

January 24, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Exiles in the Diaspora"

—The Chosen People—

Text: 1 Peter 2:21~25

2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Introduction

Ten months have passed since last March 1st, when we listened to the Lord's voice from the First Epistle of Peter. During this time, coronavirus cases have been increasing even to this day. We had various events during the last ten months. Every time we had them, we had to pause from studying the epistle.

We last studied the Epistle on November 8th, last year. Since then, we had Advent worships, Christmas worship, New Year's Day worship and a New Year worship service. At last, I am finally allowed to begin the Epistle again. I give thanks to the Lord.

We may hardly remember the content from when we first began studying or even the last two months after such a long hiatus. Therefore, I would like to speak about last 20 sermons and then begin to study a new part starting next time.

First, we should remember that Peter is the sender of the epistle and that Jewish Christians, **who were exiles**, were the receivers. Peter recorded three characteristics about them: they were ① the chosen people, ② exiles and ③ the Diaspora.

Being Christians and Jewish, they were severely persecuted in those days.

This epistle sent a message to the Jewish Christians who were under hardship.

They were asked how to live under trouble and hardship. Peter taught them to ① **trust in God** and ②

cast all their anxieties on him under any circumstances.

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Peter taught them the Scripture above from many angles, so I would like to listen to the Lord's voice from two sermons that I spoke on October 4th and 10th, entitled **Returning to the Shepherd of Our Souls.**

The text we study today is 1 Peter, Chapter 2, Verses 21~25.

Main Points

1. Suffering Unjustly

2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

We need to know how Jesus Christ suffered.

1) Jesus Was Regarded as a Dangerous Man

Jesus was caught at Gethsemane and taken to the courtyard of Caiaphas the high priest. Jesus was part of an inquisition. The high priest and the members of the Sanhedrin sentenced Jesus to death because of His blasphemous words against God.

Peter wrote in Chapter 2, **"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth." (2:22)** Peter lived with Jesus for approximately three years. Literally, if man lives under the same roof, inevitably, his weakness, faults, selfishness will be revealed. However, Peter said, **"Christ committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth." (2:22)**

That man was regarded as a dangerous one in those days. **The Sanhedrin (the Jewish supreme council)** judged that Jesus **deserved death**. It is one of the points about Jesus.

Jesus was judged **to deserve death**. How was He treated after that?

⇒ He **suffered unjustly**.

I am not an expert of law, however, the action of Jewish people, who were very excited emotionally, must have been unjust.

2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten,

Those are the things that Jesus Christ received. Now we must not forget that Jesus did not struggle when **suffering unjustly**.

Peter records how Jesus received this unjust suffering.

2) The Suffering that Jesus Endured

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

① Jesus Endured.

The Lord Jesus Christ endured suffering.

2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten,

In those days, a criminal who was crucified often cursed the men who crucified him. Having difficulty with their breathing, they cursed the people who caused them to suffer. It was revenge. It is a human nature, isn't it?

However, Jesus who suffered, did not use his authority as **the Son of God**. Why did He not do so? ⇒ The reason was that He fully realized that He was sent as **the Son of Man**, the Messiah, for all human beings.

John Chapter 12 records as below:

12:27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose, I have come to this hour.

Jesus clearly knew the purpose for which He came to this world.

Jesus said,

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus Christ endured as **the Son of Man** for salvation of all human beings.

② The Word of Jesus On the Cross

The Lord Jesus said on the cross as below,

Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Jesus prayed for people who made him suffer. It means that He **entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly**. It refers to the perfect faith.

⇒ The highest peak of faith

He trusted so much in God the Father.

Luke Chapter 23 records.

23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Peter writes as below,

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was to allow us to separate from sin and live for righteousness. Peter records that we have been healed by Jesus' wounds. How amazing! God the Creator prepared the way of salvation before we realized it.

He is the One (Jesus Christ) that is **the shepherd of our souls**. A man receives true forgiveness, peace, and comfort from Him. God's grace through the cross of Jesus Christ is unchanging. Our minds are healed by His wounds. Those who accept it by faith are blessed.

2. We Have Been Healed by Christ

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1) Jewish Christians in Diaspora

Jewish Christians were exiles and slaves (servants and housekeepers). Some of them were slaves and became Christians.

Some of them were treated unjustly by their masters. Some of them were beaten even though they lived righteously. They may have been flogged unjustly and had a red welt on their skin like Jesus Christ. Peter wrote them, **"By his wounds you have been healed."** We understand their real lives. However, it is surprising that they had joy even though they were suffering.

2) They Had Joy

1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Why did they have joy?

⇒ They were receiving the salvation of their souls as the end result of their faith.

Peter said,

1:9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

They had very real troubles, however, they experienced joy because they came to understand the very real God. They came to realize that God made a great sacrifice and prepared the way of salvation. They can be said that they experienced God's healing through things that He had done for them.

3) Returning to the Shepherd of Souls

2:25 For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Peter records, **"You were straying like sheep."**

He writes I Chapter 4,

4:3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

They refer to desires and pleasure that we loved. We were slaves to them.

My friends. As we are created in God's image, when we lost fellowship with God the good Shepherd,

we became totally uneasy and empty.

Jesus Christ said as below,

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

He continues,

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

Jesus Christ is **the Shepherd of our souls** and He is **the Good Shepherd**.

Let me point the characteristics of **the Good Shepherd**.

① **He seeks the lost sheep.**

He is the One who left 99 sheep and goes in search of the one that went astray. He thinks each of us are precious.

② **He cares for sick and wounded sheep.**

The good Shepherd never leaves His sheep.

③ **He protects sheep from enemy.**

He risks His life to protect us. Yes, He sacrificed His only Son and made us return to Him.

④ **He leads us to the pasture and feeds us.**

My friends. We could return to **the Good Shepherd** like this. It was only by God's grace. How thankful!

4) Returning to the Overseer

2:25 For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Peter changed **the Shepherd** into **the Overseer**. Why did he do this?

The Good Shepherd of souls cares for each sheep. **The guardian** watches each sheep so that they do not stray again. It is the job of **the guardian**.

How about today's message? Will we return to God who is **the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls**? Do we realize that we are healed?

On the other hand, do we hide our diseases and wounds? Are our hearts feeling uneasy because of differences between our attitude at church and home?

Let us ask **the Good Shepherd**, who is the Lord of healing, for the treatment of our wounds. Let us ask the Lord for a touch of His healing hand. The first step is to honestly speak your feelings to the Lord.

Let us read the Scripture.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of

your souls.

Let us expect that the Scripture really fulfilled in us.

Conclusion

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The Jewish Christians who were exiles were under great suffering. Peter encouraged them by writing about **the Good Shepherd** of their souls.

We understand God's will in the following Scripture.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

* God bless you!