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司会 訳①

Pres. Youngsoo Kim:

Good morning, everyone. We will now start the Monday service for April 27, 2020.

We will begin with a prelude, so please pray silently.

Together we will sing, Hymn 21 number 419, verses 1 and 5.

Please sit down.

Now we will read from the Scripture. We will be reading 2 verses today.

First from the Old Testament, Genesis 3:1-5 (NIV).

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Next from the New Testament, Luke 24:28-35 (NIV)

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Today's message, titled, "What opens the eyes of the heart," will be given by Professor Mitsuaki Noma.

日本語原文

2020/04/27

月曜礼拝

野間 光顕 先生

「心の目を開くもの」

創世記 3 : 1~4 ・ ルカ 24 : 28~35

みなさん、おはようございます。

壁に掛けられているカレンダーを見るともう4月も最後の月曜日、このひと月が非常に慌ただしく過ぎ去ったと感じているのは私だけではないように思います。それこそ学校や大学など

教育の現場で働いていれば、年度が改まり新学期を迎える4月が慌ただしいのはある意味当たり前。新しい出会いにドキドキしながら、いつもより多めに自分の中のアクセルをふかして新入生を歓迎する、緊張と思わぬハプニングに体の疲れはあるけれど、それを超える喜びや発見、そして日々成長していく新入生のフレッシュな笑顔から喜びと充実感が与えられる…。そんな例年の「4月」の印象が、今年度に至っては全く異なるように感じられ、これまでを振り返ってみてもこのような新学期は記憶にないように思います。と申しますのも、やはり全国・全世界で猛威を振るっている新型コロナウイルスの影響で、私たちがこれまで当たり前のように感じていた日常の生活が大きく変更を余儀なくされる状況が生まれてきています。コンビニやスーパーのレジ前には、感染の原因である飛沫を避けるためのビニールシートが設置され、間隔をあけて並ぶようお願いの告知が掲示してあります。お釣りやレシートも手渡しではなくトレイの上に返却される。お店の営業時間も短縮される所が増えてきています。つい先日、コピーをしようと家の近くのコンビニに向かうと22時閉店となっており、お店だけでなく町中が真っ暗、道路の掲示板にはオレンジ色の文字で「不要不急の外出は自粛しましょう」と記されている所から、なんだか叱られているような気持ちになると同時に、これが現実の世界であると信じられない、何か映画や小説の世界に迷い込んでいるような不思議な感覚に陥りました。

映画といえば、新型ウィルスが驚異的な速度で全世界に拡散する恐怖を描いた一本の作品があります。タイトルは「コンティジョン」。「接触感染」という意味の言葉からきたもので、2011年に公開されていますから、今から10年ほど前の作品なのですが、これが恐ろしいほど今の世界を再現しているように見えます。物語は、アメリカで新型ウィルスが発生する所から始まるのですが、徐々に話の中心がウィルスの恐怖から、それを恐れた人間の愚かさや狂気に移り変わっていきます。タイトル脇に示されているキャッチコピー「【恐怖】は、ウィルスより早く感染する」という言葉が、その様子を的確に表しているように思います。目に見えないウィルスの不安に駆られた人々が、不確かなデマに流されて更なるパニックを引き起こす。先

日、日本でも疾病と全く関係のないティッシュやトイレットペーパーが買い占められ、スーパーの棚が空っぽになるニュースが流れていましたが、非常時こそ落ち着いた対応が必要であると頭では分かっているながらも、小さな生活の変化に恐れや焦りを感じて孤立したり、自己中心になってしまう…。確かに感染から発病までの潜伏期間が長く自覚症状がない、そして発病すると肺の中のヘモグロビンが破壊されるため、突然呼吸困難に陥る、ひどい時には3日もか

からず死亡するケースもあることから、新型コロナが恐ろしい疾病である事には違いないと思いますが、しかしそれ以上に学校や職場、そしてショッピングモールや集会場・教会等、集まる事自体に自粛が要請される現状の中で、人間の基本的な存在認識を担保していた「つながり」や「絆」といったものが、新型コロナの前でガラガラと音を立てて崩れ落ちて行っている…そんな感じさえします。

このような人のつながりを寸断していく状況を思う時、私の頭の中に先ほど読み上げた創世記3章、有名な「蛇の誘惑」の物語が浮かんでまいります。神が創造された素晴らしい樂園であるエデン、そこで愛するパートナーと共に楽しく暮らしていた人間は、突然現れた狡猾な蛇の質問を通して罪の世界へと転落していく事になります。以前、故郷に帰省した時、裏山に通じる道の上で一匹の蛇を見つけた事がありました。足がなく、体を奇妙にくねらせて這いながら前進する蛇の動きに私が驚いていると、向こうも私の存在に気付いたようで、慌てて道路脇の小さい穴の中にスルスルと入っていきました。調べてみると、蛇は体の構造上、頭の骨が入る隙間ならどこでも入っていける特性を持っているようで、この物語においても人間の心の隙間に入り込んで罪へと誘惑してきます。「目が開かれる」「神のように善悪を知る」「賢くなれる」一見、私たちの社会でも良い意味で語られるような言葉を通して展開されてくる誘惑に、連続して誘われた人間は、ついに禁じられていた実を食べる事になりますが、それによって「恥」や「疑心暗鬼」、「責任転嫁」や「裏切り」が心を支配するようになります。また、神の足音を恐れ、隠れようとする人間の姿を通して、その実を食べる事で引き起こされると言われた「死」が、実は肉体的な「死」を指すものではなく、まさに「関係性の破壊」を意味していた事が分かります。

どうでしょうか？ この聖書が記されてから何千年もの時が経った、今この時代に、世界中を巻き込む恐ろしい感染症によって損なわれているのは、体や健康だけではなく、その「つながり」や「絆」、人間を根底から支える「信頼」や「関係性」までもが破壊されているように感じられ、気持ちが暗くなってしまいます。

しかし、先が見えないように思われる状況に置かれているこの時こそ、様々な物語を知っておく事が心の平安を保つ上で大きな力を発揮します。先ほど紹介した映画「コンティジョン」でも、ただのパニックに終始するのではなく、衝撃のラストに向けて重要な働きを始める存在：WHO（世界保健機関）やCDC（米国疾病対策センター）などに所属し、感染症に対して専門的な働きを行う人々が出てきます。実際、この映画はそれらの団体を詳しく調べた上で制

作されており、私たちが最近になってよく耳にするようになった「クラスター」や「ソーシャルディスタンス」などのキーワードも散見され、それが物語のリアルさと説得力を高めています。民衆が不安と絶望の中で極限状態に陥っていく中、専門家は科学的な見地と徹底した調査でウィルスの感染源を解明し、一刻も早いワクチンの開発に着手していきます。

あまり言うとはタバレになるので避けますが、このワクチン開発の場面で鮮やかに描かれるのが、「命への向き合い方」です。自分の利益と命を天秤にかけるのではなく、何よりもまず「命」を土台に据えて物事を判断していく。この「生きる矢印」の方向を自分の方から周りに転換していく。誰しもが恐怖に陥り自分の事しか考えられなくなっている中で、「命」という土台、揺るがない、他に代えられない「柱」を道標に力を尽くしていく。そのような生き方の先、真っ暗闇で終わりがないように思われたトンネルの先に一筋の光が見えてくる…。これも、苦しい現状に置かれている私たちに語り掛けられている「命」のメッセージではないかと思われまます。

そしてもう一つ、この映画を通して私の中に導かれた聖書の箇所が、2つ目に読んでいただいたルカによる福音書、これまた有名な「エマオの途上」の物語です。力と奇跡に満ちた、自分たちが救世主と信じて仰いできたイエスが、信じられないようなむごたらしい「十字架」によって処刑される。突然降りかかった災難を通して人生の行く先が見えなくなった2人の弟子たち。エルサレムには危ないと、エマオという村に向かって逃げだしていくその道半ばで復活のイエスが目の前に現れます。この物語の不思議さに直結しているのが私たちの持つ「目」の力です。イエスが目の前にいても、それと分からない弟子たち。しかしパンを裂き、イエスと分かった瞬間に逆に見えなくなるという、周りの状況を的確に判断するために与えられている「目」という器官が、心理的状况の中でどれほど危うく脆いものかを今日に伝えているように思います。

しかし同時に、この物語の最も深い所にあるメッセージ、すなわちどのような恐れや不安が心を襲っても、その只中に「主は共におられる」という語り掛けを通して「2人の目が開かれ」た事が記されています。私たちを取り巻く厳しい状況、お釣りがトレーに置かれ、マスクやシートが張られても、ソーシャルディスタンスで物理的な距離を取らなくてはならなくなっても、それらを乗り越えて「繋がり」を模索しようとする歩みが存在しています。沖縄県唯一のミッション系大学である沖縄キリスト教学院でも先週から遠隔授業が始まり、学生とのつながりが生まれ始めています。またこの月曜礼拝配信もその一つです。先週配信を始めたところ

ろ、4日ほどで800件に近いアクセスがあり、関係者一同で驚いています。この礼拝を通してつながりを模索するキリ学の姿勢が、まだ入学して間もない新入生はもとより、多くの学生・教職員、そして学院につながる保護者や卒業生にも、「あなたは決して独りではない、心の目を開く時、本当に大切なつながりが見えてくる」という真の福音に直結するメッセージを伝えていくものになるよう、心から願っています

English Translation

2020/04/27

Monday Service

Professor Mitsuaki Noma

「What opens the eyes of the heart」

Genesis 3:1-4 / Luke 24:28-35

Good morning, everyone.

When we take a look at the calendar on the wall, we see today is the last Monday of April. I believe that I am not the only one who feels that this month has gone by very fast. Working in an educational institute such as a school or college, it is natural that April, which is the start of a new school year, would go by very fast. Being excited by new encounters, meeting and welcoming new students. We are a bit tired from all the nervousness and unexpectedness but at the same time find the negatives are exceeded by the happiness of new discoveries, and by the joy and the sense of fulfilment engendered by the fresh smiles of the new students. These impressions of a typical “April” are nowhere to be seen this year. I cannot recall any school year like this. This is because the Coronavirus, which is raging through the world and nationwide, is forcing us to undergo major changes in our daily lives. There are plastic sheets in front of the cashier in grocery and convenience stores to avoid airborne infections, and signs are hung warning people to stay far apart when they’re standing in line. Clerks don’t return change and receipts hand-to-hand but rather they use trays. Many stores are shortening their business hours.

Just the other day, I went to the convenience store by my house to make some copies, but it was already closed at 10 p.m. Not only inside the store, but the whole neighborhood was dark. And in orange letters, the bulletin board by the road asked people to “refrain from going outside for non-essential things.” This sign made me feel like I was in trouble, and at the same time I couldn't believe that this was happening in real-life. It felt strange as if I was lost in some sort of a movie or novel.

Speaking of movies, there's a film that draws on our fear of a new virus spreading throughout the world at an unbelievable speed. It is titled “*Contagion*”. A merging of the words “contact” and “infection”, and it was released in the year 2011, so about 10 years ago, but it seems that this story, terrifyingly, is coming true in our present world. The story begins with the outbreak of a new virus in the United States, but the focus of the story gradually shifts from the fear of the virus to the foolishness and madness of humans who feared it. The strapline written under the title, “Fear infects faster than a virus”, seems to accurately represent the situation today. People who are anxious about the invisible virus are caught up in hysteria caused by hoaxes and further panic ensues.

The other day, it was reported that tissues and toilet paper which had nothing to do with Covid 19 were all being bought up and the shelves in Japanese supermarkets were empty. Even though in my brain I understand that in an emergency calm measures are necessary, I feel afraid and impatient with small changes in my life and become isolated or self-centered.

Apparently with the Coronavirus there is a long incubation period from infection to feeling ill. The illness causes the hemoglobin in the lungs to be destroyed and could lead to sudden dyspnea, and in some cases patients may die in less than 3 days. Therefore, I think that it must be a terrible disease, but in the current situation where self-restraint is required with regards gathering together at schools, workplaces, shopping malls, meeting venues, churches, etc. , “connections” and “bonds” that have marked basic human existence are falling apart, making a rattling sound as they do so, ahead of the march of the new Coronavirus.

When I think about this situation where people's relationships are disrupted, Genesis 3 which I read today comes to my mind. It is the famous story of the "Temptation of the Snake." A man lived happily with his beloved partner in The Garden of Eden, a wonderful paradise created by God, but he fell into the world of sin because of a sly question from a snake that suddenly came on the scene.

When I returned to my hometown, I found a snake on the road leading up a mountain. It was crawling in a weird way, which surprised me. Then the snake seemed to notice me and it slid into a small hole at the side of the road. Later, when I researched about snakes, I discovered that snakes can enter any space as long as their skull fits through the opening. Even in the biblical story, the snake makes its way through the gaps in the human heart and tempts the people to sin. Inviting them to "open their eyes", "become wise," and "know good from evil, like God knows." In the end, the people gave into temptation, ate the forbidden fruit, and as a result, "shame", "suspicion", "buck-passing" and "betrayal" now dominates the human mind. The "death", which was said to be caused by eating the fruit, is not actually a "physical death", but rather a "relationship falling apart".

What do you think? In this era, where thousands of years have passed since the Bible was written, not only the body and health, but also the "connections" and "bonds" of the world have been compromised by a terrifying infectious disease that ravages the world. I feel that the "Trust" and "relationships" that underpin human society are being destroyed, and it gives me a dark feeling. However, in this situation where the future can't be seen, knowing various stories plays a great role in maintaining our peace of mind. Even the film "Contagion" I mentioned earlier offers some comfort: there are people who start to take important action - people who perform specialized work regarding infectious diseases, such as those who belong to the WHO (World Health Organization) and the CDC (US Centers for Disease Control). In fact, this film was made after extensive research into those groups, and some of the words we've heard of recently, such as "cluster" and "social distance," are keywords in the film. This enhances the realism and persuasiveness of the story. As the public falls into an extreme state of anxiety and despair,

experts elucidate the source of the virus from a scientific point of view and through thorough research start to develop a vaccine.

To avoid spoilers, I won't talk too much about it, but what is vividly drawn in the scene where they are developing the vaccine is "how we should face life". Rather than focusing only on your own life first, you should make decisions based on "life" as the foundation. Changing the direction of this "arrow of living" from yourself to your surroundings. While everyone is in fear and can only think about themselves, do your best using the foundation of "life," the unchanging "pillar" as a guide. At the conclusion of such life, a ray of light can be seen at the end of the tunnel that seemed endless in total darkness. I think this is also the message of "life" spoken to us in a difficult situation.

And the other part of the Bible this movie brought to mind was the second verse I read earlier from the gospel of Luke. This is also a very famous story; "The Road to Emmaus." Jesus, full of power and miracles and who they believed to be the Savior, was executed in an incredibly cruel way; "crucified on the cross". The two disciples lost sight of where their lives were going after this sudden disaster and were running away to the village of Emmaus, because there was danger in Jerusalem. During their escape, Jesus, who was resurrected from the dead, appeared right in the middle of their way. The power of the "eyes" is directly connected to the mystery of this story. Even though Jesus was standing right in front of them, they couldn't recognize him. However, when they break the bread and finally realize that Jesus is the one standing before them, suddenly they could not see Him anymore. This shows how the "eyes" which enable us to accurately judge the surrounding situation, are dangerous and fragile in psychological situations like this.

But at the same time, the deepest message in this story, is that no matter what fear or anxiety strikes the heart, the "eyes of the two were opened". As the gospel says, "The Lord is with us." Even though harsh conditions surround us now, such as masks and sheets stretched between people, and keeping social distance, there are movements that try to overcome this adversity and make connections. In Okinawa Christian Institute, which is the only mission-based university in

Okinawa, distance learning started last week, and connections between the students are beginning to build. This Monday service is also part of that. When we uploaded the Monday Service last week, there were about 800 hits in 4 days, and everyone involved was surprised. I sincerely hope that this attitude of OCU seeking connections through Monday Worship, not only for new students who have just entered the school, but also for older students and faculty members, as well as parents and graduates who are connected to the academy, will convey a message that is directly connected to the true gospel: "You are never alone. When you open your eyes, you will see the truly important connection."

Let us pray.

Dear Lord our heavenly Father, who continuously guides us and gives blessings. April is coming to an end soon, and I thank you for giving us this opportunity to have the Monday service in the OCI chapel again. Right now, Okinawa, Japan, and the world is in the midst of great fear and pain. But even in this situation, we are able to start our new week by facing our hearts to you and looking towards hope. Thank you very much. Please bless each and every one of us who are here, Those who are connected to this journey, and to those who are watching this video. Please guide us in a way that we can remember that Your hope will be given to us in darkness, and the darker it is, the brighter your light will shine. We can't thank you enough. In your precious son's Holy name we pray, Amen.

司会 訊②

President Youngsoo Kim:

This is the end of today's service.