

Look at the Lilies of the Field

Peter

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith?

(Matthew 6:28-30)

Flowers respond to love. So I believe.

It is spring in Japan, the season of cherry blossoms. Japanese people especially love and admire the beauty of cherry blossoms. Yet, there are flowers more beautiful than them. They are the flowers of the field blooming without being appreciated by anyone. Their beauty is that they bloom just as they are. There is nothing artificial about them. Look at the lilies of the field, and you will see the love of God.

A long time ago, there was a plane crash in South America. The airplane plunged into a primeval forest, and there was only one survivor. The damaged plane was invisible from the sky, covered by jungles of the Andes. The man dragged his badly-bruised body, climbing down the hill. He walked and walked, trying to find help. He drank from rivers and ate any plant looking edible. He went over one ridge, and then another, hoping to find a village on the other side, but what he saw was an endless green jungle. Two weeks went by without finding anything. He put forth his last-ditch effort to climb a ridge, desperately hoping to find any inhabitant after crossing one more ridge. However, when

he came to the top, all he saw was the ocean spread of green forest. He lost all hope, and collapsed to the ground.

He did not know how long he was there. When he woke up, he saw a violet flower blooming before his eyes. Having no strength to get up, he was gazing at the flower for hours. Had he not been in the plane crash, he would never have known that the flower was there. He was struck by its beauty. It was just blooming without being seen by anybody. He had never once thought about the life of a small violet. While he was staring at it, the strength welled up from inside of him. Several days later, he finally made it to a village and was rescued. He says that when he cried out in despair, “This is the end. I am dying,” a single flower saved him.

It is indeed the salvation by God.

Man can be saved just by looking at a single flower, for there the love of God awaits him.

At the same time, man’s existence itself is a single flower. Although no one pays attention to him, he blooms just as he is. Yet how God rejoices in his existence!

When we wonder why we are living or if we can ever bloom in our lifetime, God says to us, “I am glad that you are here just as you are.” In it is love. If we know that we live in God’s love, we will want to know His love more deeply. We are created to long for the love of God. We are a flower living in His love, breathing His love.

Look at a flower in the field. Most people are too busy making a living to take time to do so. However, I tell you now. Just once in your life, look at a flower without any purpose or without consideration for any benefit – its beautiful shape, color, fragrance . . . Who can create such beauty?

Looking at a flower, don't you feel a mystery of life? Something seems to be overflowing. I feel a stream of the divine life which can only be described as love. When I speak to the flower, it responds to my heart with an inaudible voice. Sometimes I feel a flow of life as if it were praying for me. Even Solomon in all his glory cannot compare with the beauty of a flower.

Here is the secret of life, which opens up the way to the life of God.

When a woman poured a very costly fragrant oil over Jesus' head, the disciples said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted?" Then Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me (Mark 14:6 NKJ)." In Greek, "good" also means "beautiful." To do a good work for the Lord is to do a beautiful thing for Him.

No matter how good our deeds may be, they have no value in heaven. However, those who know Christ's forgiveness offer everything to the Lord without trying to impress anybody just as that woman in the Bible did. Even though she was blamed for being sinful or useless, she did not make any excuse. She just wanted to pour her heart, no matter how sinful and impure, if it was the joy of the Lord. This is the praise and the worship.

Look how beautifully flowers worship the Lord. Take your time and look at them, and you will find the Lord rejoicing in them. A single flower is one with the divine life, and if you incline your ear and listen, you can hear the praise of the flower resounding over the fields, mountains and the sky. Each tiny flower is singing the praise of the universe.

Then you will know that the Lord is in the very midst of the praise, rejoicing over a single flower of the field.

Once you are awakened to the truth, you will say, “I need nothing more. The love of Christ alone is sufficient.”
Here lies the secret of life.

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Kohitsuji no Mure Christian Church
3-25 Yoko-cho, Ashiya, Hyogo 659-0034 Japan
URL:<https://kohitsuji.com/english>