

S■ The 127th Sharing of the Word 《Commentary and Meditation》

● First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

In this passage, from fallen humanity (original sin, the Flood of Noah, and the Tower of Babel), God chooses Abram in order to bless all humanity and make him a turning point toward salvation. By letting go of the foundation of his life and leaving his birthplace and his father's house, Abram cuts off what he had relied upon and clarifies whom he will obey.

Faith means trusting God and walking in obedience, even when the way is not yet clearly shown. The path is revealed along the journey. Even amid uncertainty, Abram obeys God and goes to the land that God will show him.

At that time Abram had no child. The promise of becoming a great nation was nearly impossible. Yet "blessing" means right fellowship with God life and mission. God will make His name great, establish blessing as its source, and make Abram a channel through which blessing flows from its source to a spiritual people.

God and Abram become united in destiny. God stands behind him: "I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse." There is a history in medieval Europe that nations which made use of the Jewish people became dominant powers during the Age of Exploration, while those that despised them declined.

Modern Christians, through baptism in the Holy Spirit, are connected to Abraham. Not limited to a particular nation, all humanity is one family (clan) on earth, and God blesses them all.

Abram raises no questions and sets no conditions before God; he simply obeys the word of the Lord. The place where Abram once paused was Haran, yet it is never too late for a new calling. At seventy-five years of age, Abram sets out for the land of God.

[A Word from the Author] I felt relieved to know that even now we are bound together with Abraham by the same Holy Spirit.

● Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Paul, already imprisoned in Rome and prepared for martyrdom, writes to Timothy in a time when proclaiming the gospel and confessing Jesus as Lord was considered shameful. He urges him not to be ashamed of the gospel.

The testimony of experiencing and confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior grasps His love and truth, transforming one's entire way of life so that one becomes a prisoner of the Lord. Fear of worldly evaluation and fear of failure produce shame, but believers are not ruled by these. They are sustained by God's power through the Holy Spirit.

Paul encourages Timothy not to avoid suffering for the gospel nor to stand alone, but to endure hardship together with the Church. Salvation is born from the gospel and comes according to God's own plan and grace.

Salvation transfers us to God's value system. It is a holy calling an invitation to live as those who belong to the new Kingdom of God. This plan of redemption existed within God from eternity, before creation itself, though it remained hidden for a long time. It was revealed through the appearing of Jesus.

Through Jesus' resurrection, the dominion of death was broken this was the decisive blow that destroyed death. The new eternal life lived with God is called imperishable life, and this was revealed through the gospel.

Paul assures Timothy that this gospel is guaranteed by God Himself. Proclaimed boldly through the Church, it powerfully encourages Timothy and the believers who follow after him.

● Gospel Reading Matthew 17 : 1-9

After Peter confessed, "You are the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16), Jesus foretold His suffering and resurrection (Matthew 16:21). The disciples had been expecting a glorious Messiah. A suffering Messiah was beyond their expectation, and they were shaken wondering whether Jesus truly was the Son of God (the Messiah).

The purpose of the Transfiguration in this passage is:

To give the disciples heavenly assurance that Jesus' suffering is part of God's plan.

For God to testify that Jesus is His Son.

To show that Jesus fulfills the entirety of the Old Testament.

Six days after the prediction of His suffering (recalling the six days of creation), Jesus goes up a high mountain, the meeting place of God and Himself. There He receives God's glory. His face shines like the sun, and His clothes become white like heavenly light.

Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) appear and speak about Jesus' departure (Luke 9:31). Seeing this, Peter exclaims, "It is wonderful for us to be here," and, recalling the Feast of Tabernacles (a festival celebrating joy and fulfillment), proposes building three tents.

Then a bright cloud appears, signifying God's presence, and a voice declares, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." Hearing that final authority belongs to Jesus, the disciples fall face down in submission.

The Lord of glory approaches them, gently touches them, and says, "Do not be afraid." Glory will be completed when the Son of Man rises from the dead. Therefore, until that time comes, Jesus commands them to tell no one about this event.

[A Word from the Author] The disciples who were there must have begun trembling from head to toe, their bodies stiff with overwhelming fear and awe.

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