

November 20, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "You Should Give Thanks to the Lord!"

—The Encounter—

Text: Luke 24:1~12

**24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.**

**24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,**

**24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**

**24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.**

**24:5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"**

**24:6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,**

**24:7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."**

**24:8 And they remembered his words,**

**24:9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.**

**24:10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,**

**24:11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.**

**24:12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had**

**happened.**

### Introduction

**Good morning, everyone!**

How do we live our lives that we are allowed to live only once? Those who know how to live are blessed. However, some people may be anxious and worry about their lives because they do not understand the meaning of life.

**The Bible: 3:17 whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

The Bible teaches us ⇒ how to live with giving thanks.

However, we can't always give thanks. Then, why does the Bible teach about **giving thanks**? ⇒ It teaches **a paradoxical truth**.

Let us look today's text. It records the days when Jesus Christ was arrested, crucified, and was buried. It must be the most sorrowful and discouraging time. Especially when people lose someone they love, they feel great sorrow.

Some women were heading for Jesus' tomb. The Bible records them at that time.

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**24:7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."**

The women heard Jesus' resurrection; however, they could not believe it. We also cannot believe that the dead rises again. But it is true that Jesus Christ rose again. They were at a loss, but their lives were changed due to His resurrection. **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the center of the Christian faith.**

Overcoming death means to become a winner of life. It is impossible for normal

human beings. It is the work that only God can do. We Christians believe in Jesus Christ who overcame death. The One who overcame death is the true Savior and winner. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ, who overcame death, becomes the winner. Therefore, we become thankful. We would like to consider following two points.

### Main Points

## **1. We Should Give Thanks to God**

### **1) Suppose There is No Resurrection of Christ**

Suppose there is no resurrection of Jesus Christ, how can we understand the world history? Christian churches all over the world have been teaching fake news for approximately 2000 years. Christians, who believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who offered their lives, are foolish people and missionaries and pastors are even more so. The missionaries that left for foreign countries carrying the Gospel did so in vain. They preached the Resurrection of Christ and dedicated their lives for Christ.

Christian mission schools were founded by the missionaries not only in Japan but also in all over the world and precious education was provided there. On top of that, the missionaries founded Christian hospitals and contributed to many local people through medical care and many people were saved.

The missionaries founded social welfare facilities and nursing homes. They served societies and their precious work helped people.

If there is no resurrection of Christ, for what reasons have they worked?

**Mark 16:15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.**

The reason why they have worked was that Jesus commanded us to proclaim the Gospel in all over the world. Christians faithfully followed the Word of Jesus.

**1Corinthians 15:13But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.**

**15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.**

**15:15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.**

Jesus Christ resurrected. First, my life was changed and received God's blessing. I have experienced it and I really understand it. Therefore, the center of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **2) When Christ Rose from the Dead**

The Bible says, **"Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54)**

And it continues as below,

**1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Therefore, we became winners. As a result, we come to give thanks to God who gave us victory.

The lives of people who stand on the faith of Resurrection are changed. How are they changed? Their lives are not of worry and anxiety. Their lives become victorious lives. It is the work of God who is alive now.

### **We should give thanks to God**

#### **① He who laments over his weakness should give thanks.**

You may be tired because of struggling in your life. You cannot do anything by your own strength and realize your limitations. Or, once you thought you could control it but now you realize your helpless power.

Even though you are like this, the angel of God says, "I know that you are seeking the living One." God knows you exactly.

#### **② He who comes to the church walking wearily with heavy steps should give thanks.**

Maybe someone invited you to our church and you had no choice. Even so, you should give thanks. If the women did not go to the tomb, they could not inform

other than Jesus who rose from the dead.

## **2. He who thinks that his faith is dead should give thanks.**

You may believe in Jesus, but you may think that you gave up the faith and only have a dead faith. Or you may be disappointed in church and think there is no new power. Even so you will meet Jesus Christ who rose and is alive now.

\* My friends, first of all you should come to church even if you become weak, or if you are disappointed, and you have trouble. The women were disappointed and hopeless, but they came to the tomb. ⇒ The angel of God appeared and told them that Jesus was alive. You also have an encounter with Jesus who has risen.

## **3. We Should Seek the Correct One**

**24:6 He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,**

The women were seeking the correct One. They were seeking Jesus Christ. Jesus said, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** (John 14:6)

The women were seeking the correct One. They were seeking Jesus Christ. When someone wants **water** in the desert, how can a big lump of gold help? He who is thirsty and almost dying needs only **water**.

Only Jesus Christ heals us, who is the water of eternal life. Jesus said;

**John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."**

Even though you feel that your life is boring and uninteresting, and restricted, if you seek Christ Jesus, you will be surely satisfied.

### **{Illustration} Conversion of the Former Palestinian Guerrilla**

It is regrettable that suicide bombings by groups of Islamic extremism still occur these days. Walid Shevard was one of them. He was a believer of Islamic extremism. He was active for jihad without fear even to be martyred. Then, his life had a big

turning point.

He changed his attitude as a believer of Islamic extremism and confessed faith in Jesus Christ, was baptized and became Christian.

He was a former member of PLO, and he worked on the front line of terrorism to act as an anti-Israel agent. He has been put into prison in Jerusalem and after being released he planted the bomb in a bank of Bethlehem. He also planted a bomb and blasted a street, but luckily it did not damage the street and there were no victims as he expected.

In those days, his mother had U.S. citizenship and he also moved to America. He entered Loop College in Chicago and met some members of a terrorist group. His life was derailed due to encountering them.

His connection with terrorists gradually deepened. He joined a terrorist's meeting and had the basic training to fight for Jihad.

Later he married American woman who was a Catholic believer. They argued on the Bible many times. He insisted that Jewish people misunderstood the Bible. However, they failed to reach agreement on the Bible. Then, he decided to read the Bible to support his claim.

When he began reading the Bible, God's Spirit came and spoke to him. He came to understand that the Bible records the truth, and he clearly realized his mistake and foolishness. Since then, he takes the side of Israel. His life completely changed.

He experienced two kinds of encounter. One of them was the encounter with the Catholic woman believer and the other was the encounter with the terrorists. God spoke to him when he began to read the Bible by himself. Then, he realized his mistake and he became to believe in God of the Bible.

## Conclusion

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God spoke to us this morning. We live precious lives that we are allowed to live

only once. Do we live with thanksgiving? Or do we live with worry, dissatisfaction or uncertainty?

We have unexpected **encounters** in our lives. The women who went to Jesus' tomb met the angels of God. They heard the **Good News** that Jesus has risen. What **encounters** have you had?

Those who heard the Good News (an encounter with God) are filled with thanksgiving.

The Bible encourages you as below,

**3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians)**

\* God bless you!