Last Week's Sermon Summary

「Those Who Blaspheme the Holy Spirit」
Pastor Takaaki Inoue
Hebrews 6:4–8, Luke 12:4–12

❶【We Should Fear Turning Away from God】"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot do anything more after that. I will tell you whom you should fear: the One who, after killing, has the authority to cast you into hell. " (Luke 12:4–5) The Jewish authorities—the chief priests, elders, and scribes—persecuted Jesus and His disciples, viewing them as a sect within Judaism and as a threat to the national order. However, Jesus did not fear His persecutors; instead, He told them to fear God.

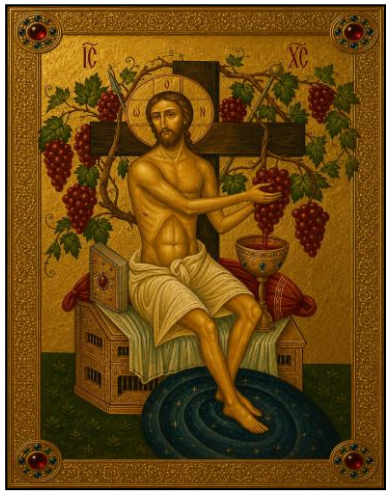
To not fear death, we must understand the true nature of death as revealed in the Bible. There are two kinds of death. Since human beings are a composite of body and soul, there are also two kinds of death: "physical death" and "spiritual death." Of these, the most terrifying is spiritual death. Spiritual death is the death of a person's very essence, whereas physical death is the destruction of the vessel that houses the soul. The soul died instantly upon being separated from God, but physical death did not occur until much later. "Adam lived 930 years, and then he died." (Genesis 5:5) People in this world fear physical death the most and strive to keep this physical body alive by any means necessary. However, they do not realize that their souls are already dead. And no one makes any effort to keep their soul alive. It is the devil who has enabled people to live unconcerned, without a thought for God. Being deceived by this devil and failing to realize that one is already dead—that is true death. When John Chrysostom of Constantinople, in the 4th century, was about to end his life at the age of 62, he said, "No one can destroy a person unless that person destroys themselves." People cannot kill other people. The Church Fathers unanimously declare that while people may destroy God's creations, they can never kill them. This is because the Word of God remains forever. The only thing that can kill a person is "that person's own sin." A person dies because of their own sins; others cannot kill them. Since God the Christ is the "Tree of Life," we must fear nothing more than being separated from this Tree, which is God the Christ. As long as we remain connected to this Tree—Christ—even if our bodies are destroyed, our inner selves do not die. When the time comes, we will be resurrected and live forever. However, if we fear persecution or are deceived by the devil's lies into thinking there is life in this world, and our hearts begin to turn toward the world, our souls will become numb. Eventually, we will no longer feel any need to attend church, we will no longer fear separating ourselves from Christ, and our souls will truly die. It is this kind of death that we must fear above all else.

❷【Let's take pride in being followers of Jesus】It is said that if someone declares before others, "I am a follower of Jesus," then Jesus Himself will say before the angels and saints of the Kingdom of God, "This person is one of mine." In the early church, publicly confessing that "Jesus is Lord" was a matter of life and death. If people were identified as Christians, they were arrested, imprisoned, had their property confiscated, dragged into the colosseum, and either forced to fight wild beasts or put to death by crucifixion. To confess "Christ as Lord" even at the cost of martyrdom requires taking great pride in Christ and believing that He is the most trustworthy One, the Truth, the Giver of eternal life, the King of Heaven, and God Himself. This is because people are willing to die for things of value, but they cannot risk their lives for things that are trivial.↗

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan
Miyakojima Church
Mission Established December 1, 1957
Church Established December 2, 2001
2-6-17Miyuki-cho,Miyakojima-ku, Osaka 534-0012
TEL06-6922-1120 FAX06-6922-1120
E-mail address:
HomepageAddress: ttps://miyakojima-church1.com
Postal transfer 00920-4-1442 Japan Miyakojima Mission Senior
Pastor Takaaki Inoue

November 1, 2026, No. 1897



《The True Vine》

Miyakojima Church's 2026 Mission Policy

Motto : " Let us become faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ "
Scripture : " Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord will return." (Matthew 24:42)

Goals for FY2024

1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 28 people to attend services.
2 I will make good use of my time to invite the people I meet to worship.
3 We don't just listen to the Word; we put it into practice.
4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.