

May 16, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Pastor Teichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Do You Have A GPS Navigation?"

—The Guide of Our Lives—

Text: John 14:1~6

**14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**

**14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?**

**14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**

**14:4 And you know the way to where I am going."**

**14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"**

**14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

### Introduction

Today we have an open church worship service. I will try to preach the word of God simply to those who don't know it. We welcome all of you who join us. Please relax and listen to me.

By the way, having GPS navigation is standard for many cars nowadays (even a small car). As you know, GPS navigation is a machine that gives directions, and it is very helpful when we go to visit somewhere we have not been before. It guides us by voice and by video, and says, "Please go straight" and "Please turn right at the next crossroad."

On the top of that, the latest rent-a-car is installed with the GPS navigation that guides us with multiple languages. Therefore, even people from other countries can easily arrive at their destination. It has become quite a convenience.

The GSP navigation is just a machine, therefore we need to regularly maintain and update it. I have been driving my car for more than 5 years and the GSP has not been updated. It sometimes makes an error and leads me the wrong way.

I realize that if I want to arrive at my destination successfully, I need the GPS navigation that is always maintained and updated. In the most recent days, cars have a so called "driving recorder." It can record both voices inside of the car and photos, and it is very helpful in case a traffic accident happens. You know, God also knows everything about our lives. He records everything.

By the way, do we know of a GPS navigation that guides the course of our lives? A certain person

thinks that he can arrive at his destination **without guidance**. However, what destination does **he want to reach**? He may set the destination by his own goal. **That may sound good.**

However, our life does not **end with** this world. Yes, we have life after death. The Bible teaches that man must stand before God and be judged, whether good or bad. **Are we satisfied with a world where** the evil man becomes prosperous, and the honest man suffers a loss? No, absolutely not. Jesus Christ said,

**“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

I would like to speak about Jesus Christ who is the **true guide of life** according to the following two points.

### Main Points

#### 1 . **Our Heart is Supposed to Be Troubled**

**John 14:1 “Let not our hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**

We, human beings, have our own troubles. When we cannot overcome big problems by ourselves, **and our hearts** become troubled. Sometimes we will get angry. **At the same time**, when things aren't going as we expected and we cannot foresee in advance, we feel uneasy, and our **hearts become** troubled.

God the Creator gave **conscience** to human beings. Everyone has conscience in him/her. Kojien Japanese dictionary defines **conscience as “an individual’s moral consciousness that teaches what is good and evil, and order to do good and obtain from evil.”** **Therefore, if someone is acting against their moral consciousness, their conscience stings them.**

**My friend, even though someone may keep doing evil things, and they seem to have a peaceful life, their conscious is there.**

{Illustration}

The shameful trial that will remain in history is the one of former justice minister Katsuyuki Kawai. He handed out about 29million yen to 100 local **government** heads in Hiroshima Prefecture to win the 2019, 7 Upper House Election.

He was indicted last June; however, he did not resign **as a** Diet member and was sharply opposed to prosecutors. In his hearing at the court, he denied the charges and pleaded not guilty. Surprisingly, he, who was an eloquent speaker, kept insisting **perfect innocence** for 35 hours. However, he suddenly admitted **to giving a** cash handout and **retired** from politics last month. Many of court spectators were greatly astonished.

What happened to him? He said before the judges as below,

**“I repeatedly asked myself in a cell and thought that I should admit what I have done.” After I**

was released, I met a Catholic father, my mentor. He told me, 'The most important thing is to be honest standing before God.' Therefore, I decided to tell the truth."

The conscience in him worked. His defense counsel was not informed of Kawai's decision beforehand.

My friends. **The pang of conscience** is a very precious sign before God.

The Bible teaches,

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart.**

Eternity refers to the God's world. We, human beings, are finite. We are not eternal. However, God is eternal. Eternity refers to God. God is the Almighty who created the heavens and the earth by only His word.

It is regrettable that we have not taught about this God the Creator. On the other hand, as eternity has been set in our hearts, we regrettably made other idols that were modeled after the true God. The Bible says,

**Romans 1: 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Romans**

The Scripture above records the reason that many gods (idols) are made.

The Bible declares that God created the world. The Bible clearly teaches that the presence of the God has been perceived through the things that He has made.

**Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

{Illustration}

The amazing season of cherry blossoms in Osaka ended a month ago. The custom of making pathways lined with cherry trees in the site of the Osaka mint was canceled because of Covid 19 pandemic. Every year, we enjoy brilliant cherry blossoms.

**Wisteria flowers** in April and May are also beautiful. Various kinds of flowers bloom in spring and make us happy. On the top of that, Japan has **four distinct seasons**. Many kinds of plants and trees vividly change according to **the four seasons**: spring, summer, fall and winter. We are moved by the beauty of nature. They all reveal the concrete presence of God.

The Bible teaches,

**Romans 1:20 ...his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

The epistle to the Romans records further,

**1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

**1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,**

**1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.**

My friends. As a result, what are human beings like now?

**1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,**

**1:25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

My friends. Human hearts became darkened like this. They often are troubled and worry and have pain. Jesus Christ loves such humans and guides the way of their lives.

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Jesus showed us the way to live correctly. He taught that is the way of blessing.

Then, why did Jesus declare this?

→ Because Jesus is the Son of God who was there in the beginning of the world.

Let us study the next point.

## **2. Jesus Christ Is the Messiah (the Savior)**

### **1) Jesus is the true healer.**

In this day and age, social networking services rapidly developed and spread, and fake news is flying about and many people are troubled. There are quite a few people who are deeply hurt by online slander. Some of them were deeply damaged beyond recovery. Who can heal these sufferers?

God can heal us. The One, who created the heavens and the earth, has authority.

He can heal with His single word. The New Testament records a story (Matthew 8: 5~10) as below,

There is a beautiful lake named the Sea of Galilee. The town of Capernaum was located by the Sea of Galilee (Now, it is a ruin). A hundred roman soldiers were stationed there, and the centurion was their chief officer. One day, he came to Jesus and asked,

**Matthew 8:6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."**

Jesus said, **“I will come and heal him.”**

However, the centurion said,

**8:8 But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.**

**8:9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”**

**8:10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.**

He continues,

**8:13 And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.**

Jesus Christ is **the true healer**. The centurion, being warm hearted, received his **servant’s pain as his own** and asked Jesus for his help. Jesus responded to his faith. Jesus said, **“Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.” (8:10)** The centurion was the Gentile, but he was highly regarded by Jesus.

What does this story teach us? He, who has faith in Jesus, is given salvation that is healing. In those days, paralysis was very serious sickness. However, Jesus healed the sick by only saying **one** word. Like this, Jesus has the authority to heal with **his words**.

**8:13 And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.**

By the way, Jesus said as below in the Gospel of John.

**2) Jesus Is the true Messiah (the Savior).**

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Jesus taught **these** three important points.

① **I am the way.**

People walk different ways in their lives. How about you? Here is the One who declares **“I am the way.”** It is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Son of God, who was in the beginning of the world, therefore He can show the correct way, the righteous way and the blessed way.

If you have something troubled in your heart, you should follow the righteous One. It is not the way to **follow a religion that is made by humans**. It is the way to follow the God who created the world. There are countless Christians who followed the way of Jesus during **the last** 2000 years of history.

I decided to follow Jesus Christ when I was 14 years old and have led a blessed life since then. Jesus Christ guided my way, and it was the blessed one. He is the true GPS navigation. I really give thanks to Him.

## ② **I am the truth.**

Jesus said, “**I am the truth.**” In other words, the truth means that is free from errors, clear, and certain. Human beings are seeking something reliable. Japanese people who are religious are seeking something that they can trust in religion.

A friend of mine, who already passed away, was involved with more than 20 religions. She had suffered a serious heart disease for a long time. She said that she visited well-known Japanese religions with a desperate hope, however, she could not find any salvation.

After visiting more than 20 religions, she finally realized that every religion performs its activity for money. She had been convinced that a certain religion was true and became a believer, however she found that it did not satisfy.

She lost hope of life and tried to commit suicide. Around the same time, she came to know Jesus Christ. She believed in Jesus Christ, who is the true God and lives in the Bible and became a Christian. Her life was greatly changed because she met the true God. Since then, she lived the rest of her life by giving thanks to God and passed away. I am very thankful that I could conduct her funeral.

Jesus taught another important thing.

## ③ **I am the life.**

Don't you think that the most important thing for human beings is life? While there is life, we maintain physical well-being. If we become sick, money, honor and position are meaningless. Needless to say, we come to think more about life under COVID-19 pandemic.

India's daily Covid-19 cases reach more than 400,000 and the total death toll is the second highest in the world. The medical care system completely collapsed. I watched on TV that two patients were lying on one bed. The oxygen cylinders for medical purpose became insufficient and the oxygen cylinders of the hospital were stolen. An incident occurred where a man, who lost his family from Covid-19, attacked a medical worker, who could not save his family, with a knife. People became strange and desperate. Life is really precious and irreplaceable.

What does it mean the word that Jesus said, “**I am the life**”?

(1) It means that the true life is in Jesus Christ. After His public life of 33 years, He was arrested and crucified and was buried. And as the Old Testament prophesied, He rose from the dead on the third day. He defeated death and is still alive today.

Then, why was Jesus crucified? He died for us, who are troubled and commit sin. A sinner is judged. In this world, if we committed sin, we must be judged. God knows everything and He watches our every word and deed. And God absolutely punishes sins.

How does God punish sins? Punishment is the death penalty. The Bible says, “For he wages of sin is death.” However, God punished Jesus Christ instead of us. God put our every sin on Jesus. As a result, God gave Jesus a death sentence and he was crucified. Please keep in mind that committing sin is so helpless that deserves capital punishment.

However, God made Jesus rise from death with His authority. It makes us realize that God has authority to make the dead alive. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are saved.

The word, “I am the life” has another meaning.

(2) Those who are with the resurrected Jesus are also given the life of resurrection that is the same as the life of Jesus. Our bodies become corrupted. However, our souls live with Jesus who resurrected. Jesus said,

**John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live,**

**11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

My friends. How blessed we are? Jesus the Son of God said as below,

**14:6 No one comes to the Father except through me.**

His word is really authoritative. He said with complete confidence.

Now, I have a question. Who is your guide of life? Is your guide reliable? Jesus Christ calls you with His authority and confidence today.

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Do You Have A GPS Navigation?”

— The Guide of Our Life—

Jesus taught us today.

**John 14:1 “Let not our hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**

The message that Jesus Christ spoke today is about the guide of our lives. It is Jesus Christ Himself. He invites you now. He speaks to you, “Come to me! I am your true guide of life.”

Would you come to Jesus who is the good guide of your life?

Let us conclude today's message by reading the following Scripture.

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

\* God bless you!