

Prayer Service in Surabaya, April 30, 2014 (Wednesday Evening)

Preacher: Rev. Dadang Hadi Santoso

Good evening. Peace and grace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 8:31-33

8:31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

8:32 He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

8:33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Entirely, **Mark 8:31-38** describes about our following to Jesus.

Mark 8:31-33 describes the wrong following.

There are 2 kinds of following, namely the true following and the wrong following.

This evening, we will study the wrong following.

The wrong following is following Jesus with carnal/human mind.

The orientation of the wrong following is to be like Satan and not to be like God.

For example: Peter.

At verse 31, Jesus preached the cross, but when Peter heard about the cross, **he rejected and took Jesus aside**.

The characteristic of the wrong following is **rejecting the cross**, which is rejecting the death and resurrection marks with Jesus.

The meanings of the cross are as follows.

1. **1 Peter 4:1-2**

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

The first meaning of the cross is **the flesh suffering to stop sinning and to live according to God's will**.

We have to experience the cross.

Stopping sinning means repenting; we live in righteousness.

1 Corinthians 5:7-11

5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

5:10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is ¹sexually immoral, or ²covetous, or ³an idolater, or ⁴a reviler, or ⁵a drunkard, or ⁶an extortioner" not even to eat with such a person.

We stop sinning, especially from the **6 sins** that bind the body, soul, and spirit as follow.

o Sins that bind the body are as follows.

- a. Adultery = uncleanness, the sin of marrying and giving marriage, the sexual sins, such as the unclean sight, hearing, feeling, action, including sexual disorientations.
- b. Drunkenness = the sin of eating and drinking, such as smoking, drugs abuse, including gambling and merrymaking.

If the sins have bound us, they will turn into a habit. Human will commit sins as a habit, even as a need.

For example: smoking. Those who have used to smoking would rather not eat than not smoke.

- Sins that bind the soul are as follows.
 - a. Covetousness and greediness.
Covetousness means the inability of giving, while greediness means snatching those things that do not belong to him.
 - b. Reviling, means bad-mouthing about a good person.
 - c. Extortion, means lying.

If the sins have bound us, they will turn into a habit, we will commit sins and be proud of them.

- Sin that binds the spirit is the idolatry.
Spiritually, an idol means anything that disturbs us from obeying God more than anything in this world. Using charms are also included as idolatry.

If we are dead from these 6 sins, we will rise up and live in righteousness.

The practice of **rejecting the cross** is following Jesus without repentance, righteousness, and **the mark of blood**.

The consequence is we will never experience the feast or the happiness in God. There will only be the atmosphere of hell, death, tears and sadness forever and ever.

We have to check ourselves! Do not minister God while living in tears and sadness.

There were the deaths of the first-born child, both of human and cattle, and tears because there were no blood marks on the lintel and the doorposts of the house of Egyptians.

On the contrary, there was the atmosphere of happiness in God because there were blood marks on the lintel and the doorposts of the house of Israelites.

There are a lot of people that follow God but **many depart from faith**, because there are only sufferings without happiness. If we **serve with the blood marks**, even though it hurts our flesh when we serve God, we will have the heavenly happiness, so that we will not step back and give up from God. We will be faithful and fervent in spirit to serve God to the finish line, until Jesus's second coming.

The process to stop sinning is by confessing our sins honestly to God and others, no matter what our sins are.

When we confess our sins, they are nailed on the cross. At that moment, we are like bearing the cross. It is indeed hard for the flesh, but we get the blood mark on our following to Jesus.

2. 1 Peter 4:12-14

4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

The second meaning of the cross is **the flesh suffering without sins but with Jesus**. We do not commit any sins, but we have to suffer.

Behind the cross, there is a Spirit of glory/Shekinah Glory.

It is like the high priest Aaron who annually entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the seven sprinkled blood twice and there was the Shekinah Glory.

Shekinah Glory is able to give glory and renew us from the carnal human to the spiritual one like Jesus.

The characteristic of a spiritual human like Jesus is to be obedient until our flesh does not speak anymore (no more murmur).

Rejecting the cross is following Jesus **without a life change or obedience** to God.

Matthew 7:21-23

7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, *“Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”*

7:23 And then I will declare to them, *“I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”*

‘Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

If we serve God without the life change or obedience, we are evildoers in His eyes, and our following to Him is without the mark of God’s glory.

If we serve God with the life change or obedience to Him, the spirit of God’s glory will **encourage** our tongue to worship Jesus as the King of kings. If we serve in obedience, it will not be hard to worship God.

The results are as follows.

- **Isaiah 43:15-17**

43:15 *I am the Lord, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.*

43:16 *Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters,*

43:17 *Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick):*

The first result is God’s glory is able to divide the sea and provide a solution in every problem.

When the Israelites exited the land of Egypt and were pursued by Pharaoh, they could not run anywhere. However, because there was the mark of obedience, God divided the sea.

God is able to solve our problems, even the impossible ones. God will provide us with a beautiful future. Our physical lives are nurtured, and we are growing spiritually.

The condition of Israelites was like smoking flax or a bruised reed, with no more hope. If we worship Jesus, the spirit of Glory will give us a solution and a beautiful future. God will turn the smoking flax into the burning one and the bruised reed into the straight one, until we enter the New Jerusalem, which is abundant of milk and honey.

- **Zechariah 14:7, 18**

14:7 *It shall be one day Which is known to the Lord “Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen That it will be light.*

14:18 *If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*

The Feast of Tabernacles refers to the Golden Altar of Incense, the prayer. The second result is God’s glory is able to open the sky to pour the blessings, both physically and spiritually in the middle of the drought at the end of the time.

On the contrary, if we do not worship God, there will be no blessings but plagues and punishments from Him.

- **Luke 23:40-43**

23:40 *But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?”*

23:41 *And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.*

23:42 *Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”*

23:43 *And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

The third result is God’s glory is able to open the door of Paradise/the door of the Kingdom of Heaven. God’s glory will renew us from an evildoer, who should be dead in the hell, to be the perfect Bridegroom. We enter the heavenly happiness with God forever and ever.

Do not be like Peter, who followed Jesus but rejected the cross. His following to Jesus was without the mark of blood and glory. May our followings to Jesus be marked with blood and glory. We will have the spirit of God’s glory in our lives, the sea is divided, problems are solved, and a beautiful future is provided, a rain of blessings is poured upon us, even the door of Paradise and the door of heaven are opened, we all are changed.

God blesses us.