



Sermon, Sunday March 27, 2022

“The life of Christians who trust in the Lord”

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 8:11-18 ¹¹ For the LORD spoke thus to me while his hand was strong upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ¹² Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what it fears, or be in dread. ¹³ But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy; let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. ¹⁴ He will become a sanctuary, a stone one strikes against; for both houses of Israel he will become a rock one stumbles over—a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken. ¹⁶ Bind up the testimony, seal the teaching among my disciples. ¹⁷ I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. ¹⁸ See, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Introduction: The Life of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah chapter 6 describes the call of Isaiah as a prophet. For those who have been called by God to be prophets, it is important to listen to God's word and obey God's will. The Christian life today has the same aspects as the life of the prophets in the Old Testament times. One must listen carefully to the word of the Lord and live in obedience to it. We must have trust in the Lord in order to listen and obey His Word.

Examples of this can be found all over our lives. The people of Ukraine, who are currently at war with Russia, trust the words of their leader, President Zelensky. So, they work together to overcome the Russian aggression. This example is the same at home. If children trust the words of their parents, the family will be firmly united around the parents and offer a stable situation.

However, trusting and following someone does not happen automatically. How, then, can we live a Christian life that trusts in the Lord? Let's find the answer through the text of Isaiah today.

Body: Efforts required to live a life of trusting the Lord

1. We must be able to cooperate to do the work the Lord has entrusted to us.

The Bible speaks of various communities. In the Old Testament, there is a community of Israel called by God, and in the New Testament, there is a Christian community called to live an eschatological life for the fulfillment of the kingdom of God. Why are so many different communities mentioned in the Bible? There are many different reasons, but one is to experience a model of heaven that the Lord wants to show us through the community.

In other words, the visible church community to which we belong is a place where we can experience and know the kingdom of God that Jesus spoke of. So, one of the efforts we need to make to trust in the Lord is to learn how to work well together in the church community. One of the most important things for Christians in achieving this cooperation is the idea that we are members of the body of the Lord, the Church.

In general, cooperation in the world is needed to achieve some common purpose and benefit. However, the most important thing in the cooperation of the church community is to realize that we are all members of the church, the body of the Lord, in order to achieve a common purpose and benefit.



How can we confirm that we have realized membership in the body of the Lord, the Church? It can be seen through how our community shows cooperation through respect and tolerance for each other. Jesus did not discriminate against people based on their wealth, appearance, or power, but respected all and embraced differences. When we do church work, we must be able to do it with this attitude and heart.

These days, if you look at the choir of the Korean Church in Des Moines and the church school for children, you can find this kind of cooperation and respect. Thank you so much for showing everyone respect for each other and acknowledging and embracing differences. When we do the Lord's work with this attitude and heart, we are able to bear the sacrifices to serve others with joy and obey the Lord's will.

This example is the same as with the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah's first mission as a prophet was to go to King Ahaz of Judah with his eldest son. However, at that time, the southern kingdom of Judea was in a very difficult situation. Northern Israel came to attack southern Judah. In this context, the Lord indicates what the Lord wants to happen through the naming of the sons of the prophet Isaiah. **Isaiah's first son, Shear-jashub, means 'A remnant shall return,' and the second son, Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, means 'Spoil quickly, plunder speedily.'** This means that northern Israel, which had been fighting Judea, would later be plundered by the King of Assyria.

The prophet Isaiah confesses: "Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion." (Isaiah 8:18)

For Christians, the Lord requires that we work together to carry out His work. When we understand what it means to be a member of the body of the church, we are better able to serve others through obedience and sacrifice and through respect and tolerance. The prophet Isaiah also knew the good will of the Lord for the Israeli community, so he was able to sacrifice his family and life for the people of southern Judea. So, what do we need to live a Christian life that trusts in the Lord?

2. Christians must develop patience.

Second, Christians must develop patience. **God speaks after calling Isaiah. "Go and tell this people:" 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.'** (Isaiah 6:9-10) Isaiah asks the Lord a question. **"For how long, O Lord? And He answered: "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted, and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken."** (Isaiah 6:11-12)

How long must Isaiah wait for the unrepentant people of Judah? There may or may not be a fixed period. At this time, the servant of God must not be disappointed and must be patient. How, then, can we endure such a situation? First, do not doubt that God is with us. **"I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him."** (Isaiah 8:17) Second, we should work with a co-worker. God did not leave Isaiah alone. Third, we must remember that suffering is temporary. **"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."** (2 Corinthians 4:17)

So, what is the last thing we need to live a Christian life that trusts in the Lord?

3. Christians should fear God, not the power and wealth of the world.

Christians should fear God, not the power and wealth of the world. **Look at Isaiah 8:12-13, "Do not call conspiracy all that this people call conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy; let him be your fear and let him be your dread."**

God tells Isaiah not to fear what people fear, but to fear the Lord. Moses' mother was not afraid of Pharaoh, King of Egypt, but feared God. So, Moses was saved. According to Agur's prayer in Proverbs, Agur was not afraid of poverty, but instead was afraid of obscuring the glory of God. Jesus also taught His disciples whom to



fear. **“But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”** (Luke 12:5-7)

Isaiah tells us how much we should fear God. **“But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy; let him be your fear and let him be your dread.”** (Isaiah 8:13)

Conclusion: The Christian Life of Trust in the Lord

Now let's summarize today's sermon. We need to share an attitude for life like the prophet Isaiah. We must not forget what it means to be a member of the church, the body of Christ. We also need to increase our ability to persevere. And we must have faith to fear the Lord rather than fear the world. You will experience the amazing blessings of the Lord as you take each step toward this kind of life. I hope you will enjoy such blessings to the fullest.

