

April 10, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "My House Shall Be a House of Prayer"

—Jesus' Heart—

Text: Luke 19:41~48

**19:41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,  
19:42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things  
that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

**19:43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a  
barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side**

**19:44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you.  
And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not  
know the time of your visitation."**

**19:45 And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold,  
19:46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,'  
but you have made it a den of robbers."**

**19:47 And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the  
scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him,**

**19:48 but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were  
hanging on his words.**

#### Introduction

**The Passion Week** starts today, and it is Palm Sunday that should be remembered by us.

Jesus Christ finished **the work of the Kingdom of God** in the district of Galilee and came to Jerusalem. His purpose of coming was to be crucified on Mount Calvary.

The crowd shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna!" (Save Us Now) by taking branches of the palm trees. They thought and welcomed Jesus as a political savior who would make

them free from the Roman army.

We remember the Passion Week that is the most profound and meaningful week through Jesus' life. If Jesus' Passion Week did not occur, **God's master plan** would have not been fulfilled including Jesus' crucifixion, burial, resurrection and salvation. Jesus faithfully began to walk a thorny path.

Let us study the following two points from the Passion Week today.

#### Main Points

### 1. **Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem**

**19:41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,**

**19:42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

#### 1) **Jerusalem the city of peace**

Jesus came to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olive that is on the eastern side of the city. The path goes down to the Kidron Valley. It took about 10 or 15 minutes. The path goes up to the city of Jerusalem through the valley. And there is **the Garden of Gethsemane** there.

The verse above records Jesus who saw the city of Jerusalem and wept over the city on the way down the hill.

Jesus said,

**Luke 19:42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

Today, standing that place, we can see the whole city of Jerusalem directly from the east side. On that place, a chapel of the Catholic Church was built, and people can give prayer quietly.

The reason that Jesus wept was that Jerusalem did not know **the things that make for peace**. **The things that make for peace** means **salvation** that is fulfilled through Jesus.

#### 2) **Jerusalem lost its peace**

The name of Jerusalem refers to **peace** (shalom). However, Jerusalem the city of peace did not accept Jesus Christ, the Son of God who is **Prince of Peace**. On top of that, Jerusalem rejected Jesus and crucified Him and was corrupted as a result.

Jesus prophesied the corruption of Jerusalem and said as below,

**19:43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side**

**19:44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”**

Actually, Titus the Roman commander destroyed Jerusalem and slaughtered in AD70. After rejecting Jesus, the Prince of Peace, they did not leave one stone upon another in Jerusalem.

As Jerusalem became corrupted, the Israelites lost their nation and dispersed over the world. It is called **the Diaspora**. The Jewish people who were part of the Diaspora lost their temple, nation and became a wandering people of the world.

They kept wandering until the State of Israel was founded in 1948. They were a **wandering people** for 1878 long years. It is the tragic history of Jewish people.

The reason for this was that they did not know **the things that make for peace**. The result became a very miserable one. It was the result of people, who were chosen by God, rejecting the things that make for peace, which was God's will.

I often remember the following verse,

**Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

God is the faithful One. God's rules are very simple, but the Israelites could not follow them. We should examine our attitude before the One who is Prince of Peace.

God who is Love prophesied that He would bring the people to the promised land

again, who rejected and crucified Jesus.

**Ezekiel 36:24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.**

The founding the nation of Israel was fulfilled only by God's love.

My friends, what can we study from this fact? I thought about it for a moment, and I learned the following points.

- ① History is in God's hand.
- ② Jesus Christ is the center of the world.
- ③ Human beings live in History.

Let us think about Jesus' heart.

How distressed Jesus was over the Israelites. They had heard about the God of the Bible and were taught since their childhoods. They were different from the Gentiles. They walked by keeping the law of Moses. However, they did not understand **the things that make for peace** and rejected the Prince of Peace.

**19:42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

God hid the things that make for peace because their heart became hardened, and they turned against God.

They needed faith to accept God's word. Faith to accept **God's word** (the Old Testament) which is a part of the Bible. They had to accept the Scripture that was written about the Messiah.

However, the experts of the God's word and the teachers of the law, who deeply studied God's word, did not accept Jesus as Christ (the savior). Why didn't they accept Him? The reason was that it was hidden from their eyes. They rejected Jesus and the **things that make for peace**. Jesus saw Jerusalem and wept over it.

### 3) The things that make for peace

By the way, Jesus Christ came to this world to receive sufferings. He clearly understood the purpose of coming to this world. Therefore, His pain was far

beyond our imagination.

Jerusalem did not know **the things that make for peace**. They did not accept Jesus. Many people do not know **the things that make peace** even today. Nation rises against nation and the world does not know **the things that make peace**.

They pray for peace, but they do not come to understand **the things that make peace**. They begin to fight to get peace and this repeats itself. It is history of human beings. How foolish human beings are!

Then, why are human beings so foolish?

➔ The most serious problem is that human beings are sinners.

No matter how noble someone is, it is impossible to reach to **the true peace** (shalom). They cannot make peace without getting **the things that make peace** no matter how hard they try.

Only Jesus Christ who is **the Prince of Peace** can help us do it.

**Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah the prophet, prophesied about the Messiah (the Savior) who was coming.

However, Jerusalem rejected **the Prince of Peace**. It is our former self, isn't it? Jesus wept over Jerusalem. People shed tears of sadness, tears of compassion and tears of pain. We see Jesus as a man.

Jesus entered into the city of Jerusalem with such pains.

Let us study the following point.

## **2. Jesus Entered the Temple**

### **1) The temple became a den of robbers**

The temple was a very important place for Jesus and people of Israel. In those days, Jerusalem was under the control of the Roman Empire. Jewish people could not use the pagan Roman coins in the temple, so they had to change money into their own. And, they sold animals and doves for offerings to people who came from afar.

In a sense, it is good for convenience for the visitors, on the other hand, dishonest

people who sold these things made excessive profits in the temple. On top of that, there were people who walked into the temple to sell things without thinking that the temple was the holy place.

The temple was a house of prayer and the place of worship, but people disrespected **the holiness of the temple** by these acts. The temple became the den of robbers.

**19:46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."**

## 2) The primary function and purpose of the temple

### ① Love and longing for the temple

Psalms of the Old Testament repeatedly records love and longing for the temple

**Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Psalm 27:4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

**Psalm 84:2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Every Israelite had to think like this. However, many didn't, and made the temple a **den of robbers**. Jesus wept over the temple.

The Gospel of Mark records what Jesus did as below,

**Mark 11:15 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.**

**11:16 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.**

Seeing Jesus act like this at the temple, the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the principal men of the people began to have the intent to kill Jesus.

**Luke 19:47 47 And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him,**

② Seeing God's authority in Jesus

Jesus realized that the temple of God became the den of evil and robbers and He drove out those who were there for profit. Jesus used force. God clearly showed His will and judgement of the evil spreading over the temple.

When someone who has no authority acts with violence, it is a crime. However, when a court, which has the authority and right, performs compulsory execution, it is a valid one, not violence.

Like this, Jesus had authority at the temple.

**19:48 but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.**

It was not a violent act when Jesus cleared the temple. He did not do it on the impulse of the moment nor caused a great sensation at the temple without thinking. Jesus cleared the temple because it had become **a den of robbers**.

The Gospel of Mark records as below,

**Mark 11:11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.**

The temple is a holy place, a place where the people should worship and the place where God is present. Therefore, Jesus came to know that the temple became unclean, so He **cleared the temple**. It testified that Jesus Himself was the Son of God.

Jesus said,

**19:46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."**

The temple was the temple of God, the house of prayer and the holy place. Jesus said, **"My house shall be a house of prayer."** He said clearly that the temple was **His house**. Jesus said that He Himself was the temple, the temple of God and the house of prayer.

We must not make the temple of God (the house or prayer) a den of robbers. With what attitudes do we come together to the temple of God? Let us take time and think.

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: "My House Shall Be a House of Prayer"

—Jesus' Heart—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. We studied two things from Jesus on Palm Sunday.

1. Jesus wept over Jerusalem.
2. Jesus **cleared the temple**.

The temple was the temple of God and God was present there.

Jesus said,

**"My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers."**

**(19:46)**

What response do we make to Jesus the Lord today?

\* God bless you!