

Bible Study Service in Surabaya, April 20, 2015 (Monday Evening)

Speaker: Deacon Youpri Ardiantoro

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

Mark 9: 2, 4, 7

9:2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.

9:4 And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

9:7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

On a high mountain refers to a city on a mountain, namely New Jerusalem.

Jesus appears in glory, shining face, and bright white garments as the **Heavenly Bridegroom** in New Jerusalem. The Church that is sanctified and changed until perfect appears in glory as the **Heavenly Bride**.

It is a prophecy that has not happened yet, but it will happen for sure.

The fellowship between Jesus as the Heavenly Bridegroom and the Church as the Heavenly Bride is signified by **the clouds of glory** (Mark 9: 7).

Jesus has been in heaven to wait for us. After we are perfect, we are lifted up on the glorious clouds and there is a meeting in the air. The Church becomes the Bride of heaven and the building of Christ's perfect body has been finished.

We learn about the building of Christ's body related to Tabernacle in Exodus 40.

Exodus 40: 33-34

40:33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

The finishing of the perfect body of Christ is signified by the clouds of glory.

Exodus 40: 33

40:33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

The sign that the Tabernacle has been built is the screen of the court gate is hung up.

The Gate refers to Jesus as the Head.

The screen of the gate is hung up means we receive Jesus as the Head. Afterwards, the cloud of glory will come down.

The facts found in receiving Jesus as the Head are as follows.

1. **Holding fast one true teaching Word.**

John 1: 1, 14

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus as the head is the true teaching Word or *logos* as follows.

- It is written in the Bible.
- It is revealed by God through a verse that explains other verses in the Bible.

As a result, the Head is responsible for our life. He never deceives us. He always keeps His promise. The Word we hold or believe will **be responsible for our life** in the preservation, protection, sanctification, renewal, up to our perfection.

2. We provide His body or **enter the building of Christ's body**.

There are two foundations of the building of Christ's body as follows.

Ephesians 2: 20-21

2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

2:21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

- The apostles or New Testament and the prophets or Old Testament. They refer to the true teaching Word.
- Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone or Christ's sacrifice.

The building of Christ's body happens as follows.

- Starting from within the marriage.
The marriage that places Jesus as the Head has **the right structure according to the true teaching Word** as follows.

1 Corinthians 11: 2-3

11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

- a. **The wife** places the husband as the head so that Jesus becomes the Head in the household.

Ephesians 5: 22, 24

5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

The head or husband takes all decisions according to the true teaching Word.

- b. **The husband** loves the wife as nourishing his own body and does not do bitterly toward her, regardless of any risk he has to take, even giving his soul.

Ephesians 5: 23, 25

5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

As a result, Jesus as the Head is responsible for our household, namely in the sanctification.

Ephesians 5: 26-27

5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

We are sanctified more until we are perfect and spotless to enter the building of Christ's perfect body or spiritual marriage.

Ephesians 5: 32

5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

'This is a great mystery' = not all people know, including the sons and servants of God.

He has given His soul to sanctify us. It means that God preserves us spiritually and He will do the preservation physically for sure.

- The greater fellowship of the body of Christ, namely in the shepherding and inter-shepherding.

SHEPHERDING

We are shepherded to one true teaching Word like a branch that dwells in the true Vine so that we are sanctified continually until we can bear fruits that can please God.

The foundation of the fellowship is the true teaching Word.

We are shepherded in the pent that refers to the perseverance in doing three main services to God. After being shepherded to the true teaching Word, it will **not be difficult** for us to persevere in doing the three main services to God.

John 10: 5

10:5 "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

The enemy in the shepherding is the strange voice. The shepherded sheep will run away from the strange voice. The strange voice means the voice that is not in line with the Shepherding Word or the true teaching Word we have received.

The results of receiving Jesus as the Head in the shepherding are as follows.

John 10: 9

10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

a. **We find the open door of heaven and the worldly doors such as health, job, education, finance, and all things.**

The open door also means that God gives us the way and salvation.

Moreover, we can find the pasture when we go in or out. The grass means as follows.

- It spiritually means the food of the Word.
We are always preserved by the revelation of God's Word until we are satisfied and quiet.
- It physically means the preservation of God to our physical life.

b. **We have the guarantee of assurance** for our present and future life, physically and spiritually.

John 10: 11

10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

c. **We get the special attention because the shepherd knows the sheep and the sheep know the pastor.**

John 10: 14

10:14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

Ezekiel 20: 37

20:37 "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;

We are also counted or get the special attention and care from God.

INTER-SHEPHERDING**John 10: 16**

10:16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

The base of the inter-shepherding fellowship is the true teaching Word and the fellowship does not happen individually, but the congregation with the pastor.

- The biggest fellowship, namely between Israelites and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2: 16

2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

This is called as the international fellowship of the body of Christ.

The signs of the fellowship that places Jesus as the head are as follows.

- Being reconciled= there is no enmity, war, envy, jealousy, and bitterness in heart.
- There is no strife or enmity.

Luke 23: 12

23:12 That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

The opposite of the strife or enmity is friendship.

John 15: 13

15:13 *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

It is the relationship with sacrificing all things, even the soul.

3. **There must be no bird and fox.**

Matthew 8: 20

8:20 *And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

The fox and bird refer to the sins up to the peak, namely sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

FOX

It means the sin or root of evil or the love of money.

1 Timothy 6: 10

6:10 *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

The facts found in loving the money are as follows.

- Leaving the service and ministry only to look for money.
- Looking for money in illegal ways.
- Serving and ministering to God only to look for money.
- Not returning the possession of God, namely tithes and offerings, and of others who need.

BIRD

It means the sin of uncleanness or sins concerning eating-drinking such as smoking, getting drunk, and drugs abuse as well as sins concerning marrying-being given in marriage or the wrong marriage.

4. **We become the priests and kings or God's servants.**

Hebrews 8: 1

8:1 *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,*

Jesus is the High Priest or the chief of the priests.

He becomes the High priest according to the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron.

Jesus would not have been the High Priest if the order of Aaron had been used because He comes from the tribe of Judah.

The high priest must come from the tribe of Levi and his sons. Therefore, Jesus becomes the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7: 17, 24

7:17 *For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."*

7:24 *But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.*

'has an unchangeable priesthood' = the priesthood of Jesus cannot be replaced by others. He keeps on being the High Priest forever. On the contrary, the priesthood of Aaron was replaced by his sons after he died.

Likewise, we must receive Jesus as the Head and we become the priests until we die or Jesus comes a second time, even forever.

Thus, the people who receive Jesus as the Head serve and minister to God until the end or there is no retirement.

There is a time limit of the priesthood according to the order of Aaron. On the contrary, the priesthood is forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 4: 15-16

4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

As a result, we experience the works of Jesus, the High Priest, as follows.

- Jesus feels or bears our weaknesses.
- He is able to help us in time of need, so we are not disappointed or hopeless and do not grumble or stumble.

John 10: 22

10:22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.

Be careful! It is **winter** when the building of the temple or the body of Christ is finished.

The spiritual winter means as follows.

1. The love grows cold.

Matthew 24: 12

24:12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

The sign is **the rebellion** in these two places.

- In the marriage or household. There is hatred between siblings, children and parents, daughter or son in law with parents in law, and husband and wife.

Matthew 24: 10

24:10 "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

It starts from bad thought.

- The rebellion to God as follows.

a. Being deceived, one chooses the false.

Matthew 24: 11

24:11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

The deception is written four times in Matthew 24: 4-5, 11, and 24. It means that it is very great and **many** will be deceived.

Jeremiah 36: 22-23

36:22 Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him.

36:23 And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

It also refers to spiritual winter. The king should have realized the sin after hearing the Word, but he cut and cast the scroll into the fire. This is a rebellion against God.

b. Not serving and ministering to God deliberately.

Hebrews 10: 25-27

10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

10:27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

It happens as habit, and then it becomes an intentional sin.

2. The suffering in the flesh without any sin.

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

2:11 For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone.

2:12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The winter or the suffering without any sin has these signs.

- There is no flower= there is no beauty and hope.
- There is no voice of the turtledove, but lamentation.

1 Peter 4: 14

4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

If we can endure in suffering in the flesh without any sin, we will get **the Spirit or the clouds of glory**.

Enduring means that we are not disappointed and do not grumble although there is no beautiful life, but the suffering without any sin.

The results of the clouds of glory are as follows.

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

2:11 For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone.

2:12 The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

- The flowers appear on the earth means there is beauty in our life, future, job, and ministry.

Afterwards, there is a hope to bear fruits or a life that has hope and can be hoped.

- 'the voice of the turtledove is heard' = lovely sound, namely the song of worship or thanksgiving.
- There is the dove or the appearance of the perfect bride of God.

Song of Solomon 2: 13-14

2:13 The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines with the tender grapes Give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!

2:14 "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely."

'dove' is the calling of Solomon to Shulamite or the one of Heavenly Bridegroom to the Bride.

God blesses you.