

General Service in Malang, October 09, 2011 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 26:26-29 is about EATING HOLY COMMUNION.

Matthew 26:26-28

26:26. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

26:27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

26:27 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Eating Holy Communion is eating the body of Christ and drinking the blood of Christ.

After being brought in the preaching of the Word and prayed, the bread and wine are really the body and blood of Christ. It is no longer merely a symbol.

Therefore, we should not be careless in Holy Communion.

The usefulness of the blood of Christ is redeeming us from sins (death) and lifting us up to become the priests and kings.

Revelation 1:5-6

1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Priest = a holy life.

The main requirement to become a priest or God's servant is holiness, not smartness, richness, good looking, etc.

Sin is burden. One will not be able to serve well as long as he still bears heavy burden.

Priest = life who takes ministry to God.

"Taking ministry" means he cannot do the ministry according to himself, sometimes do it and another times not.

Priest = life who serves and ministers God.

Who is actually able to serve and minister God?

Exodus 19:6

19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Actually, only the true Israelites, the chosen generation, and all the offspring, who are proper to become priests and kings.

How about the Gentiles?

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, through the lineage, the Gentiles are not allowed to serve and minister God.

Therefore, Jesus opens a way through **merciful and graceful way** which is **in the price of Jesus' blood**, such that the Gentiles are able to become priests and kings.

Thus, **the price of service and ministry (priesthood) is the precious blood of Jesus, which cannot be bought or changed with anything.**

If the Gentiles do not want to serve and minister God, it equals to mocking and trampling down the blood of Jesus, and it means perdition forever.

Also when the Gentiles have already served God, but they do sins deliberately, preserve the sins, it equals to mocking and trampling down the blood of Jesus, and it means perdition forever.

We must serve and minister God solemnly.

We should not play with ministry!
We should not play with sins!

Thus, **the Gentiles minister and serve God only by God's mercy and grace.**

The PRACTISES of ministering and serving God in His merciful system are as follows:

1. **Being marked with offering**, not begging or looking for something.

Romans 12:1

12:1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

It is started with the smallest offering, that is the tenth and special offering, until we can offer our whole life to God.

The requirements are as follows:

- A living body, through perseverance in General Service (Golden Candlestick).
We are filled with the oil of Holy Spirit = being a burning lamp.

Holy Spirit gives life.

The proofs are being active, being faithful and fervent in spirit in ministry.

- A holy body, blameless, through perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion (Table of Showbread).
Holy body is body ruled by the true teaching Word, the Word which is sharper than any double-edged sword.

We always need to be purified by the true teaching Word sword, such that we are not defiled by sins.

When there is air, there is Satan who always attacks us with sins.

- A body which is acceptable to God, through perseverance in Prayer Service (The Golden Altar of Incense).
A body which is acceptable to God is a body ruled by the love of God;

a. We can love God more than anything, that is being obedient.

b. We can love the others as we love ourselves.

Thus, we can present our body as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God through perseverance in three main services (shepherding pen, shepherding system).

The Gentiles actually are dogs and swine which are lifted up to become the sheep of God.

If we are not shepherded, the Gentiles will become back as dogs and swine which wallow in sins.

2. **Experiencing renewal of life**, from flesh man to become spiritual man as Jesus.

Romans 12:2

12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

It is started with the renewing of mind/ heart to become **good conscience**;

- Being FIRM to be able to differ the true teaching Word (God's will) and false teaching (not God's will).
There should be no "it is the same" terms.

Hardening the heart means forcing ourselves to stand and assuming everything is right although we are wrong.

Being firm means preserving the truth.

If we do not firm about the true teaching Word, we will not firm (cannot choose) about heaven and hell.

- Being able to differ what is that good and acceptable to God from the things which are not good (evil things, not acceptable to God things). It equals to there is sensitivity, such that there is no questioning.

Thus, we can minister and serve God with good, right, and holy deeds, up to the perfection.

In a renewal, flesh man is burnt to become scent in the presence of God.

If we do not want to be burnt (experience flesh suffering) to be renewed, the flesh will get rotten more and more.

3. **Not losing heart in the ministry.**

II Corinthians 4:1

4:1. Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

It means as follows:

- Not being desperate, disappointed, not leaving the ministry in facing any problems.
- Not being proud of something, since everything is only from God's mercy.
Pride of something (title, etc.) can make us leave the ministry to God.

We also serve God with STRONG and GOOD COURAGE. It means as follows:

- Keep serving and ministering God until we finish the race, even until forever.
The end of the race is when we die or when Jesus comes a second time.
- Keep believing and being obedient to God (the true teaching Word), whatever we face.

1 Peter 2:6-8

2:6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, " Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

2:7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, " The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

2:8 and " A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Keep believing and being obedient to God is the character of a priest.

If we keep believing and being obedient to God, the result is we WILL NOT BE HUMILIATED, but we will be glorified (we success in the world) and we will glorify God starting from now until forever.

If we do not obey God, SURELY we will be humiliated!

When we start to lose our heart, we must remember God's mercy and grace!
Let us keep believing and being obedient to God.

It is a harm if we believe and obey the others more than God. Surely we will be humiliated and perished.

The Gentiles are lifted up to become priests (God's servants) based on the mercy of God.

We serve and minister God according to God's mercy with the practices, namely there is offering of the body, renewal of life, and being strong and of good courage.

Thus, **our life will be in the merciful hands of God, the hands with the print of the nails which have been tested on the cross.**

In the past, God's hands closed the door of Noah's ark firmly such that there was no water can enter.

This morning, the merciful and graceful hands of God want to embrace our life tightly.

The RESULTS are as follows:

1. **The merciful and graceful hands of God are able to care our life miraculously** in the middle of limitations, difficulties, and crisis in this world.

Matthew 14:14, 19-20

14:14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

14:19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

14:20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

The hands of God are never limited.

The merciful and graceful hands of God are also able to heal us from any physical and spiritual (sins) sickness.

2. **The merciful and graceful hands of God are able to lift us up from all sins falling**, up to eating-drinking sins and sexuality sins. We are restored to right and holy life.

Matthew 18:27

18:27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

The merciful and graceful hands of God are also able to lift us up from all failures to become success.

If sins (the heaviest burden) are reconciled, God will also solve the other problems.

3. **The merciful and graceful hands of God are able to make miracles.**

Luke 7:13-14

7:13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

7:14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

- **Physically**, God makes possible the impossible things, He rises the dead, He gives beautiful and joyful future.
- **Spiritually**, there is miracle of renewal of life. We are renewed, started from lie and hatred, since they equal to death and perdition.

If one cannot receive advice, there is still hope to be helped if sometime he wants to change his mind and receive the advice.

But if he cannot receive the advice and even he develops hatred, he will not be able to be helped anymore, since he is already in the hands of death.

We must be HONEST and have no HATRED, moreover hatred without any reasons!

If there is miracle of renewal of life, tears will be erased.

God blesses us.