

Public Service at Surabaya - Sunday, April 22, 2007

Law-based Church

Jude 1:5

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

The Lord had saved a multitude of the people of Israel from the land of Egypt. All the males who were numbered from twenty years old and above were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. Nonetheless, the Lord had also destroyed the majority who did not believe (including the ten spies who brought the bad report). Only Joshua and Caleb might enter the land of Canaan.

The figure 'ten' refers to the law. That is to say, law-based church with the following signs:

- not holding fast to the word of God
- not prioritizing the word = making temptations/the sound of flesh greater than the word of God
- not relying on Holy Spirit but intelligence, strength, riches, and experiences

Such service system rouses up complaints and ends in destruction as carcasses.

Previously we have learned law-based church in the New Testament written in **John 2:19-21**

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

forty-six = 46

4 refers to the four commandments on the first tablet of stone and 6 to the six commandments on the second one.

Thus, the "forty-six" points to the two tablets of stone / the ten commandments, that is to say, law-based church. Such service system brings on the spirit of trade, since there is no priority to the word of God. Animals sacrificed (oxen, sheep, and doves) symbolize the Sacrifice of Christ. They were sold; meaning there is no more appreciation of the Sacrifice of Christ.

Today we learn more about buying and selling which happens in the temple of God related to the three objects in Holy Place.

Table of Showbread (<http://gptkk.org/mrs-en.php>)

John 2:14-16

14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business.

15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

It should have been bread on the table, not money. Money substituted for bread; meaning churchgoers seek no more word but money/profits. Therefore, we have to take heed to this, especially for pastors and Sunday school teachers – seeing that no child was saved in the days of Noah. Let us prioritize the word this day that money will not be on the table.

Golden Candlestick (<http://gptkk.org/pelita-en.php>)

Matthew 21:12

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

The seats point to priest's offices; a dove symbolizes Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.).

The seats of those who sold doves; showing there is no more anointing and gift of Holy Spirit in connection with the priest's offices.

For example, a priest office is given to a man due to his riches and acquaintanceship. Such is called office trade.

Golden Altar of Incense (<http://gptkk.org/dupa-en.php>)

John 2:16

16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

Matthew 21:13

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

There was no more love, only thieves.

The three objects above denote shepherding service system. Sheep that are not shepherded will be scattered and consumed by beasts. On the other hand, the pastor of shepherded sheep will face the beasts.

In John 2, Jesus made a whip of cords and drove them all out of the temple; Jesus sanctified the temple of God, which signifies our lives, from trade. Therefore, it is important to hear the teaching word which is like a beating whip and a piercing sword that indeed hurt our flesh.

Here is the sanctification at work.

Table of Showbread(<http://gptkk.org/mrs-en.php>)

the tables of the moneychangers were overturned = the table of showbread was cleansed. Table symbolizes heart. Thus, if the heart is sanctified from money, we must continue steadfastly in Bible Study Service. It is important to fill this heart with the word, not just money, lest we love and worship money.

How to fill our heart with the word?

James 1:19-22

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- Verse 19 - Being swift to hear and understand the teaching word

The term "swift" refers to competition – for we compete with antichrist whose wings are very fast.

If we are not swift to hear the word, antichrist will be faster to fill money in our heart.

Today is the due time to hear teaching word, not milk anymore.

Hebrews 5:11-13

11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

Lest we become dull and complain about the teaching word – even if it is long and sharp.

Milk symbolizes the word of gospel to bring new believers in Jesus Christ to the salvation of the Lord, but those who have been saved must be swift to hear and grow up in teaching word.

- Believing and being sure of the word

James 1:21

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

It is a matter of heart. A meek heart must believe and be sure of the teaching word and grow up faith. In such a manner, there shall be no place in heart for money, since faith is greater than money. Faith can bring money but money cannot bring faith. Above all, faith can bring salvation ("He who believes in the Son of God will be saved."). If we reject the word, however, money / mammon / antichrist will fill our heart and salvation be gone.

- Practicing the word

James 1:22

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

The practiced word will become our flesh and blood. In reality, we lack of practicing the word. The late Rev. In Juwono always said that teaching word is practical; meaning we have to practice it soon after we receive it because it becomes our flesh and blood.

Provided the word has become our flesh and blood, we will not deceive ourselves; meaning we will confess our sins.

1 John 1:8

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If the word has become our flesh and blood, we will always blame ourselves (not the others, the doctrine, or God) and confess sins. Quarrels and divorce frequently go off because the word is not implanted in the couple. Thus, there will be no divorce but unity if the word of God becomes our flesh and blood.

Besides, false teachers and liars will not deceive us.

Students of Lempin-EI, if God's word becomes flesh and blood because of being practiced, it will be strength that none may deceive you. The table is full of the word, not of money. Youth, you will not be deceived in the matter of marriage. Many are deceived in the beginning of marriage because it has no bread.

Golden Candlestick(<http://gptkk.org/pelita-en.php>)

the seats of those who sold doves were overturned = the golden candlestick was cleansed = we continue steadfastly in General by which Holy Spirit will cause our lamps to burn continually and give us a sincere heart (a dove symbolizes sincerity). Do not let the darkness of the world swallow up our bright future! Lest we sink in the darkness of sin or in the darkness of economy! We need light, therefore.

Sincerity is needed for the work of ministry for we cannot serve God with unseriousness or bitterness.

"Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

If doves are sold, we become serpents biting and poisoning the others.

What do serpents mean?

John 8:44

44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Serpents are liars – but doves are the upright
We must be honest anywhere, anytime, and in any situation.
- Serpents are murderers or haters
No hatred, bitterness, and revenge are permitted.
Do not let the blessings of God that someone else have make a jealousy in our heart because it is a serpent even in shepherding.

Besides, sincerity means expecting no reward:

- considering ourselves unprofitable
- demanding no right, only doing our duty

Luke 17:10

10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

Husbands and wives must do their own duties according to the word that wives have to submit their husbands and husbands have to love their wives. If both demand one another, the marriage must be broken up.

Provided we do our duty in sincerity, the Lord will save our right and none will complain against us. Surely some will complain, but the Lord will deal harshly with them.

Let us now sanctify the Table of Shewbread through the patience in Bible Study Service. Do not be bored because of the long time but enjoy and receive the teaching word until it becomes our flesh and blood. In such a manner, none may deceive us. Besides, let us sanctify the Golden Candlestick until it always shines and darkness may not enter it and our future is bright because we serve God sincerely and our reward is in God's hand.

Matthew 21:13

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

God mourned for His House.

The golden altar of incense was sanctified that we continue steadfastly in Pray and Worship Service.

- Worship is a process of tearing the flesh.
Where there is no flesh, there shall be no dwelling place for Satan.
When Satan made deal with God about Job, God said "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person" meaning where there is flesh, there shall be dwelling place for Satan. The tearing of flesh makes there is no place for Satan.
- Worship is an expression of surrendering our body, soul, and spirit to the Lord.
Before giving the whole life, we must give first tithes and special offerings, the least offering.

Malachi 3:8-9

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You??' In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

rob = steal = thief

If we rob God's possessions (tithes and special offerings), we will become a den of thieves, not a house of prayer.

Continuing steadfastly in the three main services, we become a house of prayer – a place to call the name of the Lord and find His mercy. A den of thieves, however, is a place of sins prepared for destruction.

These are the results of being a house of prayer:

- **Marvelous victory over enemies/troubles**

King Hezekiah was besieged and cornered by Sennacherib king of Assyria. He then came to the house of the Lord and spread before the Lord a letter of reproach, as it was written "Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand??"

Isaiah 36:21

21 But they held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

Better we worship God than quarrelling and contending with the others.

Isaiah 37:1, 14-17, 36

1 And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

15 Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying:

16 "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

17 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

36 Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

A great multitude of the Assyrian – one hundred and eighty-five thousand – symbolizes a great potentiality and magnificent power of the world. Such is nothing to the mercy of God. We do not need to be afraid of the highly competitive business. Just come to the house of prayer and let the mercy of God work it out!

- **the Mercy of God to resolve the deadlock and enable all the impossible.**

Hezekiah was sick and near death. He wept bitterly and prayed earnestly and the Lord had lengthened his days.

Isaiah 38:1-5

1 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD,

3 and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

4 And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying,

5 "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years."

The things which are impossible with men are possible with God provided we pray and wept earnestly.

In conclusion, we just need to rearrange the objects over which the spirit of trade has dominated – so that we do not continue steadfastly anymore.

Have we continued steadfastly in the three main services?

- Table of Showbread / Bible Study Service
Whether we continue in Bible Study or not depends on what we fill into our heart: money or the word.
- Golden Candlestick / Public Service / General
Satan will always prevent us from continuing in General by many kinds of occasion. God had overturned the seats of those who sold doves that we may continue steadfastly in General and serve God with sincerity. Our right is safe in the Hands of the Lord.
- Golden Altar of Incense / Pray and Worship Service
Return God's possessions and be a house of prayer! We by the mercy of God will prevail over enemies and impossibilities.

Lazarus, for example, had died and fouled, but Mary bowed down and worshiped God. As a result, the mercy of God revived and restored Lazarus.

John 11:32, 39, 43-44

32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

What that has become rotten physically and spiritually until there is no hope, God is able to heal now until the last. We are changed day by day through worship until we become as glorious as He is. God bless you.