

Sunday Worship Service KIBC

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Sunday, October 29th, 2023

Theme: "Life for Tomorrow"

Text: Gospel of Mark 14:3-9

Introduction

Good morning.

- There are many problems in the world.

The war in Ukraine, which has been going on for more than a year and a half, has become a quagmire, and there is no way out of it. A great number of people have been affected in Ukraine and Russia. And there have been many casualties. We are praying for a quick end.

- The other day, Hamas, an Islamist radical group, suddenly attacked the mainland of Israel with thousands of missiles on the Sabbath of the Feast of Tabernacles. Israel responded and a terrible new war began.
- In addition, the Lebanese Islamist radical group "Hezbollah" has also begun to move in, and this too has become a quagmire.
- Although there are differences in religion and ideology, the people most affected are the general public in both countries. Hospitals, police, and even schools have been affected, and I feel very saddened by this. I sincerely hope and pray that the war will end as soon as possible.

- There are many problems in the world. There are many causes for these problems, but one of them is the difference in values. People have different standards, evaluations, and values. War is a major manifestation of this. Even if we don't go as far as war, there are differences in values all around us.

- We see such differences in values in the Bible. That is today's text.

Open the Bible to the Book of Mark.

One day, Jesus visited Simon's house in the village of Bethania and had a meal.

- A woman appeared to him. The Bible says the following:

Mark 14:3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

14:4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume?"

14:5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

14:6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her?
She has done a beautiful thing to me.

- Jesus appreciated the woman's action, but those present were indignant. "What a waste," they said, chastising the woman. Here we see a big difference in values. But beyond the difference in values, there was something that everyone there experienced.

- What was it? ⇒ The smell of the perfume oil!

14:6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her?
She has done a beautiful thing to me.

The "fragrance" pervaded the entire room. Jesus spoke highly of the woman, saying, "She has done a beautiful thing to me."

- Today, I would like to consider the background behind the release of the "fragrance" rather than the difference in values. There are two points.

Important Points

1. She Offered Her Best

- Nard oil: High-grade Indian perfumed oil, imported from abroad. Expensive, it was an important item for a woman to bring when she married.
- The value of the oil was more than 300 denarii, which was the daily wage of a laborer in those days.
- In an instant, the woman broke the jar of the expensive "oil of Nard" and anointed Jesus with the oil.
- In an instant, the woman cracked open the expensive jar of "nard oil" and poured the oil on Jesus. She anointed Jesus because he was worth that much to her. Jesus was worth it. She was offering the best that she had to give.
 - ⇒ She was offering the best of her life to Jesus.
- That is why the story is still being told today, almost 2,000 years later. Jesus said, "She has done a beautiful thing to me" It was a good deed, a righteous act.
- The fragrance of the nard perfume must have filled the room. There was a great sacrifice of the woman's expensive nard oil. In other words, the woman was aware

that Jesus was worthy of the expensive oil.

- How do we see Jesus?

Is it Jesus as our helper?

Is it Jesus who makes our lives better and blesses us?

Is it Jesus who protects our families?

- Think about it. It is all about us. These designations are all about us. This woman did not receive (desire) from Jesus, but instead she gave. Behind her act was a great love and gratitude to Jesus.
- Her values were completely different from the values of the world. It was because she knew the value of Jesus. Jesus said,

14:8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.

- In those days in Israel, it was customary to anoint a dead person with perfume when he/she was buried. The woman was aware of this. It is not clear to what extent she was aware of this, but it was an act of foreknowledge of Jesus' death and burial.
- She did what she could and was highly praised by Jesus.

What do you think? What is important for us?

(1) To know who Jesus is.

(2) To do what we can do.

- Here we can see the attitude of the saints.

- The values of the world changes with the times. Even the laws that set the standard for society change. Everything in the world changes. But here is the One who is eternal and unchanging, Jesus. Jesus was, He is, and He always will be the One who never changes. He is God.

- Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb. But on the third day, He was resurrected. He was resurrected on the third day. He is the victor over death. Hallelujah!

- There is no one who never changes except God.
⇒ This is the One we should keep our eyes on.

What is the important goal of our life?

Why did she offer such expensive "nard oil"?

2. An Important Goal in Life

- She broke the jar of "the perfume of nard" and poured it on Jesus.
⇒ She knew that Jesus was worth more than that.

Here is the standard by which she placed the value of her life.

- By the world's standards, it was foolish. But by Jesus' standards, it was highly esteemed. Her actions were not forced on her by others. They were acts of her will.
- The Greek word for "man" is *anthropos*.

This means "one who looks up."

In other words, only human beings look up to God. Only human beings, by nature, are born to look up to God.

- How then can we know God?

God gave us the Bible. The Bible is "God's book" given by God. We can know Jesus through that Bible. And God speaks to us through the Bible.

{Illustration}

- In the Ukrainian–Russian war, there is a blessed testimony: "In this war, the Ukrainian people are fighting for the freedom of the people of Russia. In this war, Ukrainian soldiers were taken prisoner by the Russian army, and some of them returned to Ukraine through the exchange of prisoners between the two countries.
- One of them testified as follows: "I was captured by the Russian army and put in a POW camp. I didn't know the guard at all, and I don't remember who he was. But he gave me the Bible. For the first time in my life, I took the Bible, opened the Psalms, and began to read. The Word of God entered my heart deeply.
- There was no one to guide me in the camps, but I was struck by the Spirit of God and believed in Him right then and there."
- In this way, a Ukrainian soldier became a Christian in an enemy Russian POW camp and returned to his homeland. It was God's mysterious providence. A guard handed him a Bible, which changed his life. A silent act saved a soul.
 - ⇒ The Bible has that much power. And God, who gave us the Bible, has great power.

- Where do we place the value of our lives?

Who are we living for? ⇒ Shouldn't we live for the Creator God?

Conclusion

Theme: "Life for Tomorrow"

A woman offered Jesus the "oil of Nard," which gave off a wonderful fragrance.

The fragrance was experienced by everyone in the room.

The background behind the release of the "fragrance of nard" was;

⇒ It was her actions.

1. She loved Jesus.
2. She knew the true value of life