

General Service in Malang, March 25, 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.
2. Verse 71-72: Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth.
3. Verse 73-75: Peter denied Jesus even cursed and swore.

ad. 1. Peter denied Jesus of Galilee

Matthew 26:69-70

26:69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

26:70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

Matthew 4:18-20

4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

4:20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

By the Sea of Galilee, Peter got God's call and election from fisherman to become fisher of man. It equals to becoming priests and kings, becoming God's servant.

Peter denied Jesus of Galilee equals to **denying the calling and election of God**.

It means not being faithful until leaving the ministry, returning to become fail and naked fisherman.

1 Peter 2:9-10

2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2:10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Actually, it is only the Israelites (the chosen nation of God) and their descendant who are proper to become priests and kings, to minister and serve God.

The Gentiles were not allowed to become priests and kings, could not minister and serve God. Therefore, God opens the way for the Gentiles through the way of God's mercy, which is in the price of Jesus' blood. It is such that the Gentiles may become priests and kings, and may serve God.

Thus, the Gentiles can become priests and kings, can receive the calling and election of God, can serve God, can hold the ministry, just because of God's mercy in the price of Jesus' blood.

If the Gentiles deny God's call and election, not being faithful until leaving the ministry, it equals to trampling down or insulting the blood of Jesus, and it means perdition forever.

Matthew 4:21-22

4:21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,

4:22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Here, Jesus called 4 people (Peter, Andrew, James, John), although there were 5 people (there was Zebedee). Why was it like that?

Revelation 4:6-7

4:6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

4:7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

Since in the Heaven there are 4 creatures around the throne. In the earth, there were 4 disciples around Jesus.

Thus, **Jesus' ministry is ministry according to the throne of Heaven, according to the pattern of the Kingdom of**

Heaven (pattern of Tabernacle).

Ministry with the system of Heaven's throne cannot be bound by anything in this earth (work, study, family, sins, etc.). James and John left their nets and their father. If we are bound by something, we will not be able to minister God, and it is not ministry of Heaven anymore.

The practices of ministry according to the throne of Kingdom of Heaven are as follows:

1. The foundation of ministry according to the throne of Kingdom of Heaven is HOLINESS/PURITY.

Revelation 4:8

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

John 15:3

15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

We are purified by the Word spoken by Jesus himself, that is the true teaching Word, whose secret is opened through one verse explained by another verse.

The requirement to be purified is branch must abide on the true vine, that is being right shepherded, that is:

- Being shepherded on the true teaching Word.
- Perseverance in the shepherding pen.

In Tabernacle, shepherding pen refers to the Holy Place, where there are three equipments which denote perseverance in three main services, that is:

- a. Golden Candlestick perseverance in General Service fellowship with God the Holy Spirit in the anointing of Holy Spirit and the gifts of Holy Spirit.
- b. Table of Showbread perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion fellowship with the Son of God in the Word and the sacrifice of Christ.
- c. Golden Altar of Incense perseverance in Prayer Service fellowship with God the Father in His love.

We must be well shepherded, then we will experience purification intensively and continuously.

Ephesians 5:3-9

5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

The things that must be purified are unclean sins (fornication, wrong marriage), evil sins (being stingy and greedy), and useless words (lie, slander, humor, jokes especially in the preaching of the Word).

If we are purified from evil and uncleanness, we will live in light and bear fruits:

- Truth.
- Righteousness, that is not taking one's side, but only on God's side, on the true teaching Word's side. Solomon used sword (the Word) to solve the problem of two women who fought for a child. Likewise for us, facing everything in this world, we must be right by using only ONE sword.
- Goodness, that is good deeds, even we can repay goodness for evil.

This will lead to perfect fruit, that is God's bride who is ready to welcome Jesus' second coming, ready to sit on the throne of God.

2. The driving motor of ministry according to the throne of Kingdom of Heaven is HOLY SPIRIT.

Revelation 4:5

4:5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Seven lamps of burning fire denote the Holy Spirit with its seven manifestations.

If our driving motor is Holy Spirit, the results are as follows:

- We will become faithful and fervent in spirit in the ministry until we finish the race.
If the driving motor is not Holy Spirit, we will stop halfway.
- Seven lamps denote light. It means we serve in light/honesty.
Honesty is started from being honest in the true teaching Word. If we are honest in the true teaching Word, we will be honest in marriage, honest in financial matter.

Until we reach the light city of New Jerusalem, where there is no more darkness.

Revelation 21:11

21:11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

3. The peak of ministry according to the throne of Kingdom of Heaven is WORSHIP.

Revelation 4:9-10

4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Worshipping God equals to looking at Jesus' face which shines as sun.

In worship, we experience the sunshine of perfect God's love.

The usefulness of the sunshine of perfect God's love are as follows:

- Sun equals to shield. It means that perfect God's love protects us from sins, from distress. It also protects us from antichrist, and from God's judgment.

Psalm 84:11

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.

- Sun equals to God's mercy and kindness for:
 - a. Caring our life in the difficulties in the last days.
 - b. Facing cloud/heavy rain/impossible problems.
When there is cloud and sun, there will be rainbow of God's help. The family of Bethany faced dark cloud, that is the death of Lazarus. It was impossible problem, but Mary could fall on Jesus' feet and worship Him. At that time, there was God's mercy and kindness that helped them.
 - c. Glorifying our life, making our life beautiful and successful in His time.
Spiritually, we will be purified and renewed continually, until we are as perfect as God, and we can be together with God on His throne forever.

God blesses us.