

July 24, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Are You Comfortable in Your Life?"

— The Third Place —

Text: Mark 5:25~34

5:25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

5:26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

5:27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

5:28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

5:29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

5:30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

5:31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

5:32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

5:33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

5:34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

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

As you know, **Starbucks** is a coffee shop that we find all over the world. The Starbucks Corporation was founded in 1971. The company has over 32,660 stores in more than 83 countries. It is a superior enterprise that has 4.2 billion of annual net income. Starbucks is an established **brand** in the coffee world.

However, when Starbucks first started it was not so popular as it is now. 16 years after the foundation, Mr. Howard Schultz acquired Starbucks Coffee that had 6 stores. At that time, he had an ambitious dream to change the way that American people drank coffee. He is called **a man of vision**.

Starbucks sets a slogan of “**ten points of success.**” The first point in **experiencing Starbucks** is that it provides **affordable luxury**. Of course, people used to drink coffee before 1990.

However, up until then they did not really enjoy a cup of coffee. Often, they had a first cup of coffee and an after-supper coffee. But they did not expect too much of drinking coffee.

However, Howard Schultz satisfied people’s desire that they wanted to relax at a **third place** that was neither their workplace nor their home. It is the **third place** where they forget the problems of their workplace and are able to have conversations in a relaxed atmosphere of an informal public place.

The expert analyzes the secret of success of Starbucks corporation was to provide the **third place**. My friends, people are seeking a **third place**.

The Bible also records the story that provides the third place.

Main Points

1. A Woman Who Had Been Subjected to Bleeding for Twelve Years

It is a story about a woman:

Approximately 2000 years ago, there was a poor woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She went to see many physicians, but she grew worse. On top of that, she spent all property that she had. How painful it must have been!

Her suffering was unusual ⇒ it was triple suffering

- ① She had terrible experiences with many doctors and got worse.
- ② She spent all things she had.
- ③ She had experienced social discrimination. (In those days, she was unclean in Jewish society.)

It means that she has done everything as possible as she could. However, nothing helped her.

She heard a rumor of Jesus that He healed the sick people around the district of Galilee and in other places. Then, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak.

The Bible record as below,

5:29 Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Immediately, Jesus also understood it.

5:30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

The Bible records the women at that time as below,

5:33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

My dear friends, let us look the word that Jesus spoke to the woman as below,

Mark 5:34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Her serious disease of many long years was immediately healed by touching Jesus' cloak. How happy she was! However, it does not record that she cried out with joy.

5:33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at

his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

I think that when she felt the source of blood dry up and was healed, the fact was unbelievable for her. It immediately happened to her body, and it was above and beyond her expectation and desire.

The women met Jesus and experienced Him like this. She was given the grace to live healthily from then on.

2. What Can We Study From this Woman?

1) The woman did not have her own place.

She spent her property to get better but did not recover at all. She had no place to be relaxed and have true peace which was **the third place**.

In those days, medicine and science was not very advanced. Recently, SNS becomes popular, and we can instantly get world information, knowledge and news.

However, do you think we have a true place of our own? It is true that various problems occur because people have no place of their own. Seeking the true place, people work hard to find it in work, studying, and religion.

They are seeking the true place ⇒ **the third place**.

The Bible teaches that the third place is in God the Creator.

Jesus was in the beginning.

John, His disciple, said about Him as below,

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

The One who was in the beginning of the world is Jesus Christ.

The Bible records as below,

1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The woman, who had been subjected to bleeding for twelve years, met Jesus Christ.

2) The woman had a desire.

She had a strong desire to be healed, to recover and to be fine. It motivated her to touch Jesus' cloak.

It is a very important point. People act by motivation. Motivation means to be inspired and have the will do something. Without motivation, no one can take action and go forward.

Lack of motivation is one of troubles of the contemporary man. Students cannot move forward due to lacking motivation to study. Workers **don't feel like** doing their business. There must be some background factors.

The problem of the modern age is that the number of people is too many, who lost their **energy** and **motivation**.

The precious motivation of people is easily lost under a favorable environment that is full of materials. Let's look at the developing countries. They all, without exception, have a high motivation.

Like this, the woman had the high motivation. Her disease made her motivation increase. We try to avoid sufferings, pain, struggle, and the trials of life. However, sufferings that God allowed you to have, will never be in vain. God has His own plan. He also had His plan in the case of the women.

There is another important point.

3) The woman placed her desire on Jesus.

In those days, the society of Israel was looking forward to the Messiah (the Savior). Being under the control of the Roman Empire, people wanted to be free from the oppression and to find the State of Israel. Therefore, they wanted the Savior (the Messiah) who would save them from the Roman Empire.

When we read the Bible, we come to understand that healing the woman is the sign that Jesus was the Messiah.

Isaiah who was one of the prophets in the days of the Old Testament records as below,

35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice

and blossom. Like the crocus,

35:2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

35:5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

35:6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

It means that the work of Jesus proved that Jesus was the Messiah. The women who had been subjected to bleeding for twelve years touched Him, the Messiah.

3. People Are Seeking the Third Place

Currently, many people are seeking the place where they feel relaxed. It is not a temporary place, but a true peaceful one. Many people are exhausted because they cannot find their own place.

The Bible teaches that **“God is love.”** God the Creator, who created the heavens and the earth is alive. We find Him in history.

The Acts, Chapter 17 records as below,

Acts 17:28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’

Even if we deny God, **we live and move and have our being.** On top of that, He is not far from us. Yes, He is present nearby because He is Love.

{Illustration} God Who is Always by Our Side

Rev. William Fley in Colorado, U.S.A was a pastor at Anglican Church. There was a young blind man in church whose name was John.

One day, Pastor William read a book to him. He asked John, How did you lose your eyesight?” He said, “When I was 13 years old, I was handling some chemical substance and it suddenly exploded. As a result, I lost my eyesight.” Pastor William asked him what he thought at that time.

John said, “I thought my life was over. I lost my hope to live and hated God. For the first six months, I lost the will to live. I was shut up myself in my room.”

The pastor asked him how he could recover from the shock of losing eyesight? John shared his testimony with Pastor William, “One day, my father came into my room and said, ‘John, winter is coming. We must install window frames for protecting against the wind. It’s your job. You should work on it until I come back home in the evening. My father left the room’”

John said, “What on earth does he want me to do? He fully understands that I cannot see. My heart was full of anger.”

However, John found the window frames in the garage, set a ladder up and began to install them. He thought he would rather fall off the ladder than do such work. Then, his father will be a poor man who has a blind and crippled son.”

John continued his story. He said, “I installed all window frames. Later I came to know that my father watched at me at the foot of the ladder when I was working on the window frames. He was as close as he needed to be.

It was ⇒ **the love of the Father**

God who created heavens and the earth is the One of love. He protects his children even though we are not perfect parents. He is ready to help us avoid getting hurt. He is a wonderful helper.

Much more, God the father in heaven sent Jesus Christ to save us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He died for those who have not their own places and feel uneasy.

My friends, it’s no problem, at all. Jesus defeated death and was resurrected. He is always ready to support us with His hand of love. We find the true place in Jesus Christ. It is **the true place of our own.**

Conclusion

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— The Third Place —

The Bible provides you **the third place**. How can we get the third place in our lives? We studied from the woman who had been subjected to bleeding for twelve years. She found her own place in Jesus Christ.

1. She had a strong desire to be healed.
2. Jesus replied to her desire.
3. Jesus gave her the word of blessing.

5:34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

* God bless you !