

General Service in Malang, December 09, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28 refers to shekinah glory or the light of glory.

Jesus dies on the cross and is buried, but then He is risen. There is resurrection and the glory of God for all of us behind death or cross experience.

Matthew 28:1-10 is about shekinah glory shines the dark hard heart, so there is renewal of life from carnal man to spiritual one as the angel or Jesus is.

Matthew 28:3

28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Countenance must be renewed, until it is like lightning or sunrise that shines the love of God.

There are three appearances of sunrise as follows.

1. Sunrise at Zoar related to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 19:17-23

19:17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

19:18 Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords!

19:19 Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.

19:20 See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

19:21 And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.

19:22 Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

19:23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

Lot has been brought outside Sodom but God still orders him to escape to the mountains. Now it means that we have been saved but we still must run to reach perfection.

Lot confesses that he cannot escape to the mountains. It means we are confessing that we cannot reach perfection because we still have many faults and sins.

Lot points to the city called Zoar, which is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. It refers to the thing that is often diminished, that is the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:23

1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

The cross of Jesus is often diminished and considered as foolishness and stumbling block. Within Tabernacle, it denotes the Altar of Burnt Offerings. Actually the cross is the place to confess all our weaknesses and sins so that we will not be judged as Sodom and Gomorrah.

The sun rises at Zoar means the first love from the cross of Jesus is able to forgive and erase all our sins.

Shining countenance as sunrise means life who has first love from the cross is always encouraged to correct himself through the sharpness of the Word. If we find sin, we confess it to God and the others, so the blood of Jesus will cover and forgive all our sins. After we are forgiven, we must not do sins anymore, but live in righteousness and become the instrument of righteousness. We are faithful and fervent in spirit in doing our ministry until the end.

The results are as follows.

- We are saved, not judged.
- Our body, soul, and spirit are cared by God through His cross (it is always a plus sign), until we can give thank to God.

- We live in peace and calmness.

2. Sunrise at Peniel related to the struggling of Jacob.

Genesis 32:24,28-31

32:24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

32:29 Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

32:31 Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

Jacob struggles until the sun rises. Now it means we struggle until we experience the love of God that increases until Jesus comes a second time (the dawn).

Countenance shines as sunrise means life who has growing love, which encourages us to struggle with God in worship prayer. The growing love of God will give us victory in our struggle.

The victories of Jacob are as follows.

- From fear to joy.
- From worry to sureness.
- Marriage becomes one and is blessed by God (Jacob and Esau are united).
- Jacob receives new name or bride's name, which is written in the Book of Life, until we enter the New Jerusalem.

We have many struggles these days, but let our struggle increase up to the struggle to receive new name. It means we struggle to be shepherded to the true teaching Word, as a branch abides on the true vine.

John 10:3

10:3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

The voice of a shepherd or the true shepherding Word calls us according to our own name. We cannot rely on the others. It is a private struggling.

When is our name called? It is when the shepherding Word points our sins and condition. At that time, the Great Shepherd calls our name and writes it in the Book of Life. Therefore, we must be shepherded until the end, so our name is written completely in the Book of Life.

We must not hear the strange voice, because it will make us not able to hear the voice of Great Shepherd.

3. Sunrise for the good and evil, that is the perfect love.

Matthew 5:43-45,48

5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'"

5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

The perfect love has no intention. It is only based on sacrifice.

We can get the perfect love through the sprinkling of blood (the Most Holy Place), that is suffering without any sins with Jesus.

We need the perfect love to welcome Jesus' second coming.

The practices of having the perfect love are as follows.

- Loving the others as loving ourselves, even loving our enemy. We must not repay evil with evil, but we must repay evil with good.
- Loving God more than everything, so we can be obedient until the flesh does not sound anymore.

Psalm 84:11-12

84:11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

84:12 O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

The usefulness of God's love as the sun is as follows.

- As a shield from the fiery dart of Satan, protecting us from sins up to the peak of sins, protecting us from antichrist that will reign in the earth for three years and a half, up to protecting us from God's judgment.
- The love as the sun is the mercy and goodness of God that always care our life, solve our problem, and lift us when we fall down.
- The glory of God purifies and renews us until we are perfect as He is.
Renewal of life is started from being honest, willing to confess sins and failures, willing to admit God's usage to the others, willing to confess the right and wrong matters.

God blesses us.