

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas
May 14, 2017

Not Leave Alone

John 14:16-20

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

14:19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

14:20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

1. God's Love

Happy Mother's Day! Mother's Day had started in 1907, from the Memorial Service of Anna Jervis' mother. We have been celebrating Mother's Day by going church with all family members, and mothers would have received the thanksgiving letters from their children; this was how we celebrate Mother's Day in a traditional manner. Yet the more Mother's Day became popular, it has been hundling more in commercial ways. Anna Jervis, the founder of Mother's Day, was in fact arrested because of her complaints of commercial utilization over Mother's Day.

While Anna's life, Mother's Day was already commercially opened. Then how about present days? Holidays found by church

become popular and famous, I would rejoice it, but the original meaning has been forgotten or obscured in most case. If we adopt such celebrations which have lost the original meanings into church, it's really sorry. We would love to celebrate Christmas, Easter, and Mother's Day, like we have been doing among traditional manner.

On Mother's Day, we remember the love of mothers and give them thanks for their works. However, worship is for God, so we also give thanks and adore God's love. Mother's love is from God's love, indeed, so we adore and worship the God of Love, too.

In the Bible, God is called "Father." This word represents the greatness of God's Love. Yet we shouldn't misunderstand God has no love like mothers sensitively do. Just like Isaiah 49:15 says, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you."

Once many countries had abandoned children. It decreases recently, but still there. In order to protect such kids, "Babyklappe" has been established in Germany. The infant babies will be "posted" if their mothers cannot bring them up by themselves. In Japan, Ji-kei Hospital of Kumamoto is the first and only hospital that has the Japanese version of Babyklappe. Its official name is "Kounotori-no-Yurikago (cradle of storks)," but people call it "Mailbox of Infants." The "Mailbox" was set in April 2007, and this year is 10th anniversary. Then it was on TV and newspapers. Many of the children brought to the hospital were adopted or fostered, but some of them are still staying in orphanages.

In Texas, over hundred of babies are abandoned in one year, and 16

of them were found after they were dead. They were sometimes found in trashcan or bathroom. For saving such babies, it established “Baby Moses Law.” Baby Moses was abandoned in the river, but the princess of Egypt saved him, as you know well, the story from the Bible was taken for helping mothers. This law was enacted for the support growing the babies up until they get 2 months after birth. You may have seen “SAFE BABY SITE” sign at fire stations or hospitals. In California, I saw “SAFE SURRENDER SITE” sign at fire stations.

No mothers would like to abandon their babies; they should have reasons. For preventing the babies from abandoned situation, there are lots of laws and supports, even though we can't save all of them. However, God says to the abandoned children and those who couldn't receive the love of mother enough in their lives, “Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.” If we don't receive love from our mothers, God gives you the greatest love sufficient for healing you. It's not easy to let it go when you have traumatic experiences in your youth time, but God can let you overcome if you believe in. In Psalm 27:10, it says, “For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.” We're assured of God's love that He never leave us alone as long as we rely on Him.

2. Promise of Christ

This love of God became more prominent by Jesus Christ. Jesus has promised for us in John 14:18. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” As if a mother who is looking at her child all day no matter what happens, Jesus is always with us, believers. But how does Jesus be with us?

Firstly, by His Resurrection. When Jesus and his disciples finished the last supper, Jesus said to his disciples, “I will not leave you as orphans” The disciples could not understand what Jesus meant; however, they understood that something strange would happen. Jesus was leaving this world. However, Jesus, Lord of life will not stay in death. As Lord noticed previously, Jesus was resurrected after the third day. When Jesus was hanged on the cross, the disciples abandoned their Lord; however, Lord did not abandoned his disciples. Jesus resurrected and came back to his disciples.

Secondly, by the Holy Spirit. Jesus went back to heaven forty days after the Resurrection, and he gave us another helper, who is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came from heaven instead of Lord Jesus who went back to the heaven. The Holy Spirit stays inside of believers, and Jesus Christ stays with us through the Holy Spirit. In the Scripture, God is called “Father” and Lord Jesus is called “Son”, and you might have an image of masculinity for them. However, the Holy Spirit gives birth of God’s children, nurtures, leads, teaches, and comforts, and this is an image of “mother”. We can experience the love of mother “even your mother forget you, I will not forget you.” through the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, by the Second Coming. The promise, “I will not leave you as orphans,” will be fulfilled by the Second Coming of the Lord. Lord Jesus went back to heaven but it does not mean we are alone in this world. But, when Jesus will come back to this world and we will be lifted up to heaven, we will be welcomed to the mansion in heaven, which Lord Jesus has prepared, and we will live with Lord Jesus. Yes, it will be forever with Lord Jesus.

Ludie Day Pickett wrote this poem based on the promise of Lord Jesus. The poem became a popular hymn titled “No, Nover Alone.” In the forth stanza, we read,

He died for me on the mountain,
For me they pierced His side,
For me He opened the fountain,
The crimson, cleansing tide;
For me He’s waiting in glory,
Seated upon His throne,
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.
No, never alone, No, never alone;
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

In this stanza, Lord Jesus gave us his life in order to accept us into heaven and not to leave us alone. We shall believe in this promise of Lord Jesus and receive the love of God, which was shown on the cross. Let praise God with confidence singing, “No, never alone.”

(Prayer)

Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for Your love. By the love you gave us mothers and nurtured us by them. Even if we did not receive Mother’s love enough, we have the love from You. We pray that both mothers and children may receive your love fully and establish good relationship. In the name of Lord Jesus, Amen.