

Bible Study Service in Malang, August 11, 2016 (Thursday Evening)

From Recording of the Bible Study Service in Medan

Peace and grace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Song of Solomon 2: 3

2:3. *THE SHULAMITE Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.*

Apple tree is leafy or shady with the fragrant flowers and sweet fruits. It refers to Jesus in the glory as a king or heavenly bridegroom. He becomes our shelter in the wilderness of the world.

'among the trees of the woods' = there are many other trees in the world which refers to other things besides Jesus, such as men, riches, money, position, intelligence, and so on which only cause the fleshly wills and desires. They make us unable to love God, but fall in sins up to the peak, namely sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

What do we choose? If we choose to love Jesus more than anything in the world, we will get these two things.

1. 'I sat down in his shade with great delight' = the covering of God in the dry and hot wilderness of the world. We are not destroyed with the world.
2. 'his fruit was sweet to my taste' = we can eat the sweet fruits in the wilderness of the world which is in curses, bitterness, sorrows, heavy burdens, and tears.

We are learning about the sweet fruit.

It refers to the fruits of repentance, the ones of the light or the righteousness and justice, up to the ones of the Spirit. Eating the sweet fruits also means the life renewal from the fleshly men to the spiritual ones like Jesus.

The more we are renewed, the sweeter life we have up to the peak, namely we become as perfect and glorious as Jesus is. It is the sweetest fruit which is eternal.

By what can we experience the life renewal?

1. The power of God's Word or the true teaching Word.

1 Peter 1: 23-25

1:23 *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*

1:24 *because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,*

1:25 *But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.*

It refers to the Table of Showbread or the perseverance in doing Bible Study Service with Holy Communion.

How great a man in the world is, his life is dry without the true teaching Word like the dry grass as follows.

- Not enduring. It means easily being hopeless or disappointed and leaving God or the house.
- Fading away or perishing. There is no eternal life.

One who is filled with the Word and Holy Communion will experience the life renewal from fleshly men to spiritual ones like Jesus is. It begins from enduring until we can be as perfect as Jesus is and have eternal life with Him.

2. The power of Holy Spirit

Titus 3: 5

3:5 *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

It refers to the Golden Candlestick or perseverance in doing General Service.

How great a man in the world is, he is useless without Holy Spirit because he will only fulfill the fleshly wills and desires and do the sins up to the peak and perish.

Romans 8: 13

8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The renewal means that Holy Spirit puts to death the fleshly deeds, so we can **do good and right deeds** which can please or be useful to God and others. Such things bring us to eternal life.

3. **The love of God.**

Zephaniah 3: 17

3:17 The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

It refers to the Golden Altar of Incense or perseverance in doing Prayer Service.

How great a fleshly human in the riches or intelligence is, he is useless and meaningless without the love of God; even he is in the death.

1 John 3: 14

3:14. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

There is hatred only if there is no love. Consequently, one is in the death or perdition. We must be filled with the love of God, so we have the renewal of life, namely **we can love** God more than anything as well as love others like we love ourselves; even we can love our enemy through praying for the people who harm us and forgiving and forgetting their sins. We love others in the house first.

We can conclude that we are renewed by **the Word** through the Bible Study Service with Holy Communion, **Holy Spirit** through the General Service, and **the love of God** through the Prayer Service.

Thus we can experience the renewal in the sheepfold or Holy Place through **the perseverance in doing the three main services to God.** Both the pastor and congregation must be shepherded.

What must be renewed by the Word, Holy Spirit, and the love of God in the sheepfold?

1. **The renewal to husbands or men, namely sitting on the grass or being firm in the shepherding to eat the shepherding Word**

As a result, miracle happens, namely the five thousand men can be fed with five loaves and two fish.

Matthew 14: 15-21

14:15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

14:16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

14:17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

14:18 He said, "Bring them here to Me."

14:19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

14:20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

14:21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

'When it was evening' = the last days.

What must be renewed? **The characteristics of men must be renewed as followed.**

- **Egoism or self-interest.**

After gathering the people to hear the Word, the men were egoistic by commanding to send the people away at night. Egoism must be changed into **responsibility**. The Lord said "You give them something to eat." The men or husbands must be responsible as follows.

- a. Physically for the daily life.
- b. Spiritually, namely bringing the wife and children to enter the true shepherding pen. The pastor must be responsible to bring the congregation to enter the true shepherding pen.

○ **Using logic, not faith.**

John 6: 8-9

6:8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,

6:9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

It means belittling the power of the Word and magnifying the temptation.

It must be changed into having or using the faith, so we rely on the power of the Word. As a result, God will perform the miracle in the midst of us.

○ **Using the power of his own life, the world, finance, intelligence, position, and so on.**

John 6: 7

6:7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of breads not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

It means not relying on God. Consequently, there is destruction.

It must be changed into relying on God more than anything. As a result, God performs the miracle in the midst of us, from nothing to something and impossibilities are changed to be possible.

2. **The renewal to wives or women, namely to the tongue.**

Matthew 15: 21-28

15:21. Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

15:22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

15:23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

15:25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

15:26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

15:27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The tongue of dog licking vomit is changed into the tongue licking the bread.

It means the renewal from idle words to **the good and true words**.

Women or mothers must be careful of the saying. The tongue often blames others, especially the husband and God.

The tongue must be changed as follows.

○ The tongue that **blames herself**.

Matthew 15: 25

15:25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

Her daughter was sick, but she said "Lord, help me!" It means that she confessed her mistake which had made the sickness of her daughter.

○ The tongue that **justifies the Word**.

Matthew 15: 27

15:27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

- The tongue that **worships God**. A woman must worship God much more.

Worshipping God means saying the words of faith to God.

Matthew 15: 28

15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

It is written 'O woman, great is your faith.'; and 'For this saying.' in Mark 7.

Mark 7:29

7:29 Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

It means the saying of faith or the worship.

After we have the renewal of tongue, Jesus as the Great Shepherd will be merciful to perform the miracle. Faith which is added with mercy will result in miracle physically and spiritually. The daughter was made well. The destroyed marriage and children will be restored by God as if we eat the sweet fruits.

3. The renewal to young men, namely they must be in Nain.

Luke 7: 11-14

7:11. Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

7:12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

7:13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

7:14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

Nain means the pasture or shepherding as well as the pleasant place.

Going out of Nain, one goes to the tomb. It means spiritual death and dryness or everlasting perdition.

Our heart will determine whether the shepherding becomes the pleasant place or not. If our heart is **sincere and obedient**, the shepherding will be the pleasant place. We get such heart through the water baptism.

1 Peter 3: 20-21

3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The requirement of the true water baptism is repenting or being dead to sin. It can happen because of the work of the sword of God's Word which is sharper than any two-edged sword as well as the advice coming from the Word and other people.

The execution of the true water baptism (Romans 6: 4) is one who has died to sin or repented is buried in water with Jesus to come out or be raised from water with Him to get a new life, namely the good conscience or the sincere and obedient heart.

The sincere and obedient heart is the gate to choose the true and good shepherding as the most pleasant place. It may happen when the pastor provides the true food that makes the congregation full and satisfied, so they can grow spiritually or be sanctified and changed to be perfect.

1 Peter 5: 5-6 (it is about the shepherding)

5:5. Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Young men are renewed to be **submissive or obedient** until the flesh does not speak anymore. For example, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were obedient to God as well as to the king because they did not rebel against him.

The obedience until the flesh does not speak anymore is the same as stretching out the hands to the Great Shepherd. As a

result, the merciful hands of the Great Shepherd are stretched out also to exalt us in due time. It means as follows.

- To make all things successful and beautiful in time of need. This is the sweet fruits. The merciful hands of God are able to create something that does not exist yet as well as make impossible things possible.
- To use us in the revival of Holy Spirit at the latter rain to build the perfect body of Christ.
- To change us to be as perfect and glorious as Jesus is when He comes a second time. We do not stumble in word, but only say Alleluia. This is **the sweetest fruit**. We are lifted up on the glorious clouds and sit with Him on the throne of the heavenly kingdom forever.

God blesses you.