

General Service in Malang, April 29, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 26:69-75 is about Peter denied Jesus.

Peter denied Jesus three times as follows:

1. Verse 69-70: Peter denied Jesus of Galilee. It equals to denying the calling and election of God.
2. Verse 71-72: Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth.
3. Verse 73-75: Peter denied Jesus even cursed and swore.

ad. 2. Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth

Matthew 26:71-72

26:71 *And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."*

26:72 *But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"*

Luke 1:26-27,31

1:26 *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,*

1:27 *to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

1:31 *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*

Nazareth is the place where Jesus began to become flesh in the womb of Mary.

Luke 2:51-52

2:51 *Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*

2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

Nazareth is the place where Jesus grew physically.

In shorts, physically Nazareth is the place where Jesus began to become flesh in the womb, up to the maturity.

Spiritually, Nazareth is the place for spiritual growth from salvation up to full maturity (perfection) as Jesus. This denotes the shepherding pen.

Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth means denying the shepherding. It is started from pastor who does not want to feed the sheep.

Matthew 20:29-31,34

20:29 *Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.*

20:30 *And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"*

20:31 *Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"*

20:34 *So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.*

The condition of life who is not shepherded equals to two blind men sitting by the road. The practices are as follows:

1. Life who does not understand and does not want to understand, such that he does not believe to the true teaching Word.

Luke 8:5,12

8:5 *"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.*

8:12 *Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

This happens since:

- His heart is as the wayside, that is doubtful heart, wandering heart, not concentrating while listening the Word.
- Liking to wander, considering all the teachings are equal, such that being influenced by strange voice.
- Trampling down the true teaching Word (getting bored, insulting, criticizing the Word).

The moments of the preaching of the true shepherding Word is the deciding moments whether we are shepherded or not,

and it also decides whether we are saved or not.

The right attitude is **listening the Word solemnly, understanding, believing and having faith, until practicing the Word.** Thus, we will be shepherded and saved.

2. As a fig tree by the road, that is heart which has no peace.

Matthew 21:18-19

21:18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.

21:19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

This fig tree has many leaves, but it did not bear any fruit. It means being active in serving God, but not satisfying God, even making God grieve.

The consequence is being cursed by God, such that this kind of life will dry spiritually, die spiritually, and not experience satisfaction. The indications is grumbling, murmuring, criticizing the Word, looking for satisfaction from the World up to repeating sins.

Why did this fig tree have many leaves but did not bear fruit? Why is one active in ministry but does not satisfy God?

- Fig leaves were used to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It equals to ministering with self-truth (fig leaves), not with the truth of the Word.

Self-truth is:

- Covering sins by blaming the others, blaming God, blaming the true teaching Word.
- Truth that is not according to the Holy Bible.

To become the servant of righteousness as the fig tree that bears fruits, we must minister with the truth from God, that is:

- Truth from Holy Bible, truth of the true teaching Word.
- Confessing and forgiving each other.

This fruit of righteousness satisfies God, and we will be satisfied by God.

- We have ministered within shepherding, but not bearing any fruit since the root is bad (it needs to be dug around).

Luke 13:6-8

13:6 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

13:7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, "Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?"

13:8 But he answered and said to him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.

Bad root is ministering by only following own will which is clearly in conflict with the Word of God.

Ministering with shepherding system and ministering without shepherding system will show differences. Without shepherding system, we will be directly cursed by God when we do mistakes. But within shepherding system, there is still intercession prayer from pastor and Great Shepherd.

If it is still good outside, the root must be checked. If it is already bad outside, the root must be rotten already.

There are three kinds of bad roots as follows:

- Root of evil and uncleanness.
Evil root is loving money, which causes stinginess and greediness. Stinginess is cannot give. Greediness is taking the other's rights even God's rights, those are the tenth and special offering.
If there is evil root, there will be unclean root which involves eating-drinking sins and marrying and being given in marriage sins.

- Root of bitterness.

Hebrews 12:15

12:15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

This root of bitterness only causes riot and divisions within the unity of the body of Christ.

- Root of rottenness.

Isaiah 5:24

5:24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Root of rottenness is rejecting the true teaching Word since preserving the flesh desire that is in conflict with the Word.

The right attitude within the shepherding is **peaceful heart, always giving thanks to God.**

3. Like sheep having no shepherd, that is stony heart.

Matthew 9:35-36

9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

If we are not shepherded, we will be tired, weary and in heavy burden. We will be scattered and there is no one who is responsible for the soul salvation.

The condition of life which is not shepherded, is as dog and swine that wallow in sins. He acts blindly in his personal life, within marriage, and also within ministry. Acting blindly means being within darkness, up to entering the eternal darkness in the hell.

The true attitude is **meek heart**. Our life is within the hands of Great Shepherd such that our life in this world is easy and light.

The indication of being shepherded is our life gets easier and lighter, until everything will be solved in His time. But if our life gets harder and heavier, it means we have not been shepherded yet.

Matthew 20:30

20:30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

These two blind men denote husband and wife (marriage). Seeing the condition of these two people who were not shepherded, whose destiny was dark and broken, Jesus was passing by as the Good Shepherd.

John 10:11

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

Mark 1:1-3

1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1:2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."

1:3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight."

Jesus walks through flat way, that is straight heart, honest heart.

Meanwhile, men's hearts tend to evil and uncleanness. We can get flat heart through water baptism.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us "baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Romans 6:2-4

6:2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

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.

Honest heart is confessing the real condition. Flat heart is heart that obeys, that believes and fully surrenders to God. It equals to stretching out both our hands to God, touching God with faith. Let us not touch God with mind/ logic.

Matthew 20:34

20:34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

If we touch God with faith, God will touch us with mercy.

Faith + mercy = miracle.

Physical miracle is the blind see, impossible things become possible, and failures turn out to success. Everything will be solved by God.

Spiritually, the blind see means renewal of life, that is we can see ourselves with all its lacks. If we can see ourselves with all its lacks, we will be able to see God. If we already see God, we can follow God, that is being well shepherded, being used in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain, until we are led by God to the last shepherding place at New Jerusalem.

Revelation 7:17

7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.â[?]?

When we can see ourselves with all its lacks and when we can see God, our tears will be erased more. We are led to beautiful and joyful future up to the New Jerusalem.

God blesses us.