

June 26, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "He Who Has Heart Grows Up"

— The Yoke of Jesus —

Text: Matthew 11:29

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

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

We welcome you who have come to join the Open Church Worship Service today and also those who join us through YouTube.

We have had a very hard time in these past three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, he who feels sick, or he who traveled abroad should have a PCR test. When he tests positive, he is infected, and tests negative, he is not infected. Fortunately, the number of infected people has been decreasing these days.

However, if I get test negative, I might still feel uneasy. It is quite impossible for me to have positive feeling.

By the way, **the rainy season has finally started in the Kansai region of Japan**. I learned that there is the expression of positive and negative in the world of weather observation in Japan. The rainy season seems to consist of two types according to Japan Meteorological Agency: the **positive** and **negative** type.

The rain of **the positive rainy season**: torrential downpours

The rain of **the negative rainy season**: drizzling rain

The rainy season until now was more commonly associated with the **negative rainy season**. However, we are experiencing sudden downpours recently. It means that the rainy season in Japan sometimes has the negative and also the positive types of rain at the same time. In Japan, landslides and flooded rivers usually occur every year. We **feel uneasy** about these things.

We really experience things that we feel uneasy about in everyday life. Do you know that the Bible teaches that we humans consist of **an outer self (a man who has a human body)** and **an inner self (a part of human heart)**? The center of the inner self is our **heart**, and it is very important.

God wants the heart of **the inner self** to grow to maturity. It means that **the inner person** becomes healthy. We have a great deal of anxieties that are caused by uneasiness and worries.

Jesus Christ says as below,

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

Jesus said, **“Learn from me, and you will find rest for your souls.”**

Jesus wants our inner self to grow up.

Let us study about **the inner self** according to the following two points.

Main Points

1. Growing up as Humans

Firstly, let us think about growing as a human. We all eagerly expect to grow. If we grow up as a human, we come to be able to solve our problems. The opposite of growth is immaturity. Various problems seem to occur from human immaturity.

Generally, when a person grows up, he will acquire the following three points.

1) We come to read another person's mind.

I have heard a story from a certain salesman.

When he introduced a product to a customer, the customer remained silent. He could not understand by looking at his face if he was interested in the product or not. However, as he gained experience, he came to read the customer's mind by the change of his facial expression, eye expression and gesture.

Then, as he gained more and more experience, he came to listen **customer's voice more and more**. It means **to read the customer's mind**. It means that he grows up as the salesman.

My friends, to be able to read another person's mind means to grow up as a person. If we read another's mind, how smoothly our human relationships go! We hope to

read another's mind not only in the business world but also in every field.

2) We can read the group's mind.

Secondly, it is said when a man grows up, he comes to see **the group's mind**.

It means that he can read **the atmosphere**. It is said that **a manager manages by wandering at his workplace**. The manager walks around the workplace and have a chat with a staff member. In fact, he manages the workplace like this. He examines the atmosphere of the workplace. He thinks the reason why the atmosphere is good or why it is different from ordinary days. He feels the atmosphere of the workplace by wandering there. He tries to make the most of what he has learned. It is very important to appoint such a master person to the workplace. To read the group's mind is like this.

3) We come to understand our own mind.

Thirdly, when a man grows up, he seems to understand his own mind. We think that we understand our minds, quite often we do not. The reason is that understanding our minds is difficult, especially **the part of the unconscious mind**.

Many people think that they are right, and they are never wrong in their unconscious mind. Therefore, such a person becomes stubborn. A psychologist says that many of them have **self-satisfaction**. Then, they become less able to distinguish their inner mind.

Then, how can we see our inner mind?

⇒ We need to light so that we can see.

The Bible teaches as below,

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

When the light shines, we come to see our dark side. We come to see ourselves just like the mirror reflects.

When a man grows up, he comes to see at least the following three things.

As a human,

- ① Do we read the other people's minds?
- ② Do we read the group's mind?
- ③ Do we see our own mind?

To be honest, we do not see our own minds so well, don't we? It is relative to growing of the inner self. Now, we have the Good News that is the word of Jesus Christ.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

When the light that shines in the darkness pours over us, we can walk in the light even though we can not see the things that we should see.

Then, what is Jesus Christ like? Let us think it together.

2. Growing of the Boy Jesus

1) Growing of the boy Jesus

There are a few parts that the Bible records Jesus Christ in His childhood.

Let us read the following Scripture.

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

2:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.

2:43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

2:44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,

2:45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

2:46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

2:47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

2:48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

2:49 And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

2:50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

2:51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Let us look Verse 52 carefully.

2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

2) The three characteristics of growing

We look at three important growing processes here.

- ① **Increasing in wisdom:** Being Jew, He gained the knowledge of the Bible and increased in the wisdom of God.
- ② **Increased in stature:** He grew up healthy physically.
- ③ **He was increased in favor with God and man:** It is the relationship with God.

These three points are characteristics of growing of Jesus.

- ① **The growing of the inner self**
- ② **The growing of the outer self**
- ③ **The growing process**

We understand what balanced growing is. It is also humans’ growing.

3) Our growing

Then, what should we do to grow up?

How can we grow up in a life that is full of trouble and suffering?

- ① **Humans grow by studying.**

We face with trouble and hardship in our lives. What is our reaction at that time?

{ Illustration }

You know of Ichiro who played outstandingly in the Major Leagues. There are lots

of anecdotes about him. For example, when he actively played in the Major Leagues, he was taken in by a certain pitcher of the rival team and could not achieve results. After the game, he was interviewed, **“Isn’t he your favorite pitcher?”** He said, **“Yes, he is. He is an amazing pitcher who brings out my possibilities as a batter. Therefore, I should practice hard so that I also bring out his possibilities.”**

Ichiro didn’t say that he did not like him, but he is the pitcher who brought out his possibilities.

The Bible records the word as below,

Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

Everyone wants to avoid trouble and hardship in their lives. However, trouble and hardship give an opportunity to bring out our possibilities, which will help us grow. Humans face trouble and hardship which helps us grow up. Therefore, we should not avoid them.

On top of that, the Bible gives us another encouragement. It teaches that we don’t need to overcome trouble and hardship by ourselves.

Jesus said,

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

② **We grow up by learning from Jesus.**

Jesus said,

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

③ **What is the secret of growing? ⇒ Jesus Christ**

(1) Jesus knew no sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus didn’t commit sin. What does it mean? The One who has no sin is only God. Yes, Jesus is the One who is God. God came to this world as a human.

Jesus said,

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’

Jesus is the One in whom God took the shape of a human. Therefore, we are able to learn from Jesus.

(2) Jesus is the One who experienced hardship.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus was tempted and faced hardship. On top of that, He experienced suffering on the cross, so that He can really understand us and help us.

(3) Jesus the One who promised.

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

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.

Taking a yoke refers to walk together. Taking Jesus’ yoke makes us grow up.

“...and you will find rest for your souls.”

The condition is to take Jesus’ yoke upon. It is the promise of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “He Who Has Heart Grows Up”

— The Yoke of Jesus —

God spoke to us this morning. He taught us how the inner self matures by receiving God’s blessings. What is the secret of the inner self receiving His blessings and growing up? The Bible promises as below,

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

* God bless you!