

Bible Study Service in Malang, June 07, 2012 (Thursday Evening)

Matthew 27 as a whole refers to **theseven sprinklings of blood on the Ark of Covenant** (the mercy seat).

Leviticus 16:14

16:14 "He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

Actually, there are two kinds of the seven sprinklings of blood, namely the seven sprinklings of blood upon the Ark of Covenant and the seven sprinklings of blood in front of it.

There are two times of the seven sprinklings of blood written in the gospel according to Matthew as follows.

1. Matthew 21 that refers to the seven sprinklings of blood in front of the Ark of Covenant. It means the suffering for the congregation.
2. Matthew 27 that refers to the seven sprinklings of blood upon the Ark of Covenant. Meaning the suffering of Jesus until He dies on the cross to save, sanctify, and perfect the congregation.

Thus, the Church of God must experience suffering together with Jesus to have salvation up to perfection. Judas does not want to experience the sprinkling of blood, so he is not saved but perishes forever.

Matthew 27:1-10 is about the first sprinklings of blood, namely Jesus handed over to Pilate and the death of Judas Iscariot.

Matthew 27:6-10

27:6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood."

27:7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

27:8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

27:9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced,

27:10 "and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

Jesus experiences the sprinklings of blood because of being betrayed by Judas Iscariot, His own disciple.

Judas Iscariot rejects the sprinklings of blood and does not want to suffer in the flesh together with Jesus, so he betrays and sells Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

The thirty pieces of silver are to buy these fields:

- the field of blood,
- the field to bury strangers in,
- the potter's field.

Now we learn about the thirty pieces of silver to buy the potter's field.

Jesus was willing to be sold for the thirty pieces of silver in order to buy the potter's field. It means as follows.

1. The Lord always remembers that the Gentiles are only weak clay with many faults, weaknesses, and sins, so He still waits and does not judge but forgives them through His sacrifice on the cross.

Psalm 103:10-14

103:10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

103:13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

103:14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

If angels sin, they will immediately become Satan. The Gentiles are weak clay, so the Lord does not judge but forgives them through His sacrifice on the cross.

2. The Lord wants to form the clay in His hand to become the vessel of glory until they are perfect and as glorious as He is at the time of His second coming.

Jeremiah 18:6

18:6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

Whatever our condition now, whether we are wicked or unclean, He is able to reform our life to become the vessel of glory again as long as we want to return to His hand. A woman who has gotten married and divorced five times, referring to uncleanness and dirtiness, still has a hope when she returns to the hand of God. Moreover, she can be employed as the witness of God.

We must remember these three things in order to be formed as the vessel of glory.

1. The Gentiles are only dust and clay with many weaknesses and sins, so we always remember and need the cross of Jesus or His sacrifice or the first love to finish our sins and give us salvation.

The process is as follows.

- Believing or having faith in Jesus through hearing the Word until being cut in our heart.
Being cut in our heart means as follows.
 - a. We can confess our sin to God and other people, so we have the forgiveness done by the blood of Jesus.
 - b. We can forgive the sins of other people and forget them.
- Repenting. We stop sinning to return to God.
- Being baptized of water and Holy Spirit, we are reborn.
Being reborn, we have the renewal of life, namely righteous life. We have salvation through our living in righteousness.

Revelation 2:1-5

2:1. "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, "These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

2:3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

2:4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

2:5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place" unless you repent.

The Church of the Gentiles in the last days no longer remembers the cross of Jesus or the first love. They do not want to live in righteousness. They fall and do not have candlestick. It means they live in darkness and fall into the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:1-3

9:1. Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

9:3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Now it means having friendship with locusts and scorpions, referring to wicked and unclean spirit. In such condition, one keeps false matters in his life, lives in sins up to the peak, namely sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

If we repent and live in righteousness, we will return to paradise.

Revelation 2:7

2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

For example, the transgressor beside Jesus on the cross can enter the paradise because of repenting, confessing sin, and living in righteousness.

Luke 23:40-43

23:40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same

condemnation?

23:41 "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

2. The Gentiles must always remember the calling and election of God to make us priests and kings.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

1:26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

1:27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

1:28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

1:29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Priest and king mean a holy person (kohen) who bears priest's office. He becomes the vessel of glory to glorify God as His witness.

Exodus 19:6

19:6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Actually, only the house of Israel, the chosen people and their descendants, who deserves to become the priest and king or God's servant.

The Gentiles cannot serve God according to the physical flesh.

1 Peter 2:9-10

2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2:10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

The Lord opens the way through His mercy or grace, whose price equals to the sacrifice of Christ, so the Gentiles may become the priest and king to minister to God. It is only because of the mercy and trust of God. Do not become as Judas who cannot be trusted and leaves his ministry because of something.

The calling and election of God or our ministry are the full right to enter the heaven.

2 Peter 1:10-11

1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

1:11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we have to make efforts seriously to keep faithful and fervent in spirit doing our service and ministry to God until the end, namely we die or the Lord comes a second time.

The Gentiles who are called and elected to minister to God are foolish, weak, and despised. They are nothing but why does God choose them? [1 Corinthians 1:26-29]

- To bring to nothing the things that become the pride of the world.
- To make us not arrogant but we can rely on the grace and kindness of God, not on anything in the world.

To make us labor more abundantly by the grace of God.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

It is until we have the full right to enter heavenly kingdom.

3. A reminder that not all saved people who have ministered to God and been employed by Him can enter heavenly kingdom.

Luke 17:32

17:32 "Remember Lot's wife."

Lot's wife did not commit adultery; she only looked behind but she became the pillar of salt.

Looking behind means being disobedient to shepherding Word because of hearing strange voice as follows.

- Voice inside us, namely flesh voice about our diploma, good position in the office, family, riches, et cetera.
- Voice outside us, namely false teaching which is not in line with the true teaching Word and gossips.

Thus, 'Remember Lot's wife' means obedience to the true teaching Word until our flesh does not speak anymore. Esther is the example.

Esther is obedient to the physical parents.

Esther 2:10

2:10 Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it.

Esther is also obedient to the spiritual parents, namely Hegai, referring to the pastor.

Esther 2:15

2:15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

Esther is obedient until her flesh does not speak anymore. There are many things that make our flesh disobedient. The solution of that problem is through fasting. **Esther 4:16**

4:16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

Being obedient means stretching hands to God and He will stretch His hand of mercy and kindness or His grace as the king stretched the golden scepter to Esther. The result is as follows:

- The hand of God's mercy and kindness is able to preserve our physical and spiritual life in the midst of difficulties.
Physically, we are preserved by God and spiritually, we can live in righteousness and holiness in the midst of the darkness of the world.
- The hand of God's mercy and kindness gives us beautiful and joyful future life.
- The hand of God's mercy and kindness is able to change our life from flesh man to spiritual one, as glorious as He is. We are exalted together with Him when He comes a second time until the golden scepter brings us to enter New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:15

21:15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

God blesses you.