

Christmas Service in Malang, December 25, 2010 (Saturday Evening)

Matthew 25: 31-34

25:31. *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

25:32 *All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.*

25:33 *And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

25:34 *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Verse 31-32: On Jesus' second coming, He appears as King of kings and as the Great Shepherd **to separate sheep from goats**. There will be a separation, even two people in the marriage can be separated, one is lifted as sheep and one is left as goat, they are separated forever. We cannot rely our spirituality to the others. Each of us must give account to God.

Verse 33: the goats and the sheep are separated by their position:

- The sheep are on the right hand of God.
- The goats are on the left hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 10:2

10:2. *A wiseman's heart is at his right hand, But a fool's heart at his left.*

The bases of separation are as follows:

1. **Heavenly wisdom**(we have learnt this).
The sheep have heavenly wisdom; they are on the right hand of God. The goats do not have heavenly wisdom; they are on the left hand of God.
2. **Characteristics**(Matthew 25: 35-45).

WE WILL DISCUSS THE SECOND BASE OF SEPARATION

Matthew 25: 35,39-40,41-45

25:35. *for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

25:39 *Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

25:40 *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*

25:41 *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

25:42 *for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

25:43 *I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*

25:44 *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'*

25:45 *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

The sheep has **love character**, that is **loving the other people who need**. This is equal to **loving God**.

The sheep will enter the eternal Heavenly Kingdom.

The goats are on the left hand of God because of **egoism** that is **not loving the other people who need**. This is equal to **not loving God, without love**.

Without love, everything will be empty and useless, and will enter the everlasting fire, perdition in the hell forever.

Egoistic goats = the condition of the people of Bethlehem during the time of Jesus' birth.

Luke 2:4-7

2:4. *Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,*

2:5 *to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.*

2:6 *So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.*

2:7 *And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

The people of Bethlehem are egoistic, they did not give any room for Jesus' birth. It means that they do not love the other people who need, and it is equal to not loving God.

Not loving the others who are seen = not loving God = rejecting God.

It means that the people of Bethlehem are also without any love.

Approaching Jesus' second coming, everything will increase. The one who loves will love more, the one who is egoistic will be more egoistic up to the lawlessness.

Matthew 24:12

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

At the end of the ages, there will be many egoistic goats; they are without love, lawless.

Matthew 10:21

10:21. "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

Egoism is at most will hit a marriage. There will be many fights, infidelities, divorcement, hatred, until putting the others to death will really happen.

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.

But egoism also hits the house of God, i.e. the children of God do not want to minister; being unfaithful on the service until do not want to minister Him. This is an unconscious sin.

There are two levels of the sin of not committing service to the Lord as follows:

1. Habitual sin, i.e. not ministering God, but feeling no regret or guilt to the Lord.
2. Intentional sin, i.e. willfully not ministering God; and it means he has entered the lawlessness and will enter the everlasting fire.

Luke 2:7

2:7. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Jesus was born on the pen and laid in a manger to give His love to us, so that we are not egoistic.

A manger is the place for food and drink for the sheep.

There are two types of spiritual food for the sheep as follows:

1. **The shepherding Word**, that is the Word entrusted by God to a **pastor** to be preached to the sheep or to the congregation **faithfully and repeated**, to become the food for the sheep, such that they grow spiritually to the salvation and perfection.

Numbers 27:15-17

27:15. Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying:

27:16 "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,

27:17 who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

A pastor is only one. Not to do the cult of individual to the pastor, but the shepherding Word will lead.

1 Timothy 5:17

5:17. Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

A pastor must be honored double because a pastor preaches the shepherding Word doubly, to face the end of the ages and to face Jesus' second coming.

As manna is only allowed to be taken one omer on the first until the fifth day. But on the sixth day (the end of the ages), they had to take two omers of manna.

The shepherding Word is the double Word, which consists of:

- a. The gospel word = milk.

Ephesians1:13

1:13. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

The gospel Word is the gospel that preaches Jesus' first coming to die on the cross and save the sinners. This is the manifestation of God's love, which does not punish the sinners, but save them.

The process to be saved:

- Believing Jesus, having faith in Jesus.
- Repenting, stopping sinning to return to God.
- Being renewed through water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism.

John3:5

3:5. Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Through the renewal, we will get the new life, the Heavenly life that is **life in the righteousness.**

Life in the righteousness = being saved = the sheep on the right hand of God.

Proverbs10:2-3

10:2. Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death.

10:3 The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

Everything we get in the world in wrong way will profit nothing, not lasting forever, and will be perished. Righteousness will deliver us from death, and as addition we will be cared by God the Great Shepherd.

Egoistic people = lawless people, without any love, that is people who keep on doing sins. This kind of people will enter the everlasting fire.

Do not be fool! God was willing to be born in the manger to give us food, such that we can live in the righteousness.

- b. The teaching Word = solid food, the Word sharper than any two-edged sword.

2 Corinthians4:3-4

4:3. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

This is the Word preaching Jesus' second coming in the glory as the King of kings and Heavenly bridegroom to purify and perfect the congregation to become God's bride who is ready to welcome His second coming.

Hebrews4:12-13

4:12. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews5:11-13

5:11. of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

5:12 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.

5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

If one is only able to receive milk, his spiritual level is as a child, and will not be able to become the bride.

The attitudes to the teaching Word are as follows:

- Always avoiding the sharpness of the Word sword = never being pierced by the sharpness of the Word, such that the sins remain hidden and stored inside the heart (stomach).

Matthew26:23-25

26:23. He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.
 26:24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."
 26:25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."

Better our heart is being stabbed now and sins are reconciled, than being as Judas whose stomach was opened but he had no more time.

- Rejecting the teaching Word which pierces the sins.

Acts 5:33

5:33. When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.

1 John 3:15

3:15. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- Receiving the sharpness of the Word with a touched heart.

Acts 2:37

2:37. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

The process until we are cut to the heart is as follows:

1. Listening to the Word solemnly.
2. Understanding the Word.
3. Believing and ensuring the Word = the Word becomes faith in the heart. We are cut to the heart and able to confess the sins. Whatever our condition tonight, if we are able to confess the sins, we will be forgiven and saved.
4. Practicing the Word, being obedient to the Word.

Hebrews 5:14

5:14. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

If we practice the Word, the result is we get the **purification of the senses**.

Purification of the heart = purification of the face = purification of the senses.

Luke 2:9-10, 19-20, 17

2:9. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

2:19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

2:20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

2:17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

Fear (feeling, skin) about something in this world must be changed, such that we only fear of the Lord.

Eyes must be purified such that we only look at God, look at the true teaching Word.

Nose must smell the incense, meaning praise and worship God more.

Ears must listen and be obedient to the true teaching Word.

Lip must testify about the true teaching Word, about how the Word has already worked in us, has helped our life.

If there are only two, ears and lip are good; God will make everything good, i.e. good future, good marriage, good ministry.

Mark 7:37

7:37. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Purification also results in love, such that we can love the other people sincerely, can love ourselves.

1 Peter 1:22

1:22. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

There must be purification first, and then there will be love.

2. Holy Communion, the sacrifice of Christ.

John 6:55-56

6:55. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Through the Holy Communion, we will abide in Jesus, and Jesus in us, no longer being separated.

The requirement to be able to eat the Holy Communion is **examining ourselves**. When the Word pierces, we have to be able to confess our sins, and not repeating the sins if we are forgiven.

But there are two possibilities during the Holy Communion, that is becoming like Judas or like John the apostle. Judas did not examine himself, did not confess everything, and he was separated forever.

John 13:23

13:23. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

Let us become like John the apostle who was leaning on Jesus' bosom, on the embrace of God's hands.

Yesaya 46:3-4

46:3. " Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb:

46:4 Even to you old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.

The result of being inside the embrace of God's hands is God will struggle for us, our life will depend on the loving hand of the Great Shepherd. God will bear all our burdens and solve all our struggles.

God is the one who will struggle and God will be responsible.

God blesses us.