

January 22, 2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Let's Do a Small Kindness"  
—Some Advice for Living—

Galatians 6:7~10 (The center Scripture: verse 9)

**6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

**6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.**

**6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**

**6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

#### Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

Today's society is in chaos, isn't it?

In these days, the internet is rapidly developing and the world around us is overflowing with information. We have too much information and it is said that we live in the Information Age.

We easily get information through computers, phones, tablets etc. However, do we really get the right information when we make a search? A popular **personal column** of a newspaper explains a bit about this.

The Yomiuri Shinbun reported at the end of last year about **trouble caused by SNS** across generations. It means that our society becomes more convenient but at a price. People are so frustrated with the three-year-old Coronavirus disaster that consulting through internet has increased all the more.

Three hundred and fifty-two questions were posted in the newspaper from December 2021 to November 2022. Eleven renowned consultants helped to answer these questions. Most of the contents are about **their families**. This accounted for 204 cases. It reveals that there are many people want to get a hint on their problems (receive advise) even though the family members should be their first resource.

Currently, people are really seeking for advice on how to live. They want to know how to live, and they would like to change their lives, if it is possible in this unpredictable society. However, many of them cannot find any good advice.

The Bible teaches that the God the Creator teaches you the best advice on how to live your life; however, God leaves your life to you. It means that you are a manager of your life.

How will you live your only life? Let me tell you two important pieces of advice in which to live.

#### Main Points

##### **1. You Should Understand God's Principle**

There are fixed rules in the natural world. For example, there is a relation between plant development and its climate and temperature. Let us check the ratio of the air such as oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other contents. If the proper balance is changed among them, environment destruction will occur, and damage is caused. It becomes a practical problem.

The natural world is regulated. In fact, it is common knowledge that there are fixed rules even though we can't see them.

The Bible records as below,

**Acts 17:28** “In him we live and move and have our being’

**Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

The Scripture above teaches **the principles of God**.

If we live ignoring the principles of God, ⇒ we should live a wasteful life, because no one overwhelms the principles of God.

If you want to understand the principles of God, ⇒ You should read the Bible!

## **2.The Life that Follows the Principles of God (Application)**

Then, how can we apply the principles of God?

⇒ First of all, we should begin in your situation,

### **1) We should accept our situation.**

Last September, a lecture meeting of two mothers was held at the Osaka Dawn Center.

One of them was Ms. Itsuko Tsujii, who raised Nobuyuki, a pianist born with an obstacle in one eye and was awarded the gold medal in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

The other was Ms. Miyuki Ikee, who raised Rikako Ikee. Rikako is a professional swimmer who had leukemia and won the first prize in 100m butterfly in the Tokyo Olympic Games Qualifiers in 2021.

Let me introduce part of their lectures.

#### **① Ms. Itsuko Tsujii, mother of Nobuyuki Tsujii**

**Itusko spoke on how to raise her son who is disabled. She discovered her son's talent, when Nobuyuki was 2 years and 3months old, he began to play the toy piano. She spoke about the struggle of raising her disabled son as if she was walking through a dark tunnel.**

**Some people said that other musical instruments were more suitable for the visually disabled. No matter what anyone said, she believed in her son. She thought, "If there were no precedent for that, I will set a new precedent." She had made a firm resolution to support him even if he could not become a pianist. After some time, her resolution bore fruit.**

**② Ms. Miyuki Ikee was the mother of the professional swimmer Rikako Ikee. She never heard that a person who had leukemia could become an Olympic athlete or a top athlete. However, when she told Rikako's doctor about what she thought, he said, "If there is no precedent, you create a new precedent."**

**Rikako won in the 100m butterfly in the Tokyo Olympic Games Qualifiers. In those days, it was said in the mass media that her winning was a miracle. She seemed to have much more stories.**

**There are common points between the two mothers. One of them is that they made their children have successful experiences and made them to believe in themselves. And the other was not to create limits so that they became mentally strong. And above all, they have been receptive to the situation that seemed to be unhappy from a human viewpoint.**

My dear friends, it is very important to accept the situation that is given to us. It all started here. How about us? Every situation does not occur without God's permission.

Let us consider another point.

## **2) We should do as much as we can.**

**Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**

**6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

We are able to do small, good things even if we are not able to do a big thing. It may be a small kindness that changes the world.

### **{Illustration} A Small Kindness**

**I have heard a following story.**

**It happened in late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the United Kingdom. A coach of a certain member of Parliament was stuck in the mud and could not move. He tried to manage to move it by himself, but He couldn't.**

**When he felt helpless, a farmer boy came to help him to pull it out from the mud. Being amazed and glad, the member of Parliament asked him, "How much money should I pay you?"**

The boy said, "No, Sir, I do not want anything. I am honored to be able to help the great man like you." The member of Parliament was very impressed and asked him again, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

The boy answered that he wanted to be a medical doctor, but it would be impossible because he was of a poor family. "I'll pay for all your tuition fees," said the member of Parliament.

Then, the boy entered a medical school and became a doctor. 50 years have passed since then. Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, was dying from pneumonia in the midst of the World War II.

A team of doctors gave Churchill penicillin as a last resort, which was newly developed. Then, he recovered in one day so he could lead the United Kingdom to victory.

The doctor, who discovered penicillin, was Alexander Fleming who pulled the coach out from the mud. The member of the Parliament, whose coach was pulled out from the mud, was Randolph Churchill and he was the father of Winston Churchill.

Like this, the small kindness of the boy changed his life. And the small kindness of Randolph Churchill to the boy saved his son Winston Churchill. As a result, it saved their nation from destruction.

This is only one small kindness. However, if each of us keeps doing small kindnesses to our neighbors the society gradually changes. Doing a big work is very good. However, the Bible teaches as below,

The life of Jesus Christ started by **being faithful** in a very little.

**Luke 16:10 "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."**

Jesus looked for small children. He held out His hand to the weak. He spoke to people who were suffering from sins. Jesus came to close to them and held out His hand.

He completed His work as the Savior (the Messiah) for the world. It was the cross of Jesus. However, He did not stay in death, but rose from the dead after three days. Jesus defeated death.

**We can see the example in Jesus.**

#### Conclusion

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—Some Advice for Living—

Let us remember the points of the message today.

How should we live in these chaotic days? Where can we find some advice to live?

Let us remember the following two things.

1. We should understand God's principles.

**6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

**6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.**

2. We should live by following the God's principles.

We should look towards Jesus and follow Him. We will find the advice to live there.

\* God bless you!