



Dialogue
Creating the Next 60 Years

『記念事業実施報告書』

2015年6月2日
献学60周年記念礼拝



献学60周年記念事業
国際基督教大学



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2015 年度献学 60 周年記念礼拝および講演 (Dr. John C. Knapp)

今年の献学 60 周年記念礼拝は、説教者に Dr. John C. Knapp (第 12 代アメリカミシガン州ホープカレッジ学長) を迎えて執り行われました。同校と ICU は、国境を越えてリベラルアーツ教育を推進することを目的とした Global Liberal Arts Alliance のメンバーであることに加え、私立のリベラルアーツカレッジで、少人数教育と Christianity を理念として掲げるという共通点があり、このたびの学長来訪を機に、さらに交流を深めました。

礼拝では、コリント人への第一の手紙 7 章 17 節、23 節 -24 節の朗読に続き、自分が置かれている場所で日々最善を尽くすことの大切さを明快な言葉で参会者に説きました。続く学生、構成員ならびに ICU 関係者に向けた「21 世紀におけるリベラルアーツ教育の価値」と題した講演では、Knapp 学長はリベラルアーツ教育こそ今社会が求めている力を養う教育であると語りました。複雑化する世の中の問題の解決には、様々な分野、視点から物事を見つめ、少しでも疑問があれば恐れず問い続けることが大切で、そうすることによりクリティカルシンキングの力が養われ、さらに知見を応用する力、倫理的・道義的に正しい判断を行う力、物事を多面的に捉えながら妥協点を見出し意思決定する力が養われると述べ、これこそがリベラルアーツ教育であり、真にリーダーとなる人が身につけるべき力である、と語りました。



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講演後には、在學生をはじめ、本学教職員、同窓生からの活発な質疑がありました。その中でセコイアの木のとえ話が聴衆を惹きつけました。90メートル以上に伸びるセコイアは、あたかも周りには目もくれずに独力ですく々と天空目指して成長しているように見えますが、実は決して一本の力だけで、巨木に成長するのではなく、その根が隣接するセコイアの根と絡み合い、互いに支え合いながら成長して行くからこそ他に類をみない高さまで成長するという説明でした。今日の講演を聴いた人々は、四季それぞれの姿で見る者を楽しませてくれるICU図書館正面入り口の2本のセコイアに、ICUとHope Collegeのこれからの世界に向けた共存を深く感じ取ったのではないのでしょうか。また、ICUのキャンパスの芝生で学生達が思い思いに静かに過ごしている姿に、Knapp学長は、「キャンパスに、一人静かに過ごせる場所があることがとても大切で、そのような時間と空間があることで学生は自己を振り返り、分析し、一人で居ることを決して恐れることなく、あらためて他者との関わり大切さを学び続けることが出来る。こういう時間と空間を学生が持つことは、リベラルアーツ教育にとっては大変重要な要素であり、ICUにそれがあることに深く感動した」とも述べられました。Knapp学長が講演のはじめに、リベラルアーツ教育の特長の一つとして生涯学び続ける姿勢を挙げたことにも深く通じるコメントでした。

入梅を目前に控えたキャンパスでの午後のひとは、リベラルアーツ教育の価値をあらためて問う貴重な機会となりました。

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IICU 献学 60 周年記念事業 2015 年 6 月 2 日 (火)

創立記念大学礼拝

司式 北中晶子 牧師

賛美歌 第 448 番「みめぐみを身にうくれば」

聖書朗読 コリント人への第一の手紙 7 章 17 節、23 節-24 節 北中晶子 牧師

説教 ホープカレッジ学長 ジョン C. ナップ 「あらゆる場所で神に仕える」

International Christian University Chapel Service

Dr. John C. Knapp

President, Hope College

Sermon Title: Serving God in Every Place

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:17 and 23-24

17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

. . . . 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

In his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul offers this advice: Serve God wherever you are at the time you become a follower of Jesus Christ. Don't quit your job or assume that God wants you to go to a faraway mission field. Ask how God can use you here and now.

A much earlier story in the Bible illustrates this point quite well. It is the story of a powerful man who comes to know God in a surprising way, only to realize that the duties of his executive position seem difficult to reconcile with the will of God. We find the story in 2 Kings 5:1-19.

Naaman is the commanding general of the army of Syria, a kingdom perpetually at war with Israel. He also suffers from leprosy, a frightful illness for which there is no cure.

In the unlikeliest of scenarios, a servant girl tells him of a prophet in Israel, who may be able to cleanse him of the disease. Desperate enough to try anything, he asks his king for permission to travel to Israel for help. The Syrian monarch obliges and sends a letter to the king of Israel, asking him to receive Naaman and cure his leprosy.

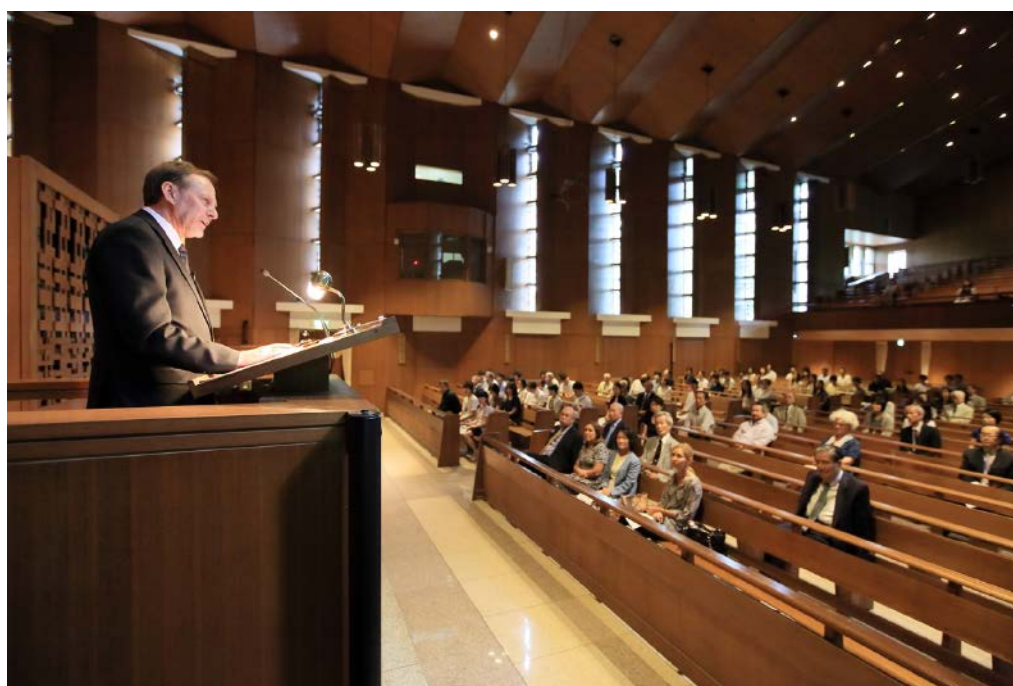
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As you might imagine, the Israelite king is stunned by the request to cure an incurable disease and initially takes it for some kind of enemy trick. He eventually agrees and allows Naaman and his royal entourage to seek help from the prophet Elisha. The prophet declines to meet the visitors but sends a messenger to tell Naaman to wash in the Jordan River seven times “and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”

Naaman questions the idea that river water can cure anything, for he had expected the prophet to dramatically wave his hand over the leprosy in the fashion of a magician. But his friends convince him to go into the river, and he is completely cured. In one of Scripture’s most dramatic moments of conversion, Naaman gives credit to the living God and exclaims: “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.”

In fact, he is so sure that God lives only in one land that he gathers two mule-loads of Israel’s soil to take back to Syria to build a personal altar for worship. It is at this moment that Naaman realizes that his job back home will require him to kneel beside the king of Syria at the altar of the pagan idol Rimmon. He knows that this will be blasphemous and scandalous for a follower of the one true God. Even with his personal altar to Yahweh, he will appear to be participating in the worship of a false god. Won’t his public actions in the workplace conflict with his personal faith?



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Naaman is tormented by this inner conflict even before leaving Elisha's home. He does not ponder quitting his job or defecting to Israel's army, but instead seeks God's forgiveness for the sin he fears he will commit when carrying out his duties. In a sense, his decision is consistent with Paul's advice to new converts to stay in their current situations.

Naaman shares his worries with Elisha in hopes that the prophet will mediate on his behalf for divine forgiveness. Elisha's response is as astonishing as it is simple: "Go in peace." Brimming with God's grace, these three words are all Elisha has to say. He lets Naaman make his own decision

and grants him peace. He pronounces God's blessing with the assurance that it is possible for Naaman to be faithful and useful to God in his workplace.

We know nothing of Naaman's life after this dramatic conversion, though subsequent texts reveal that the two nations remained at war, presumably with Naaman as the Syrian general in chief. Still, we must imagine that he remained in the king's court for some good purpose. It is plausible that he went on to serve God in the Syrian palace, just as Joseph became premier of Egypt for a pharaoh, and Daniel rose to be a trusted adviser to Babylonian kings.

Is it any less likely that God wishes to use you and me in government offices, as well as in corporations, law firms, and factories? To be sure, Christians should be unwilling to participate in some activities or even to hold certain jobs, but leaving a situation must always be weighed against the potential of staying in place to serve God and benefit others.

In the United States, and perhaps here as well, students sometimes imagine that God's most valued servants are the people who work in full-time ministry. This is understandable, as it is easy to see how pastors and missionaries are doing important work for God's kingdom. Our students also find it easy to see how God's will may be done through the helping professions - by physicians, nurses, school teachers, social workers. After all, Jesus was devoted to caring for the sick and needy.

But what about those of you who choose to work as engineers, investment managers, government employees or hotel managers? Can you be of much use to God? The short answer is that I believe Jesus Christ is the savior of the whole world because God loves all of creation.

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So how might God use you in your future occupations? A text familiar to many Christians is found in the sixth chapter of the book of Micah. This occurs in a poetic drama where the nation of Israel is on trial. At just this point in the story, the prophet Micah proclaims,

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

It is noteworthy that the Hebrew word for mortal refers to all of humankind - including the people of Japan and America - and not to Israel alone.

The prophet emphasizes that the humble enjoy God’s companionship, but the prideful walk alone. Pride blinds us to the failures for which we need repentance. As we are reminded in 1 John, we deceive ourselves when we forget how completely we depend upon God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

But what is most important about this text is that it summarizes the good that God requires of us. Certainly a person can do justice and love kindness in any occupation and in every relationship. God wants to use us as instruments of love and goodness in the world.

None of you may face a situation anything like Naaman’s, but it is my prayer that each of you will respond to God’s call to be salt and light in this world, to be people who are just and kind and humble. Depending on your interests and gifts, you may serve God as a chemist or a musician, as a businessperson or an educator, or maybe as a psychologist or diplomat. With Paul, I pray that you will “live as a believer in whatever situation” you find yourself. The world will be better because of it.

Thank you for this opportunity to visit International Christian University. We at Hope College are honored to work in partnership with your faculty in providing the best possible education for future leaders of our global society.