

September 11, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Memorial Worship Service)

Messenger: Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "A Secret to Live a Life in Hope"

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

- Good morning!

My dear friends! We can live a life only once. Therefore, life is very precious. Do we try to live the best life? If we can live a meaningful life, imagine how happy we can be!

- By the way, we must face *unavoidable and painful events* in our life. Let's read today's text.

Jesus went to Bethany, a village on the outskirts of Jerusalem. A man named Lazarus died and had been put in a tomb for four days. In Bethany there were Martha and Mary, who were sisters. Martha said to Jesus as below;

- 11:21 "Lord, Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. She continued;
- 11:22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

- Then, Jesus said,
11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

And he continued,

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?”

- Jesus said a mysterious thing. Let’s consider our life from the following three points.

Main Points

1. We Face Unavoidable Things in Our Life.

- We face various painful events in our life. And **the** most painful one is ⇒ *death*

The most painful event is the *death* of a family member or relative.

⇒ *Death* means a separation.

No one can get back from death. No one can stop *death*.

- Therefore, many people fear death. Then, why are they sacred of it?

① No one knows the afterlife and has no guarantee of it. It is only darkness.

② Everyone feels guilty.

A man has a conscience. Man’s heart feels pain due to sin and he must take responsibility for it.

The Bible: People reap what they sow.

Galatians 6:7

- How do we accept such unavoidable death? The Bible teaches that God is the Creator. Human beings are created by God. However, many of us don’t know about Him. Many people are not taught about Him.

{**Illustration**}

Every race in every country over the world has religious heart. People seek a peaceful mind.

⇒ **There is no race that have no religious heart.**

The Bible: He (God) has also set eternity in the human heart.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

- The Bible teaches that God created the heavens and the earth. It is very important for us that we understand the true God. He is always present when we face an unavoidable event.

* What life do we lead?

2. They Had No Helper When They Were in Need.

- Martha said in today’s text as below –

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.”

- Martha believed in Jesus. She had greatly trusted in Jesus so she became very disappointed. She thought that if Jesus was there, Lazarus, his brother, would not have died.
- A man sometimes feels helpless and loses his light of hope.

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.”

Jesus was not present when Martha desperately needed Him.

⇒ However, God had His plan.

Don't you think that we have experiences like Martha?

The Bible: The one who believes in him (God) will never be put to shame. Romans 9:33

- * What life do we lead?
The Bible teaches that it gives us light.

3. There Is Hope in Life.

- My friends, Mary and Martha became discouraged two times.
 - ① They faced an unavoidable grief, *death*.
 - ② They had no help when they were in need.
 - ③ Some of you may feel sorrow and be disappointed today. You may think that life is *meaningless*.

Jesus Christ said to them who were in the midst of grief.

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, what powerful Words of Jesus! However, are they true?

{Illustration} A Testimony of Ms. Sachiko Nara

- Ms. Nara was woman whom I won't forget in my lifetime. When I took an evangelic journey to Hokkaido, I visited a Christian woman who was sick in bed.
- When I met her I was very shocked. Her fingers were amputated excluding a few fingers. She gave me her original poetry book. This is her poetry book. (Its front and a back covers are all black and it has no illustration in it.) I didn't feel like reading the poetry book of a black cover. After a while,
- I received her handwritten letter that was written as below —

I am suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus. And now I have severe Ranauld's syndrome. (Convulsions cause blockage in blood vessels. Fingers and toes become necrotic and finally are amputated. There is no effective treatment for it in modern medicine.)

- Ranauld's syndrome was worse than I could have ever imagined. I was overwhelmed by a sense of fatigue and perspiration, so I was prepared

for necrosis and amputation of fingers. I prayed, “My Lord, I am prepared to have the amputation. I follow your will with all my heart.” My fingers lost all their color. I prayed to the Lord with my hands close together. God responded to me soon afterward. He gave me *a blissful peace* that was absolutely beyond description. My heart became calm and filled with joy. I kept singing all the hymns I knew until I fell asleep.

- She wrote in her letter,
“I think that only Christians can praise with joy and give thanks even in pain of a sickbed.” She experienced it before she had amputation surgery of fingers and toes. She has given hope to enter the Kingdom in heaven. (Her letter continues.)

The Bible:

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! Life that God gives us is a life of hope. The Word above is the Word of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the sake of us. Jesus made Lazarus raise from the dead. Not only that, but also, He defeated death and resurrected.
- Therefore, this is the Word of Jesus Christ who defeated death. He is the Savior and He has authority. On top of this, He has given the hope *to live, even though we die.*
- How about today’s message? Do you want to live a life with the hope in Jesus?

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “A Secret to Live a Life in Hope”

- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead with His Word. Jesus has authority.
- Life without God is like a dead man. However, God can make such a man alive again.
What is Jesus like?
 - 1 . Jesus is the true helper. (The Savior)
 - 2 . Jesus can make a man alive again with His Word. (His authority)
 - 3 . Jesus promises us to live even though we die.(Hope)

* God bless you!