

“The reason why Jesus came to the world” Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:46-55 (12/22/24)

Right after I became a Christian, I was full of joy and happiness. Everything was beautiful, and everything was great. Since I was in New Zealand when I became a Christian, I had many chances to see the beautiful nature that God created. Even the grass on the sidewalk and a little flower were so beautiful and gave me so much happiness. However, this emotional joy did not continue for a long time in my life. My life situation did not change a lot after I became a Christian. I still had uncomfortable feelings when I attended worship services or church gatherings because of my family. Many challenges and suffering were still in my life. Those challenges and suffering made me feel sad and made me difficult at the time. I believed that Jesus came to me because Jesus loved me. But I could not understand why my life did not change and was still the same. I could not understand why God did not give me many great changes in my life. Why did Jesus come? Why did God incarnate to the world? Those questions were big questions for me. As I explained before, the very special characteristic of Christianity is the presence of God. God came to us in the human body. Then, we can ask, “Why did Jesus come? Why should Jesus come to human beings? Why did God choose the way of incarnation for the people?”

We can see the reason why Jesus came to the human being in today's scripture. In Hebrew scripture, verses 7-9. It says, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God." And verse 9, "Then he added behold. I have come to do your will." So, if we simply answer the question, "Why did you just come to us?" It is because "to do God's will." Yes, Jesus came to us to fulfill God's will, to do God's will.

Then we can have another question. What is God's will? What does God want to do through Jesus Christ? I explained it several times, and I emphasized it a lot of times. The will of God is "Emmanuel," "being with us." Jesus represented that God came to us. God is with us. To know more about God's will, we need to know God's nature. In today's Gospel Scripture, we can see one God's nature. "God is holy." Mary said, "Holy is God's name." This part of Luke is known as the Prayer of Mary or the Song of Mary. Here, Mary praised God, and she mentioned a lot about what God did for her and the people. In verse 49, she mentioned God's nature. God is holy, which means God cannot be with sin. This God's nature shows that we should be restored to be with God. To be with God, we should be restored from our sinful nature. To be with us, God should restore the broken relationship between God and humans. We, human beings, cannot

restore our sinful nature by ourselves. So, we need some other help to restore us. That is what Jesus did after coming to the Earth. Jesus restored the broken relationship between God and humans.

When we think about the restoration of the relationship between God and humans. We normally think about sin and forgiveness. In the theological world, we say it is justification. It is true. Jesus came to us, and he solved our sin problem through his sacrifice. Through Jesus's sacrifice, our sin has been forgiven. And the reconciliation occurred between God and human beings. However, we can find one interesting thing in today's Hebrew scripture. In today's Hebrew scripture, the author said, "And by that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." The author used the words, "have been sanctified." The author said that we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. It is a very interesting expression of the author of Hebrew.

The letter to Hebrew. This Hebrew is a letter that an author wrote to Jews. Many scholars have diverse opinions about the authorship of this letter. It is impossible to clearly determine the author of this letter. However, we can see that this letter explains Jesus according to many Jewish religion practices. So many

scholars agree that this letter was written to Jews in the time of the Roman Empire.

If we think sanctification is the life of the holy, for Jewish people, sanctification probably was not an attractive topic for them. From ancient times until now, Jewish people have been doing really well about holy life. They still keep a lot of the laws that God gave them. Probably, justification was the better topic to attract Jewish people's interest at this time. However, the author of Hebrew explained that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ.

Through this expression of the author of Hebrew, we could know that Jesus came to us not only for justification but also for our sanctification. Jesus sacrificed himself for our justification and sanctification, which means Jesus came to us to be with us. And Jesus came to us for our restoration and our holy life. I want to use another word for the holy life. Jesus came to us to live with us.

When I first time went to Hawaii. It was so great. The nature was beautiful. The weather was perfect, and the people were so nice. The temperature of the water in the sea was warm. I could swim every day. I could see beautiful fish in the water. I could see such a beautiful sunset every day. And I could enjoy coffee

with a beautiful view every morning. For the first time, I stayed in Hawaii for three months for my basic missionary training course. It was a basic course, so studying was not really hard. I had a lot of free time to enjoy the nature of Hawaii. So, a lot of people around me were jealous of me because of my life in Hawaii. I also loved my life in Hawaii. Then, I heard that there was a Bible teaching course for 9 months. So, I decided to continue to stay in Hawaii for a beautiful life and for Bible study. When I returned to Hawaii after the mission trip, which was one of the mandatory courses for missionary training, I was happy for a few weeks. However, after some weeks, life in Hawaii was not beautiful anymore. I did not have any free time. I was so busy studying the Bible. And Hawaii was too hot. The Grocery price and living costs were too high. People were lazy, and everything was slow. The weather was too humid and rainy. The sunlight was too strong, so I tried to avoid it every time. And all kinds of huge-sized bugs were everywhere. A centipede jumped into my bed while I was sleeping. Big size cockroaches were flying everywhere.

At this time, I realized that the life of traveling and the life of living are totally different. When we travel to some country, every moment is so special. Even though the culture, food, weather, and people are unfamiliar, we understand

and enjoy those differences for the special event. However, living an ordinary life is different. In everyday life, the same things always happen over and over again. Challenges and suffering give us more stress while they give us excitement during travel. Living in life could be boring. It could be nothing special.

We talked about justification and sanctification that came from Jesus. If we think only of justification through Jesus Christ, it is just half of our restoration. It is just half of our faith. For example, we can imagine a person who has a cold. When we have a cold, we take medication to heal it. After getting better from the cold, we should have time to recover. After we are determined to have no more viruses, we should have some time to recover our bodies. We should rest at home until our bodies recover enough. Otherwise, we will have other viruses again because of a weakened immune system. Our spiritual restoration process is very similar. Justification is the moment that we are justified as righteous through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. After this justification, we should have some time to grow up as people of Christ. This is the time of sanctification. If we believe just, “We are done. Now, we are good Christians,” after justification, that faith cannot continue for a long time. We just had a new life as righteousness after justification. So, we can fall down because of many temptations in life. So after justification,

we should have some time to strengthen our faith. That is a sanctification.

Let's talk more about the sanctification. Then what is sanctification? How can we strengthen our faith? How can we live a life of sanctification? When people hear about sanctification, they imagine the life of holy, which means we should not commit any sins, we should not behave like sinners, and We should be good people through sanctification. This is probably the correct answer for the sanctification, but this is only one side. We should remember today's scripture, in which the author of Hebrews said we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. So the very important and main point of sanctification, the life of sanctification, is not being a good person but living with Jesus Christ. It is not the travel with Christ. It is living with Jesus Christ.

When I was not a Christian, I was confident that I was a good person. I did not do any illegal things. I behaved as a good person to others. I liked to help others. According to the teaching of Buddha, I did not kill even a bug. And nobody said to me, "You are a bad person." Compared to other Christians, I was confident that I was a better person than Christians. I was very ethical, even though I was not a Christian. However, Jesus was not in my life when I was not a Christian. The difference between the life of Christians and non-Christians is not the matter

of being a good person or a bad person. The difference between the life of Christians and non-Christians is living with Jesus.

Our life of faith is a life lived with Jesus. The reason why Jesus came to us is to live with us. Through the incarnation of Jesus, our sinful nature is restored, and we can live with Jesus. Now, we have Christmas this week. The birth of Jesus brought us new life. Our God came to us with a human body to live with us. I hope we can be Christians who live with Jesus. May God bless us with the grace of sanctification during this Christmas week. Amen.