

Treasure Hunt

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Arkansas Loving Church, Pastor Sungtae Hong, 11/15/2020

[Hebrews 5: 7] ¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Today's text starts with the explanation of a distinctive figure, 'Melchizedek.' In Genesis, Melchizedek is described as a mystic person, prince of peace, and priest of God Most High. He is the one who blessed Abram who returned from defeating his enemies. He is quite similar to Jesus in many aspects.

Then, the writer of Hebrews plainly shows his uncomfortable feelings (toward the Jewish-Christians) as he continues his writing. Why? That's because the Jewish-Christians did not have conviction on Jesus even though he had already taught them the truths about Jesus Christ for many times. Their being Jewish-Christians became their weakness! The stereotype about their priests and the tradition of their laws made them difficult to move forward. Thus, the stereotype and the tradition were holding them off from moving forward, making them linger only at the elementary level of faith.

We are basically in the same situation. Jesus accepted the suffering of coming to this world in order for us to become mature/complete. However, our faith could not pass the elementary level. When we are faced with just a little bit of difficulty, we doubt God and we get disappointed with Him thinking that He did not carry out our requests. We do not give our sovereignty to God. Rather, we repeat serving God just like we serve idols. 'Maturity/Completeness,' the purpose of His coming to this world, has not been accomplished even at the very basic level.

Accomplishing 'maturity/completeness' is like hunting a treasure. The most valuable treasure is hidden in the place where it is not easy for the hunters to find. What is being easily found is just a bait. Some people are satisfied with acquiring a few baits. However, the person who gets the best gift is the one who does his/her best to find the most valuable treasure.

We hear the lamentations of the writer of Hebrews: 'The best gift is resembling the completeness of Christ. That's the true treasure. Then, why do you still stay at the elementary level? Why do you misunderstand that that's all the doctrine that you need to know? Why do you get disappointed? And why do you pour out your complaints to God? The quintessence of faith is resembling the nature of Jesus Christ: Humility, obedience, and maturity.'

[Hebrews 6: 2b(1)-3] ^{2b} (¹ Therefore let us move,... forward to maturity) 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

At what level of faith currently are we? Are we in the path of maturity toward Jesus Christ? Or are we still in a fog and run about in confusion at the elementary level just like what the writer of

Hebrews groans about? Don't we close the Bible when it gets difficult by saying, 'what's this? I don't understand! I will just take a nap!' When we are faced with a tough situation, we misunderstand God by saying, 'Why is it like this? God said that He loves me. Is that His love? Isn't He a liar?' When God does not answer our prayers, we say, 'I knew it! God listens to the prayers of all the other people, but me! He closed His ears to my prayers!' We might be living our lives by showing our back to God with disappointment because we cannot control God.

Only those who walk toward His maturity understand the treasure, Jesus Christ, and the abundance flowing from Him. Let's pass the elementary level of faith. Let's walk toward the path for the real treasure, not for the fake!