

Mother of Korea, Elisabeth J. Shepping

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Abstract

Elisabeth J. Shepping, who was called Teresa of Joseon, mother of Koreans, and mother of blue eyes, was a saint who lived devotedly with the people during the difficult Joseon Dynasty. Shepping, who came to Joseon in 1912, is a missionary and nurse dedicated to the powerless people, poor commoners, despised beggars and outcast lepers. Her original name is 'Elyse Johanna Shepping'. Shepping was named Elizabeth Shepping after moving to the United States. Although she was dispatched to Joseon as a missionary and nurse, she lived in peace and helped the Korean people's independence movement after seeing Joseon being occupied by Japan, and also laid the foundation for the Korean nursing community.

Shepping was born in Germany in 1880. Her early years were unhappy. His father died when he was 1 year old and his mother moved to the United States, so he had to grow up in the arms of his grandmother (Kim). Her grandmother was a devout Catholic, and Sheping studied at a Catholic parish school (Kim). After graduating from high school in New York, Shepping entered nursing school. Perhaps because of her unfortunate childhood, she was very interested in helping poor neighbors, and volunteered as a nurse during the day and as a missionary at night.

Shepping made an impact on health care in the Korean health community. Shepping also took care of patients with leprosy (Hansen's disease), commonly called leprosy, and also contributed to the treatment (Kim). That is why she was called the blue-eyed mother by Koreans at the time. From women's education to underprivileged children's service, she gave everything to Koreans. Shepping devoted herself to visiting nursing and public health and also participated in campaigns to abolish human trafficking and public prostitution (Kim). When she saw a woman with messy hair on the street, she brushed it with her own hands, and if a woman showed her underwear or exposed her breasts, she fixed her clothes (Kim). Shepping also started by splitting one's salary to raise operating expenses, has also contributed greatly to the eradication of illiteracy in Korea. Also in 1923, the Joseon Nursing Club was organized. Shepping tried to join the International Council of Nursing (ICN), but it failed due to Japan's obstruction (Korean Nurse Association). This organization became the current Korean Nursing Association. Korea is also grateful that the Neel college was established in 1922. At first, they used to gather in bedrooms to study to enlighten women who were abused and who had no opportunity to learn (Kim). Later, with the support of her American friend, Lois Neel, Leeil School was officially named after him (Kim).

Shepping also made an impact on Korea's physical and spiritual life. According to KNA, in May 1928, at the General Assembly of the Korean Nursing Club, she preached as follows: "What would happen if there was no love to pity others? If we take away alms from the religion of love, what is left? Salvation is the feet of love. No matter how high you lift the cross, call out to Jesus to the point where you are choking, and claim to be a Christian, if there is no relief, you are not a true Christian." And at the 7th general meeting of the Joseon Nursing Club in May 1929, Shepping preached a sermon titled "Two people looking at Jesus", and the Bible verses he emphasized are as follows. The one who exhorts, in her exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom 12:8), When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Luke 18:22), Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. (Mt 10:8) Because Shepping was a missionary, she helped Koreans dream of liberation by teaching them the Bible of Exodus.

Shepping's friend found out her motto hangs over his bedside. "It is service, not success". In June 1934, Missionary Shepping died of chronic endemic disease, overwork, and malnutrition in Gwangju (KNA). All she left behind was half a blanket, seven coins, and two hops of corn flour. The one remaining blanket had already been torn in half and shared with the beggars under the bridge. The body was also donated for medical research according to the will.

Conclusion

Shepping sublimated the pain of her childhood into the faith of the cross and transformed her life into a life of a missionary. According to her life motto, she was the one who practiced the true spirit of Jesus in her life. She demonstrated the true love of Jesus by serving the lowest with

love and devotion that transcended religion. Her life represented love and faith in the true Jesus. Her life shows that she is not confined by the walls of religion and race, but moves beyond them to a universalism that serves humanity, her neighbor. I thought about how this person could have chosen a more difficult life in such a difficult environment. I dare not imagine or empathize with her life. She presented herself as a little Jesus. Shepping impacted everyone socially, physically, and spiritually. She is an angel sent by God. This has been a great inspiration and challenge for me. Because if I were that person, I would never be the same person. Her life tells Christians and non-Christians alike what light, salt, and a life of faith are. I may never be like her, but I decided to find my light and salt. It has become my goal to think about what kind of light and salt to convey as a nurse with my strengths. It didn't matter to me that service was more important than success. However, after knowing missionary shepping, I realized that serving is not simply helping people. I don't know the deep meaning of God, but I think one of the goals of serving is to put God first before helping others. And if you focus on yourself, you will know the true meaning of service. Then I thought that serving others must be the true will of God. I still don't know what God is saying to me. As a nursing student, it was interesting to me to find out what God's will is when I became a nurse.

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