

General Service in Malang, November 25, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

Mark 10:13-16

10:13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

10:14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

10:15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

10:16 And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Little children represent lives who have gentle heart. The practices are as follows.

1. Living in righteousness, not preserving sins.
2. Cannot be hindered by anything to minister God, also not hindering the others to come to God.

Combining both practices, life that has gentle heart prioritizes the kingdom of God and the truth. Thus, he will be inside the embrace of God's merciful hands. The results are as follows.

- God touches and protects, so that Satan cannot touch.
- God blesses and cares.
- Merciful hands of God open the doors in this world up to the door of Heaven.

GENERAL SERVICE

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28 refers to 'Shekinah Glory', that is resurrection and glory.

Behind death experience, there is resurrection and glory.

Matthew 28:1-10 is about the resurrection of Jesus.

Matthew 28:1-2

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.

28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary represent life who is faithful in following Jesus up to His death on the cross, also until He is buried. Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus is shown to them for the first time.

Thus, the measure of our following to God is when we are faithful and enjoy death experience with Jesus. In every point of our following and ministry to Him, it must be marked with death experience.

If we can be faithful and experience death experience with Jesus, we will be the first persons who see His resurrection (shekinah glory), which cannot be faked by anything else. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary become the first persons who see Jesus's resurrection, while the great disciples are the second ones.

The resurrection power of Jesus is able to roll back the big stone, meaning it is able to destruct hard heart.

Sin or wrong thing causes hard heart, until it is as hard as the heart of Satan (Pharaoh) who cannot repent anymore.

Exodus 7:14-16

7:14 So the Lord said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.

7:15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.

7:16 And you shall say to him, "The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!

If we harden our heart, we will receive God's judgments up to perdition.

Pharaoh takes a bath and voids at the river every morning. It denotes Satan who blemishes every source of human life in this world with sins, so many people including God's children are contaminated by sins and have hard heart as Pharaoh's.

The practices of having hard heart until as hard as the heart of Pharaoh are as follows.

- Being unfaithful in ministry, leaving the ministry, up to not ministering God anymore.
- Being disobedient to God, spiritual and physical parents.

When we are blessed and everything is smooth (as the ambience in the garden of Eden), we must be watchful so that there is no hard heart and disobedience that infiltrate. But we must also be watchful in suffering.

- Living in sins, meaning:
 - Having no regret when doing sins, even enjoying sins.
 - Not being willing to confess sins, even blaming the others and blaming God.

The consequences of having hard heart are as follows.

1. As an empty tomb, meaning empty life, without the Word, Holy Spirit, and the love of God.
The signs are being unsatisfied and within suffering (as the plague of waters becoming blood), up to dying spiritually. This kind of life has no more passion in listening the Word, and the consequence is another lust in sins appears.
2. Facing closed door, meaning there is no way out of problems, especially problems of sin. Until the door of Heaven is closed.

But the resurrection power of Jesus is able to roll back the big stone, to destruct hard heart to become gentle one.

The practices of having gentle heart are as follows.

- Being faithful and fervent in spirit in ministry, cannot be hindered by anything.
- Being obedient to physical, spiritual, and heavenly parents.
- Living in righteousness and holiness.

If there are these three practices, we will become God's servants who are used by God.

Exodus 7:15

7:15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.

The things that are inside hard heart must be destroyed now. Do not procrastinate, or else it means closing the opportunity to minister God, until there is no more chance.

Hebrews 1:7

1:7 And of the angels He says: Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.

The servant of God who is righteous and holy, obedient, faithful and fervent in spirit, is as a flame of fire that cannot be quenched by anything until we finish the race.

Daniel 7:9

7:9 I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

The servant of God who is as a flame of fire equals to the throne of God.

Thus the servant of God who is righteous and holy, obedient, faithful and fervent in spirit becomes the throne of God.

The tasks of God's servant are as follows.

1. Being the throne of God, and God will be present.
If one ministers unrighteously, he becomes the throne of Satan.
2. Showing the throne of God in the congregation, also through fellowships.

Psalms 11:4

11:4 The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

Where there is the throne of God, His eyes behold. It means God cares and pays attention to our life.

1. One hair illustrates powerless life, but if we become righteous and holy servant of God, there are God's eyes behold. We will be protected and cared directly by God.

Matthew 10:29-30

10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

2. God cares our sufferings and problems, and He is able to solve everything right is His time.

Exodus 3:7

3:7 And the Lord said: I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

3. God watches every step of our life.

Job 7:17-18

7:17 What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him,
7:18 That You should visit him every morning, And test him every moment?

One form of God's attention is through the sprinkling of blood. This is the highest attention of God.

James 5:10-11

5:10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.
5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

In facing the sprinkling of blood, we must keep being patient waiting for God's time. Do not take our own way out.

Job 42:5-6

42:5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.
42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.

Job can humble himself and throw away all his self-truth, confess that he is just as clay which is powerless and not worthy.

Previously Job has heard of God by the hearing of the ear, but through the sprinkling of blood he becomes the first person who experiences the resurrection and glorious power of God. The resurrection and glorious power of God is able to renew our life, starting from good and right words, words that become blessings to the others. Sometime, when Jesus comes a second time, we will be renewed as glorious as He is.

God blesses us.