

Prayer Service in Malang, April 24, 2012 (Tuesday Evening)

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 = denial to the calling and election of God.
2. Verse 71-72: Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth.
3. Verse 73-75: Peter denied Jesus with swearing and cursing.

ad. 2. Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth

Matthew 26:71-72

26:71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

26:72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

Nazareth is the place where Jesus grew. Now it refers to the place of spiritual growth from salvation to full maturity or perfection. It equals to **shepherding**.

In Tabernacle, salvation refers to the Court and perfection refers to the Most Holy Place. Thus, we can grow in the Holy Place, referring to shepherding.

Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth = denial to shepherding.

The house of Israel was in Goshen when Egyptians made them slaves. Goshen means shepherding.

There is difference between Egyptians outside Goshen and Israelites inside it. The Egyptians had to experience ten plagues but the Israelites did not.

Exodus 8:22

8:22 "And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land."

The fourth plague is swarms of flies.

Egyptians outside Goshen had to experience the plague of swarms of flies. If we are not shepherded, we will experience such plague.

The swarms of flies are in heaven, referring to Satan, the rulers of the air or red dragon in the air.

They have strong sting and they have no honey, meaning they are useless.

Thus, Satan or the rulers of the air or the devils (now it is in the form of talisman which seems to be able to protect) are useless.

Christians who are not seriously shepherded will be easily deceived or attacked by the swarms of flies.

The spiritual meaning of the swarms of flies is as follows.

1. Disobedience spirit.

Ephesians 2:1-2

2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

The practice is as follows.

- Disobedience to God as follows.
 - Unfaithfulness even leaving the service and ministry to the Lord.
 - Sinning even living in sins up to being dead spiritually.
- Disobedience in marriage as follows.
 - Husband does not love his wife even he does bitterly toward her.
 - Wife does not submit to her husband even she resists him.
 - Sexual affairs, divorce, et cetera.
 - Children do not obey their parents.

There are two great secrets, namely secret in service and ministry to the Lord as well as secret in marriage. The swarms of flies want to attack the two things.

2. Uncleanness spirit.

Revelation 18:2

18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

Uncleanness spirit causes sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

3. Evil spirit.

It causes division and war.

Revelation 9:2-3,7

9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

9:3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

9:7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

There will be the third world war but the greatest war happens in marriage. It happens because of evil spirit.

1 Timothy 6:10

6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The evil spirit also causes the lust of money that makes the sons of God stingy and greedy as well as seek money in illegal ways straying from the faith.

The spirits of disobedience, uncleanness, and evil cause suffering not only to our physical life but also for the spiritual one inside our heart. It is as the Egyptians who had to experience the plague of the swarms of flies until they perished forever. The spirits of disobedience, uncleanness, and evil are everywhere because they are the rulers of the air.

The solution to face the spirits of disobedience, uncleanness, and evil is as follows.

1. **We have to be shepherded well.**

We have to persevere in doing three main services in Holy place to face the swarms of flies. Do not become negligent! Perseverance means we do it continually nothing may hinder.

We are being given four kinds of covering in the Holy Place, so the swarms of flies cannot attack us. Being negligent, the covering is opened. Consequently, the swarms of flies will soon attack.

2. **We have to enjoy consuming the Shepherding Word, meaning we hear and obey it.**

Do not hear strange voice! The strange voice makes us go outside the covering and the swarms of flies will attack for sure.

The result of being shepherded is as follows.

1. We experience the mercy and goodness of God in every step of our life, every breath, and in every beat of our heart.

Psalm 23:6

23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

We have the mercy and goodness of God in every breath we take, so there is no opportunity for the swarms of flies, referring to the spirits of disobedience, uncleanness, and evil, to sting us.

If we have had the mercy and goodness of God, do not become proud but we have to give thanks always to God.

If we are shepherded like the house of Israel in Goshen, every breath we take is because of the mercy and goodness of God and we give thanks to Him.

Outside the shepherding as the Egyptians outside Goshen, every breath will be stung by the swarms of flies, referring to many sufferings.

2. Every step of our life is in miracle with God.

Psalm 136:1-4

136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

136:2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.

136:3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:

136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;

We can confess 'I shall not want' [Psalm 23], meaning as follows:

- Physically, we are preserved directly and wonderfully by God.
The house of Israel was preserved directly by God for forty years although they did not work. All our works in the world are only mediums. It is only God's mercy and goodness that determine our life.

- Spiritually, we have to experience sanctification and life renewal. It is the greatest miracle, until we are perfect as God's Bride who is ready to welcome Jesus's second coming.

God blesses you.