

General Service in Malang, September 30, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The whole Matthew 27 refers to the seven sprinklings of blood upon the Ark of the Covenant. It means the suffering Jesus experiences until He dies on the cross to save, sanctify, and perfect us.

In Matthew 27 there are seven passages that refer to the seven sufferings of Jesus.

Matthew 27:51-56 is about the fifth passage, namely the miracles that happen when Jesus dies. There are miracles happen behind the sprinkling of blood.

Matthew 27:54-56

27:54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

27:55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

27:56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Luke 8:2

8:2 and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

The centurion confesses that Jesus is the Son of God. Sinful women can also minister God.

Thus, the death of Jesus opens opportunity and the mercy of God to the Gentiles and sinful lives to be saved and minister God.

The steps are as follows.

1. The death of Jesus is the mercy of God to give blood and water that come out of His side to the Gentiles.

John 19:31-34

19:31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

19:32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.

19:33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Jesus' death with four major wounds (two on His hands, two on His feet) is the love of God to save the Israelites.

But the fifth wound, the largest and deepest wound that pierces His side and results in blood and water, is the mercy of God to save the Gentiles.

Thus, in order to be saved, the Gentiles must receive the sign of blood and water from His side.

The blood refers to the Altar of Burnt Offerings. Now it means repentance, that is stopping sinning to return to Jesus, dying to sin.

The water refers to the Brazen Laver. Now it means the true water baptism that is according to the Holy Bible and as the baptism of Jesus.

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.

The true water baptism is life who died to sin must be buried in water with Jesus, and raise in newness of life, Heavenly life. New life is living in righteousness, living in faith.

When we live in righteousness, we are being saved.

There are two mistakes as follows.

- If we are not buried in water baptism, we will keep staying at the grave of death and not be saved.
- One who has entered water baptism with Jesus, but keeping the old life in flesh desire and sin.

Numbers 11:4-6

11:4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: *Who will give us meat to eat?*

11:5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;

11:6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!

When Israelites walk out of Egypt, they celebrate the Passover (repentance) first before entering the Red Sea (water baptism).

But there are mixed multitude among them who also enter the Red Sea without celebrating the Passover first.

The consequence of entering water baptism without repentance is keep living in flesh desire and sin until insulting and rejecting the true teaching Word. They may get what they want, but they will enter perdition forever.

Numbers 11:33-34

11:33 But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.

11:34 So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.

Galatians 3:7

3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

If the Gentiles repent and experience new birth, namely living in righteousness, they will be lifted up as the sons of Abraham, who are saved and have right to receive the blessing of Abraham forever.

2. The death of Jesus is the mercy of God to give the crumbs of bread to the Gentiles who are as dog and sow. The crumbs of bread means as follows.
 - o The revelation of the secret of the word of God, that is one verse is explained by another verse.
 - o The breaking of body of Christ or the Holy Communion.

We can receive the crumbs of bread especially in Bible Study Service.

Matthew 15:21-28

15:21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

15:22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, *Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.*

15:23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, *Send her away, for she cries out after us.*

15:24 But He answered and said, *I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

15:25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, *Lord, help me!*

15:26 But He answered and said, *It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.*

15:27 And she said, *Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*

15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, *O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.* And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

No matter how great a Gentile is in this world, physically or spiritually, but if he has not entered Bible Study Service yet (has not eaten the crumbs), his condition is as follows.

- o As a woman whose daughter is severely demon-possessed. It means broken marriage. It is the greatest and international problem.

When Solomon solves the marriage problem, he only uses the sword. Maybe it seems as having no love, but it solves the problem.

This woman is also in suffering and tears that never stop.

- o As dog and sow. It means having evil and unclean words and deeds, up to the peak of sins.

We weep much because of problems. But weeping will not solve them. It is a question for us *Do we weep when we do not enter Bible Study Service?*

Revelation 5:4-5

5:4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Nowadays, we must change our weeping for being able to receive the Word of God and Holy Communion in Bible Study Service. This weeping will stop another weeping.

The strength of the crumbs of bread (the teaching Word and Holy Communion) is not only solving problems, but will also lift us up from dog to become the shepherded sheep of God. Shepherded sheep must stay inside the shepherding pen, namely the Holy Place. There are three kinds of equipment inside the Holy Place, which refer to three main services as follows.

- Golden Candlestick ? perseverance in General Service.
- Table of Showbread ? perseverance in Bible Study Service and Holy Communion.
- Golden Altar of Incense ? perseverance in Prayer Service, which is added with fasting prayer, night prayer, individual prayer.

The success of the preaching of the Word is when we can bring sheep to enter the pen so God counts them. Sheep outside the pen are not counted by God. They will get lost and become dog and sow again.

It is started from the pastor (shepherd) that must persevere inside the pen.

Shepherded sheep must also eat and obey the shepherding Word. Thus we will be inside the hands of Great Shepherd which is the safest place.

John 10:27-28

10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

The term *"neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand"* means being firm in the shepherding. There we get certain guarantee for our present life, our future, up to eternal life forever.

3. The death of Jesus is the mercy of God to lift up the Gentiles to become priests and kings.

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.

1 Peter 2:5

2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

If we are not used in the ministry of building the perfect body of Christ, we will be used for the building of Babylon.

Ephesians 4:11-12,7,15

4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head "Christ"

Priest and king will be equipped with three things as follows.

- Ministry from the Son of God. It refers to the moon.
Ministry is our place in the body of Christ, so it is fitted together. Serving God without ministry will just cause mess and collapse.
- The gifts of Holy Spirit from God the Holy Spirit. It refers to the stars.
The gift is miraculous ability from God so we are able to serve Him according to the ministry.
- Love from God the Father. It refers to the sun.

Love is the source power of our ministry to God. Love is eternal, so our ministry will last eternally.
Ministry with love will lead to Jesus as the Head.

Thus, a priest and king will be accompanied by God the Trinity, as being accompanied by the sun, the moon, and the stars. It means that God the Trinity pays attention to us, cares us, and struggles with us. As long as the sun, the moon, and the stars shine, we shall never doubt the mercy of God.

The result is as follows.

- The sun, the moon, and the stars divide the light from the darkness. It means the accompaniment of God is able to make us live in holiness and not be influenced by the darkness.

Genesis 1:14-18

1:14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

1:15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

1:16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

1:17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

1:18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

If we live in holiness and bear witness about God, He will make everything good. He is able to make everything good in our life.

- The sun, the moon, and the stars to face the tempest in the middle of this world.

Acts 27:20,22,34

27:20 Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

27:22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

27:34 Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.

Our condition is as a hair in the middle of great tempest. The accompaniment of God is able to care us in the middle of difficulties and impossibilities in the world. The accompaniment of God is able to calm the tempest and give us peace so that everything is easy and light. The accompaniment of God is able to solve all our problems.

The accompaniment of God is able to make us keep being strong and of good courage, being faithful and fervent in spirit in the middle of the tempest.

- The sun, the moon, and the stars make us as the bride of God.

Revelation 12:1

12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

God will give us two wings of a great eagle which will fly us to the wilderness far from the eye of the serpent. There we will be cared by the true teaching Word and Holy Communion. Until the two wings of a great eagle will lift us up to the glorious clouds on His second coming.

God blesses us.