

September 12, 2021

KIBC Memorial Worship Service

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: “The Living With Hope”

—The hope of resurrection—

Text: John 11:17-27

11:17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

11:18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,

11:19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

11:21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

11:22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask. •

11:23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again. •

11:24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day. •

11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;

11:26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this? •

11:27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world. •

Introduction

1 . Good morning, every one.

I give thanks to God for having “Memorial Worship Service” together.

2 . {**Example**} **Japanese life expectancy**

- **Japanese men’s average life expectancy is 81,64 years (world rank second) and Japanese women’s average life expectancy is 87,74 years (maintaining first place). Japan becomes one of the world’s longevity countries. The population of centenarian is 80,540 (by Ministry of**

Health, Labor and Welfare 2020).

- The government decreed “Older Peoples Day” on the 15th of September and “The Aged Week” on September 15th through 21st until the year 2002. And then “Respect for the Aged Day” is held on the 3rd Monday as a national holiday.
- Many people enjoy a long-life span today. It is God’s blessing from the Jewish perspective. The older people have precious experiences during their long lives. I would say their experiences are just like “treasures”.

3. By the way, what is our everyday life like?

- “Treasures” of life are attained by long succession of a present day. The future is an extension of the present. We live life only once. If our life is meaningful and purposeful how thankful it is.
- However, we have to face many painful and unavoidable things in our life.
- The Scripture of today records a sorrowful story in John Chapter 11, Verses 11-27.
Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die.” (John 11:25)** This Word gives us hope.
- Let’s think about our life by studying 2 points as below.

Main Points

1. We sometimes face unavoidable things in our life.

- We have various painful experiences in our life. The most sorrowful one is “death” of people, especially, “death” of our immediate family. “Death” means permanent separation. No one can live again. Nobody can stop “death”.
- Many people feel fear about “death”. Why do they do? Because...
 - 1) We don’t know about the after life. No one knows what happens after death.
 - 2) People have feeling of guilty. They fear for being judged!
Human beings have conscience. Therefore, if he commits sins he has pain in his heart. The Bible records as below —
“A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6:7

How can we accept this unavoidable “death”? Let’s look today’s Scripture. Martha said,

11:21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

- What does this Word mean?

① It reveals complain about absence of Jesus the Helper at the necessary moment.

Martha thought if Jesus had been there, Lazarus her brother would not have died! My friends, we sometimes feel disappointed. We come to see no light. Jesus didn’t come to Martha when she most needed Him.

- Martha must have been very disappointed when she couldn’t find the helper at the very moment she needed and troubled.
- Do you have such an experience like Martha? If you do, you can easily understand the feeling of Martha. Martha didn’t have the helper when she needed. However, she said as below –

② Martha had faith in God’s power.

11:22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.

- Martha had “trusted”(faith) in Jesus. When she said Jesus in faith, He told her some strange Word.

11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;

- My friends, this Word is Jesus’ promise of hope. When we are in unavoidable situation in our life God is surely present there.
- The Bible tells that the God who created the heavens and the earth is present. Human beings were created by God. However, many of them don’t know God the Creator.
- My friends, God gives every people sunlight and rains equally. God is present in unavoidable situations. Please remember that God is always turning His eyes to us even if we are disappointed and have complains. God faithfully gives promises to people who trust in Him. The Bible records as below –

The Epistles to the Romans

9:33 As it is written: “... the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

- How thankful we are! **“Never be put to shame”** means giving assurance. Have you ever been disappointed? When we are deeply disappointed we come to lose hope. Therefore, we should know that God is the only One who doesn't make us disappointed. Human beings are all imperfect. \Rightarrow it means to trust (faith) in God. We have real peace and comfort there.

2. **Jesus Gives us the promise of hope.**

- Mary and Martha experienced “unavoidable sorrow” and “the disappointment” that “Jesus was not present when they needed Him”. Some of you may have the same experience like them. Some of you feel hollowness of life.
- Jesus gave the promise of hope to Mary and Martha who were in sorrow.

11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;

What a powerful Word it is! Jesus said **“the resurrection”, “the life”** and **“will live.** It means \Rightarrow “hope”.

{Example} Mining accident at San Jose in Chile

- **I can't forget the mining accident at San Jose in Chile. It occurred a short time ago that 33 miners were trapped 700 meters underground by mining accident.**
- **As they were out of contact for 3 weeks, nobody thought they were survived. But all miners were found safe and people were excited with hope. A rescue operation began in the focus of world attention. It was reported on TV in real time. We could watch its rescue on TV in Japan.**
- **My friends, they thought “they were hopeless”. However, they receive the news they were survived. \Rightarrow They found hope! There was a light there.**
- My dear friends, let's look our life in a comprehensive manner, not in a cross-sectional manner. Do you want to live life meaningfully? It is the precious and only once life. Life trusted in God \Rightarrow there is hope in it.

11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die;

- Then how can we have hope? The Bible tells as below —
11:26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?•

- You should live life by trusting in Jesus.

⇒ You will find “hope” behind “trust”.

Jesus came to be crucified and gave life so that He clears off our fear, sorrow and sins. Jesus took on all sorts of our burden on the cross which we must pay.

- Then, Jesus resurrected on the third day after His death.

It’s purpose is

⇒ to give victory to those who believe in Him.

We have “memorial worship service” today. Those photographs are those of deceased persons little earlier than we. There comes a time sooner or later when we end up our life.

- However, death is not the final event but departure! It is the way to live even though we die. It is the beginning of new way to the eternal kingdom of God. We have hope in our life. It is life by resting in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Living Life with Hope”

—The hope of resurrection—

- Jesus has authority to raise Lazarus from the dead and is still alive today. The life without God is like being dead. However, God can bring back the dead to life.
- Today, we studied two points as below —
 - 1 . Jesus has “power” and “authority” to raise the dead.
 - 2 . Jesus promised the dead that they “will live even though they die”.
⇒ this is the promise of hope.

* God bless you!