

April 4, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Easter Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Sadness Changes into Joy"

— The Day of the Lord's Resurrection—

Text: John 20:11-18

20:11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

20:12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

20:13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? "They have taken my Lord away, she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."20:14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

20:15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni! (which means Teacher).

20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

20:18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Introduction

Happy Easter!

The book entitled *A Liter of Tears (1 Litre no Namida)* was published some time ago. This book has been made into a drama and became very popular. It is the true story about a fifteen-year-old girl who had serious disease (spinocerebellar degeneration) of unknown cause and died at the young age of 25. It has become a best seller and the 1.1 million people who have read the book cried for her story.

The "tears" of the above story are sympathetic tears and tears of sadness. My friends, you may know two kinds of tears.

1. Tears of sadness ⇒ tears of frustration, tears of disappointment
2. Tears of joy ⇒ tears of rapture, tears of impression

The Bible tells "a true story" in which "tears of sadness" change into "tears of rapture" and "tears of joy." People face various pains, hardships and sadness in their lives and shed many tears. If your "tears of sadness" change into "tears of joy," you will be encouraged and given power. You will be given hope,

too.

My dear friends, what do you think the greatest sadness in life is? ⇒ It is the “death” of a loved one.

Let’s study today’s Scripture.

Jesus died on the cross and was laid in a tomb. Mary went to the tomb after the Sabbath. She stood outside and was crying. She was shedding “tears of sadness.” But she met Jesus who had risen. He could not possibly have been alive, but he was.

Her “Tears of sadness” ⇒ became “tears of joy.”

The statement, **“Why are you crying?”** appears two times (in verses 13, 15) in today’s text. This is a message about people who are in “sadness” that turns to great “joy.” Today, let’s think about God’s word, **“Why are you crying?”** You may be filled with sadness now. If that is you, this is the message for you.

Main Points

1 . Words of Encouragement to Mary

1) First, two angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

Angels ⇒ God gives His message through messengers. God still gives His message through men today.

The woman Mary speaks frankly,

“They have taken my Lord away, she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” (Verse 13)

The Bible writes, **“At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.” (Verse 14)**

Mary saw Jesus but she did not realize that it was Jesus. Why she didn’t? She must have been upset.

2) Then, Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

Jesus’ word ⇒ **“Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” (Verse 15a)**

What was her answer? ⇒ **Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” (Verse 15b)**

Mary eagerly wished to see Jesus. And then, she said **“Rabboni! (which means Teacher).”** At that very moment, she realized that Jesus, who had risen from the dead, stood before her. It is written in verse 17, Jesus said, **“Do not hold on to me.”**

Can you imagine her “tears of joy”?

2 . What Was the Crucial Factor That Changed Mary?

Mary didn’t realize Jesus at first because she was very upset.

The Bible: “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” (20:15)

She was ready to accept (to go and get) Jesus. This was the crucial factor. Then, she cried, “Rabboni! (teacher). **“Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” (20:18)**

This is her testimony, what she had experienced. At that very moment, her deep sadness changed into great joy.

{Illustration} Rev. Sundar Singh (1889-1929); an Indian Saint

Sundar Singh who was a devout Sikh hated Christians and dared to tear up the Bible. Sikhs are a minority party compared to Hindus. A turban on a head identifies a Sikh. They are exempted from wearing a helmet in England now. It is said that they are rich and have a high education. Sundar Singh who was called a saint in India was that kind of Sikh. Then, he had a mystical experience to meet the Resurrected Jesus. He was converted and his life was completely changed. He loved Jesus truly and gave his life to become a faithful servant of Jesus.

One day, Sundar Singh was preaching deep in the mountains in Tibet. The wind became strong, and it began to snow. It was getting cold quickly. He was in a dangerous situation. As he came to a cliff, he found a man who was almost unconscious. Another man was near him who still looked fine. Sundar Singh asked him, “Let’s carry him together to the village.” However, the other man refused to help him, unmercifully saying, “If we are taking care of him, we will be frozen to death. He must be dying. I go down alone.” The man didn’t listen to Sundar Singh. He left his company behind and went.

Sundar Singh began to plod along slowly, carrying the heavy man in a snowstorm. Being all in a sweat he went on through knee-high snow. His body heat made the dying man awake. When he saw the village off in the distance, he found a dead man in snow. It was that man who left his company behind.

My friends, on His shoulders Jesus Christ is carrying us, we who are nearly dying by cold. We were almost abandoned, but we are here now, carried by Jesus Christ on his back. Yes, He is the Savior indeed. He died once and has risen from the dead. He is alive as the winner today.

What do you think about today’s text? Do you want to lead a life with Jesus who defeated death and became the winner? “Why are you crying?” You may be shedding tears of sadness. However, if you trust in Jesus Christ who has risen from the dead you are surely saved. Your name is written in the Book of Life in heaven, and you will be changed into an one of joy. Jesus said,

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Conclusion

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— The Day of the Lord's Resurrection—

Mary was in deep sadness on the morning of Easter. She had heard twice the phrase, "**Why are you crying?**" The angel spoke to her first and then the Resurrected Jesus did. Why did Mary change, who was in deep sadness?

She said, "**Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.**"
(20:15)

When she said, "I will get Him (acceptance)," she realized He was Jesus who was resurrected.

* Would you like to welcome Jesus in your life? If you come to trust in Him, your tears of sadness surely change into tears of joy.

* God bless you!