

Easter Service in Malang, April 24, 2011 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 26:6-13 denotes the **PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER**.

Matthew 26:7, 12

26:7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table.

26:12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.

The preparation for the Passover = the preparation for the death or slaughtering of Jesus on the cross as the Lamb of God (Lamb of Passover) = the preparation for the burial of Jesus.

Jesus was buried to prove that Jesus was really dead.

The meaning for us now is as follows:

A woman who poured fragrant oil to Jesus as the preparation for His burial is equal to life who **has death experience with Jesus (flesh misery without sins)**.

Where was Jesus buried?

Matthew 27:59-60

27:59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

27:60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

Jesus was buried in a new tomb.

Why not in an old tomb?

II Kings 13:20-21

13:20. Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year.

13:21 So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

If Jesus was buried in an old tomb, his condition will be the same as corpses who touched the bones on Elisha. It means that Jesus rose because of another reason.

Jesus was buried in a new tomb. It means that **Jesus rose just because of God's power (Holy Spirit's power), not by another power.**

Jesus' resurrection was proved by the empty tomb.

We follow Jesus on the death experience (the burial) until the resurrection.

Romans 6:5

6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

If we are in the likeness of death experience with Jesus, someday we will also have resurrection experience with Jesus (seeing the empty tomb).

Do not be afraid!

Death experience is only 3 days, but resurrection is forever.

The beginning of following death and resurrection experience with Jesus is the TRUE WATER BAPTISM.

In the era of Noah, there were many arks, but only Noah's ark which was saved.

It means that there is only one true water baptism, that is water baptism according to the Word.

Romans 6:4

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The true water baptism is baptism according to the Word of God, as Jesus was baptized, that is **we are buried in the water with Jesus to rise in newness of life (life in the righteousness).**

Birth by physical mother will result in flesh (carnal) life who will be perished.

Water baptism = new birth, which results Heavenly life, that is life in the righteousness.

Similarly, in the burial of our relatives, we must follow God's pattern, that is they must be buried.

There are three people who are related with the empty tomb (experiencing resurrection power from God):

1. **John20:1-2**

20:1. Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

20:2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Mary Magdalene who represents woman (or mother) that is:

- Unclean life (being possessed by seven demons).

Luke8:2

8:2 and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmitiesâ€"Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

- Weak life, experiencing many sorrows and tears.

But, in **John20:1**, Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

The stone denotes hardness of the heart. Women frequently keep rottenness (as a tomb), bitterness, revenge, such that they have many tears in their life.

Be watchful!

Women are the weak, but they are usually stubborn.

In facing anything, let us not be stubborn or be hard to the others!

Resurrection power is able to **destroy the hardness of the heart**, such that we can have **MEEK HEART** to be able to **receive any work of the true teaching Word, which is sharper than any double-edged sword.**

The measure of meekness is being able to receive the work of the sword Word.

The results are as follows:

- We experience **purification from sins up to the peak of sins** (eating-drinking sins and marrying-giving sins).

- **Every problem is solved.**

Sin is the heaviest burden in human life, which burdens people from the world until afterlife.

If sins are purified or reconciled, every problem will also be solved.

Let us receive the work of the sword Word, although it is painful to the flesh.

- **We can stretch out our hands or worship God. It is equal to believe and fully surrender ourselves, only to God.**

Matthew28:1, 9

28:1. Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Women also denote the church of the Lord.

We can have wealth, diploma, etc., but we should not rely on our own strength!

Let us stretch out our hands to God, believe and fully surrender to God.

2. **John20:3-7**

20:3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

20:4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

20:5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

20:6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,

20:7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Simon Peter who represents man (or father), that is life who has bravery and experience in facing temptations (Peter dared to enter the tomb), but has no love.

The practices are as follows:

- Denying Jesus, denying the true teaching Word (not according to the true teaching Word).

We have heard or preached the true teaching Word frequently, but our lives are usually not according to the Word. It is equal to denying Jesus.

- Hurting the others.

Peter was accidentally cut Malkus' ear.

Sometimes we accidentally hurt the others; we should directly ask for forgiveness and reconcile it.

Do not hurt the others! (Moreover, hurting parents, pastor, children, or the congregations).

There are only few parents or pastor children or the congregations. But, many children hurt parents, many congregations hurt pastor.

Jesus left two things to be seen by Peter, that is:

- Linen cloths (white linen cloths).

Revelation 19:8

19:8 *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

White linen cloths = righteous and good deeds.

Be watchful, we should not be fooled!

There are many kind people in the world, but if they are not right (not holy), everything is a fake.

Fake good deeds soon will be changed to evil and rude deeds.

Acts 3:6-7

3:6 *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

3:7 *And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

By the resurrection power, Peter experienced renewal of life, such that he **had RIGHTEOUS AND GOOD DEEDS.**

Peter no longer hurt the others, even he loved and helped the others.

Every righteous and good deed will be accumulated as the bride's cloth, clean and bright fine linen, to welcome Jesus' second coming in the glorious clouds.

- Handkerchief.

Handkerchief is used to wipe the sweats and tears.

By **the resurrection power**, Peter was able to **SERVE GOD FERVENTLY**, with sweats, tears, even blood (**with all sacrifices**).

John 21:18-19

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."*

Resurrection power encouraged Peter to be able to stretch out his hands to God, to believe and fully

surrender to God, although there were many sacrifices.

3. **John20:4-5, 8**

20:4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

20:5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

20:8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

John who represents the youth, that is:

- Life who has no bravery, being doubtful and worry, being desperate in facing problems, especially about future, about mates, etc.

When we are doubtful and afraid as John, it is better to keep silent and do not step!

Wait and see the pattern from parents, pastor, the Word, and then we can follow.

John waited Peter entering the tomb first, and he entered afterwards.

Walking during the doubtfulness is 90% walking in the wrong way.

- Life who wants to be faster than parents, pastor, the Word, such that becoming disobedient.

Do not be playful!

If one is disobedient (because he wants a faster way), it equals to entering the tomb, a dead lock and perdition.

- Living in sins up to the peak of sins (wallowing in sins), many failures and that life is humiliated. Even many youths are desperate and disappointed.
(John used thin cloth, even run without any cloths).

By the **resurrection power**, John was renewed to **believe and fully surrender to God (stretch out his hands to God).**

John20:8

20:8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

We can fail, but the resurrection power of God never fails.

I Peter5:5

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."

Many youths have few experiences, but already being strong or having power!

The conclusion from the experience of Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John is **RESURRECTION POWER makes us able to stretch out our hands to God, worship God, believe and fully surrender to God.**

God will also stretch out His hands to us.

The results are as follows:

1. **Matthew8:2-3**

8:2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

8:3 Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Healing power from leprosy. It means as follows:

- Recovery from any **physical diseases**.
- Recovery from **sin diseases**, such that we may live in the righteousness and holiness (not repeating any sins).

"Immediately" means nothing is impossible. In a twinkling of an eye we can be healed from any illness, and set free from any sins.

2. **Matthew9:23-25**

9:23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,

9:24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.

9:25 *But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand,and the girl arose.*

Marriage and children who have been dead/ destroyed or have bitterness will be raised again by God's hands touch.

If marriages and children are raised, there will be happiness more than anything (there is new wine).

Resurrection power defeats the death, makes the impossible possible.

3. **I Peter 5:6**

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

God exalts us in His time.

God lifts us and recovers us from any deteriorations, downfalls, and failures.

God will make everything beautiful in His time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

3:11. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Until the most beautiful, we will be purified and perfected to be able to welcome Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds.

On the cross, Jesus was willing to be marred (not beautiful) to make us beautiful in His time.

Let us stretch out our hands to God, do not rely on anything!Â

God blesses us.