

February 19, 2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "One Thing I Do Know"

—To Live Honestly—

Text: John 9:18~25

9:18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

9:19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

9:21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

9:22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

9:23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

9:24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."

9:25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Introduction

Good morning, everyone.

It seems to be difficult for human beings to live honestly. You may know about the "Luffy Incident" which is a hot topic lately. It is said that the total amount of damages from these scams is 6 billion yen.

Phone scammers pretending to be a family member or relative escalates into a robbery murder case. The older and rich people are targeted this time!

(Luffy leaders were arrested in the Philippines and sent back to Japan in the middle of February)

It is regrettable that fraud, perjury, cheating, lies, evil, and murder are rampant in this world. A certain person may think, if God is present in the world, why does such bad news occurs lately? It is no wonder that there are lots of bad news in this world.

Now let us consider of it according to the Bible.

Let us look today's Scripture. The content of the Scripture is as follows.

It was approximately 2000 years ago, when Jesus met a blind man in Israel.

Jesus made mud and put it on the eyes of the man born blind. In those days, they thought that blindness is the result of sin. Therefore, he lived by begging. Jesus told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. The blind man followed what Jesus said and he came home seeing. It is an unthinkable miracle!

However, it was the Sabbath, which is an important day for Jewish people. The Pharisees, the religious leaders, said that **Jesus did what was prohibited on the Sabbath.** (Jewish people who followed the law of Moses and prohibited to work on the Sabbath.) They tried to sue Jesus. From the beginning, the Pharisees had treated Jesus as an enemy.

The Pharisees summoned four witnesses to find an excuse to sue Jesus.

① **The argument among the Pharisees**

9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

② **Questioning the blind man himself**

9:17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

③ **Questioning the blind man's parents**

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

9:21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

9:22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

They asked each of them, but they answered differently. Therefore, they could not draw a conclusion. They called the man again and asked him to make up an unfavorable testimony.

The Bible records as below,

9:24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."

9:25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

It was the testimony of the man born blind. Nobody rejected the fact.

My dear friends, let us carefully look the statement of the blind man.

A. Whether he is a sinner I do not know. (Honest word)

B. One thing I do know (the fact)

① I had been blind.

② I see now.

The remarks of the blind man were the real fact and honest truth. However, the Pharisees got angry at his remarks and threw him out. The Pharisees could not find any reason to sue Jesus. This is the story.

Then, let us study two points from the remarks of the blind man.

Main Points

1. The Blind Man Was an Honest Person

1) The Honest Blind Man

9:25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

The Pharisees, who were the religious leaders in those days, had already agreed to put Jesus out of the synagogue because Jesus healed someone on the Sabbath.

9:22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

The blind man honestly answered the questioning of the Pharisees.

9:25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know..."

He was honest. He did not judge other people. Isn't this a good and righteous attitude? What do you think? We have been causing big problems by judging people.

The important thing is to live honestly throughout life.

The information that is not honest swirls around in the world. ⇒ Fake News

It has become a convenient world due to spreading of SNS. On the other hand, we don't know how many people ruined their life plans because of Fake News.

Some say that one cannot live good life if he lives honestly. He is probably right. However, if everyone is dishonest, what would our society be like? Our society becomes increasingly disordered, and we cannot live ordinary lives.

2) The First Lie

First of all, God created human beings to live honestly. However, they have lost honesty.

The Bible teaches,

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

3:3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

3:5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

3:9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

3:10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Adam and Eve, who were ancestors of all human beings, were deceived by the serpent. As a result, all humans have inherited nature of evil. The Bible teaches that human dishonesty is originated in the sin that was firstly committed before God.

As a result, the world has continually become disordered and confused until now. It is our situation that inherits the nature of Adam. If we keep living in the evil world, we are the same as the blind who could not see. However, we do not need to live in such world forever. There is no peace here.

God sent Jesus Christ who was called the second Adam. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ, who was sent from God, can live a new life.

Jesus said,

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live

We have lots of things to be troubled and worried about in our daily lives (the first Adam). However, when we trust in Jesus Christ (the second Adam) and live, we are changed to be able to see the invisible world. It is God’s grace.

There is another important point, which is to honestly come before the second Adam.

2. The Blind is the Witness Who Spoke the Truth

9:25 He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

1) The honest word of the blind

He testified that he could not see the light before, but he sees it now. It was the true and honest word.

{Illustration}

When I preached the Gospel in Duesseldorf, Germany, a certain Japanese man went to Japan on business. When he flew over the North Pole, he looked the outside from the window.

He saw a beautiful horizontal line that was the bright red over the clouds. He was deeply impressed by seeing it and realized the presence of the One (God the Creator) who created the great nature. He believed in God.

Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Acknowledging the fact honestly ⇒ the beginning of blessing

How about us? The born blind (the first Adam) became to see by Jesus (the second Adam).

9:25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

2) The Blessing of the Honest Man

Then, what does it mean to **see** by Jesus?

① Seeing the Invisible World

The man born blind followed Jesus faithfully. He followed Jesus' word to go to the Pool of Siloam and wash. Mud symbolizes sin. Washing his eyes means to leave sin and wash.

Usually, we think that if we put mud on eyes, our eyes become blind. It doesn't mean put mud into eyes but put mud near around eyes. (Kuroda's interpretation)

The reason of my interpretation is that the Dead Sea in Israel is very famous for its richness of minerals. Many people over the world go there to get **a mud pack** for treatment and recuperation today. They put mud over their body, and it is said it really effective.

There was a custom and culture since the old days where they would put the mud of the Deas Sea on their body. Jesus did the work in those days.

② The Blind was Faithful to Jesus' Word

The blind faithfully followed Jesus' word. And he became to see the world that he could not see before. Following Jesus' word means to receive blessing like him. Jesus has authority and power like that.

{Illustration} A Story in Korea

A certain pastor visited a family. When the son of the family left the room, his mother began to speak her anxiety to the pastor. She said, “I am depressed about my son. As he started new business, I sold our house, but he failed in business. My husband has been fighting against cancer for 8 years. I don’t know where my hope is?”

The pastor listened to her story quietly and said, “It is helpless to clean the moldy place. No matter how hard you wipe the place, mold grows again. However, if you hold it up to the sunlight, mold disappears. When Jesus who is the light comes into the depressed heart like the molded place, hope starts to rise in the heart. Trusting in Jesus means that life of Jesus comes into the heart, and you start new life.”

Then, she began to cry saying, “I have wasted lots of time.” When the son came into the room, the pastor spoke to them, “It won’t be too late. Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world.’ If you accept Jesus, the One who is stronger than the sunlight comes into you and the grace of God pours on your family.” They believed in Jesus and accepted Jesus. The light and life of Jesus come into the family that was overwhelmed with darkness.

My friends, we sometimes feel depressed, and life seems to be dark and heavy. And we may be thrown into the situation that we cannot see anything.

We are like the blind who is invisible in heart because we cannot see the blessed Kingdom of God that is prepared by God. God wants us to open the eyes of our hearts and spirits and see the Kingdom of God.

Then, how can we come to see the invisible world?

- ① We should trust in the word of Jesus.
- ② We should faithfully follow the word of Jesus.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “One Thing I Do Know”

—To Live Honestly—

God spoke to us today. Let us remember the important things now.

One day, a man born blind met Jesus Christ. He made mud and put it on the eyes of the blind and told him to go to the Pool of Siloam and wash them. He faithfully followed the word of Jesus and his blind eyes opened and came to see the world that he could not see until then. The blind received an amazing blessing.

Then, what should we need to see the invisible world?

1. We should trust in the word of Jesus.
2. We should be faithful to the word of Jesus.

* God bless you!