. He speaks to us and approaches us.

{Illustration}

A short time ago, I visited a city called Pokhara in Nepal, which was a beautiful town directly under the Himalaya Mountains. In those days, there were many people who were

suffering from Hansen's disease.

My friend who I studied with at the Bible college in Germany worked there as a medical missionary. More than 100 patients were hospitalized at a sanatorium I visited, and they had operations almost every week.

It was Sunday morning. A worship time was announced with a chime of bells, and staffs of the sanatorium and patients came to gather here and there to the chapel. And the worship service began, and choir members stood in front of us. Looking at them, they all were disabled people: a person whose nose had collapsed, a person who lost an earlobe, a person who lost an arm, a person who lost a leg, a person with crutches (They were quite unbalanced persons.)

Meanwhile, a conductor stood and began to lead worship with a baton. However, many of the choir members who stood before us were blind and put on sunglasses. One of symptoms of Hansen disease seemed to be blindness. Those who lost their vocal cords could not speak, so they praised with putting a special medical tool to their throats to amplify voice. Therefore, their praising was not on a high level as music.

However, listening to their praising, I was deeply moved by their praising. Our bodies get old and finally have an end. However, their attitude of praising showed no tragic atmosphere. They were praising with faces of full of hope and joy.

When I saw their attitude of praising, I wondered what made them act in such a way. It was their joy that sprang from their souls. They were people who met Jesus and been given **the living water**. They did not believe in a perishable thing but believed in entering the Kingdom of Heaven. I saw the greatest hope of life.

My friends. To live a real life is not because of property or of fame or status. Man can become truly alive by **the living water** given by God.

Jesus said, **"The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."** (4:14)

Then, how can we get **"the living water"**? We should confess our past frankly like the Samaritan woman. She accepted her past and said to Jesus,

4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." (Confession)

The water that God gives works together with the word of the Bible, so our heart never gets

thirsty. The Samaritan woman got the amazing gift.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Prevention Is Better Than the Cure!"

—Dehydration of Heart—

Jesus spoke to us an important message. It is the way of prevention, so we do not get **dehydration of heart**.

The followings are the key points.

1. The encounter with Jesus Christ
2. Drinking **the water of eternal life** found only in Jesus

* God bless you!