

Last Week's Sermon Summary

"You come to me"

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

Romans 6:1~5, Matthew 3:10~17"

❶ 【The problem of sin that lives among us】

I think many people think of baptism as a ceremony in which a person changes his mind and becomes a good person. After the war, there were many people who were baptized with this in mind, but it was a human work and it was more like "rehabilitation." Baptism is not "rehabilitation" but "rebirth." Rehabilitation is to be reborn in this world, but rebirth is to die in this world and a new self is born in the old self. Rehabilitation is the work of man, but regeneration is the work of God's creation. Because it is the work of God, it is called a sacrament. Christianity considers sin deeply. Many people in the world say, "I have never committed a crime." However, even if it is not a public crime, it is possible to hurt someone's feelings by speaking ill of someone, scolding a subordinate severely, scolding a child too much, or slander on the Internet. It just so happens that the people around us didn't die, and if you commit suicide, you're a criminal. It is a sin to not be able to control anger and to hurt others. When I was in college, I went to a cult called the Unification Society. The reason why I went there is that when I was a child, I was happy to play around without worrying about tomorrow, and I was happy to accept whatever clothes and food my parents gave me, and I was satisfied, but as I grew older, my heart was not satisfied no matter what I had, and my heart was filled with various dissatisfactions. I wanted to go back to my childhood

self. So I went to the cult without knowing anything. I thought I could change. If a person were content with what he was given and was always grateful, there would be no divorce and no war. Therefore, an unsatisfied heart is also a sin. There are many roots of sin lurking within me, just by hiding. Some people will reopen themselves to the idea that that's what it means to be human. But I don't think so. I believe that the human beings created by God are more beautiful. I don't know when this evil was born in me. However, even if it is not at birth, it will always be born in everyone's heart as it grows. Origen in the 2nd century wrote, "Children are innocent when they are born, but they are always taught by their parents and society, and no one can escape from them." I said. In Christianity, it is called "original sin" to say that all people must sin. I tried many times to get rid of the root of this sin, but I couldn't do anything about it. Jesus told a Jewish teacher named Nicodemus, "Unless anyone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). To be born of water and the Spirit (Holy Spirit) is baptism. No matter how well trained, respectable religious scholars, or great people are, they cannot enter heaven with human power, magnificence, and purity. It's the same with babies. That's why we get baptized.

❷ 【A new person is born through baptism prepared by God】 John is surprised to see Jesus appear in front of him, and he declines to baptize him. "I should have been baptized by you, but you have come to me" (Matthew 3:14). Jesus replied to John: "Don't stop now, it's right for us to do all the right things." (Matthew 3:15) ↗

Weekly Report

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《The Temptation of the Wilderness》

Miyakojima Church's 2024 Mission Policy

Motto : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

Scripture : "No one can lay any other foundation, ignoring the foundation that has already been laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.
- 4 Cultivate the consciousness of building a church together.