

Bible Study Service in Malang, November 24, 2011 (Thursday Evening)

Matthew 26:30-35 is about THE WARNING TO PETER.

Peter was a senior apostle but he still needed the warning of Jesus because at the end he denied Jesus.
Judas Iscariot was an apostle as well as a treasurer or one Jesus trusted, and he still needed the warning of the Lord.
Who are we, being compared to Peter and Judas?
Do not feel enough in our own opinion! We need the warning of the Lord always.

Matthew 26:31-32, 34

26:31. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

26:32 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

26:34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

Jesus warned Peter with Prophetic Word.

The meaning of the prophetic Word is as follows:

1. The Word that reveals all matters that will happen in the last days, especially about Jesus' second coming and the judgment of God.
2. The Word that reveals all sins in the congregation, so we can be sanctified and perfected.

Nevertheless, Peter rejected the prophetic Word because of his arrogance.

Matthew 26:33

26:33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

There are three times Peter showed his arrogance as follows:

1. **Peter used his self-truth so he felt himself more righteous than the Lord or the Word**, as well as more righteous than other people.

Matthew 26:33

26:33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

The sign is Peter always murmured, argued, gave negative comment, and rejected the truth of God's Word or the true teaching Word.

Thus, Peter was without the true teaching Word or without the Table of Showbread.
Consequently, he became same as false prophet.

Remember!

The self-truth is the truth outside the Word, not according to the quantity of the people.

One will be righteous if s/he is according to the Word, although being alone.

2. **Peter wanted to precede Jesus in offering.**

Matthew 26:35

26:35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

It is not a love, but only emotion of flesh because Jesus must sacrifice Himself first as peace offering on the cross as the manifestation of God's love.

(Be alert because all other disciples also followed Peter since they saw him as senior apostle, et cetera, and they did not hold the true teaching Word anymore.)

I John 4:10

4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

If we receive the sacrifice of Christ, we will be able to sacrifice all things for God, even our whole life.

Peter wanted to sacrifice with emotion, including ambition and hatred, without love.
The sign is leaving the ministry when facing problem.

Let us check our sacrifice!

If our sacrifice depends on the love of God, we will never leave the ministry whatever hindrance we have to face.

The proof of ministering with God's love is we are obedient to the true teaching Word until our flesh does not sound anymore, whatever risk we have to face.

Thus, Peter was without God's love or without the Golden Altar of Incense.
Consequently, he became same as Satan.

In the beginning is the Word. There will be no God's love if there is no true teaching Word.

3. Peter denied Jesus.

Matthew 26:69-70, 75

26:69. Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

26:70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Peter was without the anointing of Holy Spirit or without the Golden Candlestick.

The practice is as follows:

- Not confessing Jesus' name before other people.
We often hide our identity as Christians in the middle of friendship in the world.
- In the middle of friendship between the sons of God we often do not want to confess the true teaching Word, so we let other people make mistake even support them.
- Being unfaithful even leaving the service and ministry to the Lord.
- Denying Jesus in deeds such as abomination, rebellion, evil, even repaying evil for good.

Titus 1:16

1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Peter and Judas Iscariot received many kinds of Jesus' goodness, but Peter did not confessed Jesus, even Judas slandered and sold Jesus before the chief priests.

I John 2:22

2:22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

Consequently, the one who denies Jesus becomes as antichrist.

Thus, the condition of the proud is as follows:

- Being empty, without the true teaching Word (Table of Showbread), the love of God (Golden Altar of Incense) and the anointing of Holy Spirit (Golden Candlestick).
- Being as sheep which is not shepherded, being scattered, going toward Satan, antichrist, and false prophet or everlasting perdition.

Why was Peter saved still?

Because Peter still heard the crowing of rooster, namely the Shepherding Word preached by a pastor faithfully and repetitiously, and **Peter was still able to cry or regret.**

I Peter 5:5

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."

On the contrary, the one who is well-shepherded is HUMBLE.

The meaning of being humble is as follows:

1. **There is ability to dare to confess our sins to God and other people, not sinning again after being forgiven, but we can live in righteousness.**

I Kings 1:50-52

1:50 Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

1:51 And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

1:52 Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

The purpose of confessing sin is for being forgiven and living in righteousness (we do not repeat the sin).

On the contrary, one can confess sin with evil purpose, namely to be considered as good person or to have compassion from other people or not to get judgment, et cetera, but in the heart there is no serious regret, no commitment to live in righteousness.

If we are serious in our manner as a worthy man through our repentance (confessing sin and leaving it), not a hair of our head will fall on the earth, meaning we are saved and preserved.

Being humble means we have **ability to receive the fact in our life and we always give thanks to God.**

We have to receive the fact in our life although it hurts our flesh, and let it become a chance for us to correct ourselves.

On the contrary, the proud will neither be able to confess sin nor receive the fact although it s/he who is really false.

2. **We are willing to suffer (in the flesh) together with Jesus to receive God's love.**

I Peter 5:1-2

5:1. The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

Then we **are willing to suffer together with Jesus to minister in the building of Christ's body with the love of God** (we love God more than everything).

The sign is as follows:

- Not by compulsion but willingly. None forces us minister, and we minister God willingly.
- Not for dishonest gain, but we sacrifice all things for God.
We have to sacrifice all things except the true teaching Word!
- With loyalty, not insisting rights but only doing duty.
- Being example in life renewal, from flesh men to spiritual men as Jesus is.

I Peter 5:3

5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

3. **Being obedient to physical parents** (it points to the Court of Tabernacle), **spiritual parents** (it refers to the Holy Place of Tabernacle), as well as **Heavenly parents** (the Most Holy Place of Tabernacle) = **being obedient to the true teaching Word until our flesh does not sound anymore.**

I Peter 5:5-6

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,

Jesus has given us example first through His obedience to the point of death on the cross.

Philippians 2:8

2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Being obedient equals to lifting up hands to God.

After Peter learnt to Jesus about shepherding (in **John 21** Jesus asked him three times, referring to the perseverance in doing three main services to God), Peter could lift up his hand to Jesus.

John 21:15, 17-19

21:15. So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

21:18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

21:19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Jesus has also been obedient to the point of death (**Philippians 2:8**) to be able to stretch His hand to us.

The hand of God meets our hand and we live in His mighty hand.

The result of living in the mighty hand of God is as follows:

a. The mighty hand of God embraces us who are as powerless babies.

Isaiah 49:14-15

49:14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."

49:15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

- The hand of God is able to protect and preserve us who are powerless in the middle of difficulties in the world which is as a desert, even in the days of antichrist's reigning over the world.
- The hand of God's mercy bears all our heavy burdens and weariness.
We feel our life is easy and light when we can lift up our hand to God and we live in His embrace.
- The mighty hand of God's mercy is able to finish all our problems, even the impossible one.
Actually, our problem is only as a baby, and God is our Mother who is always able to solve it.
Do not reverse it, do not degrade the power of God!

b. The hand of God's mercy is able to lift us up or exalt us who have fallen.

I Peter 5:5-6

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,

- The hand of God is able to lift us up from all falls and failures, so all things are successful and beautiful in His time.
- The hand of God's mercy is able to sanctify and change us to become spiritual men, beginning with **HONESTY** as a baby, we say "yes" if "yes" and "no" if "no."

We are changed continually until we are perfect as He is and we are worthy of receiving the crown of glory.

God blesses you.