

April 17, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Easter Sunday Worship Service)

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: “He is NOT Here”

—Leading a Life with Hope of Resurrection—

Text: Matthew 28:1~10

28:1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

28:4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

28:5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

28:6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

28:7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you.’

28:8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings, he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

28:10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Introduction

- **Happy Easter!**
- Jesus was crucified at Calvary (Golgotha) and His body was buried in a tomb. The leaders of the Jews, the priests and the Pharisees, came to ask Pilate who was a governor of the Roman Empire and a judge, to give the order for the tomb to be made secure so that the Body of Jesus was not stolen. Therefore, Pilate gave the order to make the tomb secure by sealing it with a stone and posting guards.

- The Sabbath was over after Saturday evening and then Sunday, the first day of the week began. Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb on Sunday morning. The Bible records as below—

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.”

Mark 16:1

- They took spices to anoint Jesus’ body. When they went to the tomb there was a violent earthquake and the big stone in front of the entrance was rolled back. The Roman guards were very afraid of the angel of the Lord who rolled back the stone. The women must have been afraid, too. The angel said—

The Gospel of Mark

16:5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

16:6 “Don’t be alarmed, he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

- They were troubled but when they heard that Jesus has risen they were filled with joy and ran to tell the disciples. And they suddenly saw Jesus who had risen on the way. He said to them, “Greetings”. They were very happy to see Jesus again but at the same time they were afraid of His appearance and that he had risen and was glorified.

The Bible records as below—

28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings, he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

28:10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

- By the way, the Resurrection of Jesus is a very significant fact for the Christian faith. These two ladies are the first people who saw Jesus after the resurrection. They were witnesses of Jesus’ crucifixion and His burial. (They followed Jesus obediently.) Therefore, they became the first people to receive the joy of His resurrection as a reward of love.
- Then, what does the Lord teach us through His resurrection? Let’s think

the following three points today.

Main Points

1. **Believe in Jesus Christ.** (Faith)

- You should believe that Jesus is the true God. Jesus often spoke about His resurrection and it became true. The Bible records it.
- People say that Jesus is one of the four great saints in this world (Buddha, Confucius, Socrates and Jesus). However, three of them already died. Even though they are great persons who are called saints, they didn't rise from the dead. Only Jesus has resurrected and proclaimed in public that He was the Savior.
- God tells us, **"Believe Jesus!"** The Bible teaches us to **trust in** God. His resurrection is the precious fact in faith. Jesus is trustworthy, because He defeated death. Jesus is the winner who defeated death! However, we are weak and suspicious.
- Thomas who was one of Jesus' twelve disciples wouldn't believe His resurrection, even when he heard it. He said that he didn't believe, unless he saw the nail marks in Jesus' hands and put his finger where the nails were. Jesus said as below —

The Gospel of John

20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."•

20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"•

20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."•

- My friends, Thomas is not the only one who is suspicious but we also are also like him. Yet Jesus looks at us with love.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (20:27)

2. **Preach the Resurrection of Jesus.** (Preaching the Gospel)

- God guarantees "salvation" given by Jesus's resurrection. Jesus defeated death, which was punishment, and the last enemy, winning a victory through His Resurrection. Jesus fulfilled the promise of salvation on the cross and gave guarantees of it by His resurrection. Even sin and death lost their power **before** the fact of resurrection. **"Then go quickly and**

tell his disciples.” (Matthew 28:7) “Go and tell” is the first commandment given to people who experienced the grace of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible says as below—

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” Romans 4:25

“For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.” Romans 6:9

3. The Resurrection of Jesus Gives Us Hope. (Joy)

- The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope. 1 Corinthians
 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 15:21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a human being.
 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
- Those who believe that Jesus is Christ (the Messiah) don't need to look at death as a final destination. When Jesus comes again they will rise and live forever with Jesus. 1 Thessalonians
 4:14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
 4:15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.
 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.
- People generally fear death. However, those who believe in the Resurrection of Christ don't need to fear death, because Jesus defeated it and won the victory. Therefore, death is only an entrance door to lead to the glory of the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is our true hope. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3)

{Illustration} A Man Who Waked up after Sleeping for 19 Years

- This is the true story happened in Poland in 1988. A man named Jyan Gruzebkie who used to work at the Poland National Railway Company. One day he had an accident while he was working and lost his consciousness. The doctor told his wife, Gertruda, that it seemed very difficult for him to recover.
So, she was depressed, but she did not give up for taking care of her husband. Every hour she tried to move and change her husband’s body position lying on the bed, in order to avoid bedsores. Her family members also visited Jyan Gruzebkie in turn.
- “Time runs fast!” Meanwhile, 19 years had passed since the accident happened. Jyan suddenly woke up from his long sleeping time. Now, what did he see at that moment? What he has saw first was his wife who had been taking care of him all the time.
A rehabilitation specialist said that it was almost impossible for him to recover without his wife’s devoted care. Then Jayn started to feel his senses and step by step, he starting to walk slowly and he could also carry light baggage. That was a miracle healing!
- Now, Jyan was very surprised at seeing a big difference between 19 years. There was the old society and the present society he was just seeing. Communism in Europe collapsed 18 years before his accident happened. His wife Gertruda said that he was so amazed at seeing colorful shops on the roads and many different kinds of goods at stores. He said that this world has totally changed and became colorful. My friends! Our God was already there after 19 years of his sleeping period.
- God is always there. He was in the past 19 years ago, He is at present and He will be in future. He controls time and manages it. Jyan was with God for 19 years.
- My dear friends, the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope.

Hebrew 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Let’s trust in Jesus Christ who defeated death and move forward to the

Kingdom of God in heaven.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “He is NOT Here”

—Leading a Life in Hope of Resurrection—

- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ teaches us the following three points.
 1. Just believe that Jesus is God. (Faith)
 2. The resurrection of Jesus is fulfillment of salvation. (Preaching the Gospel)
 3. The resurrection of Jesus gives us the true hope. (Hope)

* We celebrate Easter Sunday today. We believe in Jesus Christ who defeated the wall of death and has risen. Now we don't need to fear death. We are given hope so that we preach the resurrection message of hope.

* God bless you!