

Sunday, April 28, 2024 Sunday Morning Worship Sermon

「A word that will surely come true」 Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Isaiah 55 : 6~11, Luke 24 : 36~49

❶ [What is the resurrected body?]

Today is the fifth time we have heard the story of the resurrection. Jesus appeared to the traveler at Emmaus, and now he appeared to the disciples as they gathered and told him about Jesus. They were terrified and thought they were seeing ghosts. Jesus said to them, "Why are you bewildered, why do you have doubts in your hearts" (verse 38), and he said, "Look at my hands and feet. That's me. Touch it and take a closer look. The ghost has neither flesh nor bones, but I have it, as you see." (verse 39). Ghosts and ghosts cannot be touched because they are spirits. But the resurrected body is not just a spirit, but a heavenly body, a body that belongs to heaven, and it can be touched. Pay attention to the words, "That's exactly me." As a sign that Jesus was not a different person, He showed us hands and feet with nail marks. Jesus before the resurrection and Jesus after the resurrection are the same Jesus. He is the only one in the world, the only Jesus. The resurrected body is not the creation of another new human being, but the transformation and transformation of the same person's body. If a completely different person is created, the previous person, the previous body, will be discarded because it is useless. But there is nothing boring in those who are created by God. No matter how handicapped we are born, it is God's will and God's creation. God's power is not so weak. Even if your body is imperfect, flawed, distorted, bruised, and weakened, it has the power to make it wonderful and complete. Salvation does not end with death, it continues and we are connected. Furthermore, because they were still in disbelief and wondering, He said, "Is there any food here" (v. 41), and He took the grilled fish and ate it in front of them. In Japan, offerings are made on Buddhist altars, but the spirits of ancestors do not eat them. Because they are spirits. But the resurrected Jesus ate the things of this world. It is connected to the heavens, but it is also connected to the world. Jesus is both heavenly and earthly. Therefore, we can freely move back and forth between heaven and earth, and connect heaven and earth. So when we worship Christ on earth, we encounter heaven.

❷ [Human beings have a heart that seeks eternity]

Now it is a very beautiful time of fresh greenery. When I look at the greenery of the trees, I think that life is good~. And I think of the youthfulness that has passed. God's creation is beautiful, fragile, and sorrowful.

●Tikhon from Zadonsk tells. "I was a toddler, but this also passed, I was a boy, but this also passed. I was a young man, but this also left me. I used to be a strong man, but I am no longer that. Now my hair is white and faded from old age, but this too is passing. I am approaching my end and dying worthy of all physical beings. I was born to die. I die to live. "O Lord, remember me in your country..... Praise and condemnation, glory and disgrace, all of which passed. That's the way the world is. ... Everything disappears with time. Our past looks like a dream, and with it all our old happiness looks like a dream. ... The life of the afterlife, which God's Word and our faith convince us of, will be completely different. Our lives, once they begin, will never end."

Our lives pass in the blink of an eye, but in our hearts we have a desire for eternity and a longing for unchanging beauty.

●Henri Nowen writes: When I was little, I always asked my father and mother: "Do you love me?" I would ask him so many times that it would become a source of irritation for my parents. My parents told me hundreds of times that they loved me, but I just couldn't get enough of them, and I kept asking them the same questions over and over again. It's been a long time since then, and I finally realize now that I was looking for a satisfaction that I couldn't get from my parents. It was asking for you to love me with eternal love. "Do you love me?" After asking the question, I always ask, "Do I have to die someday?" You can see it from the fact that I asked. Somehow I must have known that I would never die if my parents loved me with complete, inexhaustible and unconditional love. ... A lot of the energy we expend boils down to the following questions: "Do you love me?" ... Much of our heartache comes from the experience of not being loved enough. The simple phrase "God is love" begins to take on a much deeper meaning once we try to live with this foundation. If the God who created me is love and nothing but love, then I am loved by God even before man loves me.

It is not our parents, that is, human beings, who created us. It's God. Parents were also created by God. God created me and entrusted my parents to love me on his behalf. Beyond the finite love of parents, there was God's eternal love.

③ [let's hope that God's word will come true]

Jesus says to his disciples: "All that is written about me in the law of Moses, and in the books of the prophets, and in the Psalms, will surely come to pass, and this is what I said when I was still with you. And Jesus opened the eyes of their hearts to enlighten the Bible, saying: It reads: "The Messiah will suffer and will rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the remission of sins will be preached in his name to all nations." (24:44~47)

The Old Testament is written in Hebrew, and the only tenses are "perfect" and "incomplete." God's word has either been made or it has not yet been made. God's word, once it comes out of our mouths, cannot be revoked. If we are human, we can make mistakes, and we will not do what we say, but God is different. Even after all these years, we will keep and fulfill that promise. In the book of Isaiah we read: "Neither my words that come out of my mouth shall return to me in vain, but they will accomplish what I desire, and I will surely fulfill the mission I have given them." (Isaiah 55:11) The word of God, which came from God, is Jesus. Jesus accomplishes what God wants and always fulfills His mission. Its mission is to give eternal life to mankind. "It is the will of Him who sent me that he should not lose any of those who have given me, but that he should be resurrected at the last day" (John 6:39).

● In 2 Samuel 21, we read that when David was king, there was a famine that struck Israel for three years in a row. Famine was said to be a sign of God's wrath. When he asks the Lord, he is told that it was because the previous king, Saul, had broken God's promise and wanted to destroy the Gibeonites. It is man's evil and sin that prevents blessings from reaching this earth, and hinders the blessings. It makes the earth curse. So seven of Saul's descendants were sacrificed, and the earth was blessed.

Now we know that Jesus wore a crown of thorns, a sign of curses, and bore all the curses and sacrificed himself. It has blessed us. In Christ, the curse ended, death ended, and judgment ended. From Him began forgiveness and life. I became a blessed land, the Garden of Eden. For God dwells and walks in me. Psalm 65 says, "Oil drips on the traces of your passing, and drips on the fields of the wilderness, and every hill is tinged with joy, ... The valley is covered with wheat." (Psalm 65:12~14), but these words were fulfilled by Jesus. I didn't have to go to heaven, but on earth I was already walking in the Garden of Eden. It makes me happy to remember that. Let us thank God.