

18. The Kind of World that Kkottongnae Is Dreaming of 3

A World Where We Love Our Neighbors as We Love Ourselves

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments (Matthew 22: 37-40).”

The Home of Anavim

Kkottongnae opened the Home of Anavim at the beginning of last March. Anavim literally means ‘the poor,’ and during the Old Testament era it was the calling for the religious who lived poor lives longing for God. They were the marks of the prophetic lives that revealed the Kingdom of God through the life of honest poverty.

Kkottongnae endeavors to practice the gospel, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself’ by bringing the homeless, who have been abandoned and left on the streets, under the bridges, or underground passages as anavim into the Home of Anavim at Eumseong Kkottongnae. Using the ambulances that Kkottongnae members have donated, the religious at Kkottongnae move all around the

country, in cities such as Seoul, Daejeon, Euijeongbu and other places every night after work.

Dramatic Reunion of a Father and a Son

The anavim brought into the ambulance are hospitalized at Kkottongnae Hospital according to their health condition. Last month there was a happy event of long-separated father and son’s reunion.

These family members were living apart after their home was broken ten years ago. The son had left his home and got married very young, but he became separated from his wife 20 days after they had a baby. Following that time he became alcoholic and wandered here and there. One day, he came across his father who was sleeping around Seoul Station. Unfortunately both of the father and son had become alcoholic and homeless.

Though it was an awkward and uncomfortable meeting, the father and son ate together at a nearby restaurant. They went to sleep that night together with a comforter that they got from a passer-by wedding guest in the freezing weather in the underground passage. However, next morning the father woke up to find his son gone and was never to meet him



Brothers and Sisters are welcoming to Kkottongnae a person who was homeless.

thereafter.

From the time he parted from his son, the father lived on alcohol until one day he fell down with aggravated diabetes. Fortunately he was found by Kkottongnae ambulance and brought into Kkottongnae Hospital.

After about a month when his illness was stabilized and his condition had improved a lot, he happened to hear that his son was also hospitalized at the same hospital.

Although he wanted to run to him right away, the father felt constrained and so, hesitating, he only sneaked around to his son's hospital room. It was because he just figured out his son's feeling who had left him even without a greeting on the underground passage.

He agonized with remorse realizing that he had made his son become an alcoholic and go through hardships at a young age. 'Oh, he is blaming me... Isn't it all because I lived so selfishly, by not caring for my wife and children that I have made them feel resentful and even made my son's marriage fail and for him to become alcoholic? I should be blamed for my insincere attitude to my life.' With this thought, he could not find the courage to meet his son.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

On the other hand, the son decided to stop drinking this time after 10 years of living on alcohol. He also wanted to meet his father again whom he had left without a greeting on an underground passage, although he thought that it was all because of his father, who had not taken care of the family, battered his mother and given a lot of bitter feeling to the young

children, that he failed his own marriage and become an alcoholic. However in those days, he started to have a feeling not to hate his father any more. And then he happened to hear that his father had been brought into Kkottongnae Hospital owing to his health condition. He had volunteered to be brought into the hospital by Kkottongnae ambulance as well, and was treated to detoxify the alcohol poisoning by the injection of glucose and vitamin.

After they met together at the hospital, the son confessed to the voluntary workers: "I will ask for forgiveness from my father. I will tell him that it is all my fault, and although I have hated him I will forgive him and take care of him. I will nurse him if he cannot move lying on bed. He is my father. I would like to live with my father at Kkottongnae..."

After the father met his son again and had several conversations with him, he got around to speaking like this: "I won't leave Kkottongnae. Let me have 2 or 3 days of vacation a month. I want to earn some money for my son working outside. He will need some pocket money as he is young..." The son after he had been reconciled with his father said: "Now I would like to begin a new life without drinking and I hope to reunite with my wife and child honorably." The father and son said in one voice, "We will surely stop drinking."

If we want to love our neighbor, we have to forgive him/her and make peace with them first.

We cannot love hating each other. For Bible says: "If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even

sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back (Luke 6: 32-35).”

Tonight too, Kkottongnae ambulances drive through the darkness toward the places where the poor are abandoned. It is to bring the poor souls wandering around the darkness out to the light world, and to help make a world

where ‘we love our neighbors as we love ourselves’ just like the dramatic reunion and reconciliation of the father and son.

An ambulance of Kkottongnae going out on a snowy and dark night in winter







Kkottongnae
Love Training
Center

