

December 6, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (the Second Advent Sunday)

Messenger : Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message : "Is Your Preparation for Life All Right?"

—Preparation—

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

We have the Second Advent Sunday worship today. Christmas is coming soon. Let's prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ with great expectation.

{Illustration}

It was 9 years ago that Japan National Team gained its best-ever three wins at the Rugby World Cup 2015 in England. Their result of past games in eight years was 1 win and 212 ties. And Japan Women's Rugby Sevens also qualified for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games (Rio 2016). We were really excited

A star player among the Japan National Team members must be Ayumu Goromaru. He got a high evaluation for making a goal for sure. His "Goromaru pose" was very popular and became a topic of conversation.

By the way, Mr. Eddi Jones (55-year-old) was their head coach who led Japan National

Team to the world's stage.

When a certain journalist interviewed him as below;

“What is a strong point of Ayumu Goromaru who is a star player?”

Eddi Jones answered,

“He is very strong mentally. He works hard and is well-prepared paying careful attention so that he can play a successful goal kick under great pressure. If they prepare well, they will get good results in everything like sports, business and so on.”

My friends, his saying **“If he prepares well, he will get good results”** teaches us a good lesson in our life. We sometimes make mistakes because we are not well-prepared. A candle of the Second Advent Sunday symbolizes **preparation**. Well-preparation is very important in everything.

God had prepared for thousands of years and taught Israelites about coming of the Messiah (the Savior). And Jesus Christ was born who was the Messiah. This is God's preparation and “Good News”.

Jesus said about the signs of the last days in today's text.

Luke 21:10 Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

21:11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

These are the signs of the last days. The verses below records what will happen when Jesus comes again.

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.

We live in the age before these signs occur.

Jesus said,

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.²

Let's study two points from verses above today.

Main Points

1 . You Sould Know that the Kingdom of God Has Come Near.

The Bible teaches about the kingdom of God (the kingdom of heaven) repeatedly.

Jesus also preached about the kingdom of God

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

However, we need to know that Jesus Himself is the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of heaven means the place where the God reigns over with His sovereign authority. What happened when Jesus was walking? The sick was healed, the evil spirits were driven out and amazing works and miracles were occurred. Jesus had driven out things that were not fit in the kingdom of heaven with His single word. The place Jesus was present was the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, it is not too much to say that Jesus came to this world to fulfill **the kingdom of heaven**.

John the Baptist who was called the last prophet was born before the coming of the Messiah. He prepared the Jews for meeting the Messiah.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1:30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.

By the way, Luke records in his gospel that Jesus will come again at the last time. He comes to clear everything. You may be a good man and work hard. You might have saved money and built a house. You have brought up good children.

However, Jesus said, **"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."** (21:33) He teaches that there is nothing to be eternal. No one can take money, a house, and things with him after death.

Then, what should we work for? What is the goal of our life? We can live life only once. We can't repeat it. Don't you want to know the goal of life? This world separates from God the Creator and is filled with evil.

However, we are thankful for the true light shining in the darkness.

⇒ It is Jesus Christ.

We need the true light in our life. Jesus said, **“I am the light of the world.”** Christmas is the birthday of Jesus who is the light shining over the world. The Bible promises that Jesus will come again to this world as the Lord of the judgment and fulfill the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is near means that **the day of Jesus’ coming** (the judgment day) is near. Then, what preparation should we do?

Jesus said,

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.

2. We Should Prepare for Our Life.

My friends, let’s be quiet for a while before God.

Isaiah the prophet and John the Baptist spoke up before the coming of the Messiah, the coming One, and prepared His birth. And Jesus also had prepared the way to the kingdom in heaven. Our God is the One of preparation.

Then, why can God be **the God of preparation**?

1) Because the Nature of God Is Love.

God of the Bible is the One of love and He wants to save us. As you know, the birth of Jesus was prophesied and prepared through the Old Testament.

(1) The Birth of the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⇒ **Fulfillment**

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

1:23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means “God with us).

(2) Prophecy about the Birth Place

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are

from of old, from ancient times.

⇒ **Fulfillment**

Matthew 2:4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

2:5 "In Bethlehem in Judea, they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

2:6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

These messianic prophecies above are fulfilled.

The Bible records other messianic prophecies as below—

● **Purpose of Jesus' death** Isaiah 53:4~6 ⇒ 2 Corinthians 5:21
1 Peter 2:24

● **The cross of Jesus** Psalm 22 ⇒ Mark 15:34
Matthew 27:35~50

● **Resurrection of Jesus** Psalm 16:10~11 ⇒ Matthew 28:1~6
Mark 16:6

When we read the Bible well we come to understand that the God is **the God of preparation**.

Why is the God the One of preparation?

⇒ Because the nature of God is love.

God wants us to know Him and trust in Him.

⇒ This is a relationship based on mutual trust.

Then, where can we find the kingdom of God?

Jesus said as below—

Luke 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,

17:21 nor will people say, 'Here it is, or 'There it is, because the kingdom of God is in your midst.

God in the Bible lives in those who believe in Him. What is the God like?

2) What Is the God of Preparation Like?

① God gives comforts.

...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:4

② God gives encouragement.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14: 27

③ **God shows the way to go.**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

God often speaks us through His Word and the Holy Spirit who is the helper. The reason why God helps us like this is ⇒ to help us lead a correct life.

The Bible:

John 5:39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,

What do you think about today's message? Let's trust in God faithfully and prepare for the kingdom of heaven.

Conclusion

Title of the Message : "You Know that the Kingdom of God Is Near"

—The Second Advent Sunday—

The candle of the Second Advent Sunday symbolizes **preparation**. We need to prepare for doing everything. What **preparation** do we do for our life? It is important to prepare for everyday life.

However, **preparation** for the kingdom of God is more important. Then, what should we do?

1. We need to trust in God's love that is His nature.
2. We need to trust in God's Word (the Bible).

* God bless you!