

Youth Service in Malang, September 13, 2014 (Saturday Evening)

To Coincide with Water Baptism Service

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

We discuss about **Luke 7:18-35**. Previously, it has been explained as follows:

1. Water baptism is the separation between old life and new one (Luke 7:18-23),
2. Water baptism is the renewal of stance and clothes (Luke 7:24-26).

Luke 7:27-30

7:27. *"This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'"*

7:28. *"For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."*

7:29. *And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.*

7:30. *But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.*

God sends John the Baptist, the greatest man in the world, to baptize people in the world.

So, it can be concluded that **water baptism has a big meaning** in our life, especially our spiritual or eternal life. Unfortunately, water baptism is often diminished and considered as Christian symbol.

Why does water baptism have a very important meaning?

1. **We can flee from God's wrath to come through water baptism.**

Matthew 3:7-8

3:7. *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"*

3:8. *"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,*

The world will be punished with three times seven punishments of God the Trinity up to the hell, the lake of fire and brimstone.

Water baptism is the only way to flee from the wrath of God.

2. **We can see the kingdom of Heaven through water baptism.**

John 3:3-5

3:3. *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

3:4. *Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"*

3:5. *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

The practice of seeing the kingdom of Heaven is we prioritize spiritual thing more than physical one until we can enter the kingdom of Heaven.

There is only punishment and perdition outside water baptism. It is like people who rejected to enter Noah's ark.

3. **To prepare God's way.**

Luke 7:27

7:27. *"This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'"*

It means that we are always visited by God.

The terms to enter true water baptism is believing and repenting.

To repent means we stop doing sin and return to God or die to sin. We must die to sin especially eight sins that bring us to the hell

directly.

Revelation 21:8

21:8. "But the cowardly⁽¹⁾, unbelieving⁽²⁾, abominable⁽³⁾, murderers⁽⁴⁾, sexually immoral⁽⁵⁾, sorcerers⁽⁶⁾, idolaters⁽⁷⁾, and all liars⁽⁸⁾ shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Being cowardly means one fears something until he does not fear God.

If we are free from the eight sins, we are like eight persons who entered Noah's ark and were saved.

The process of being baptized of water is being buried in water.

Romans 6:4

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.

After we die to sin, we must be buried in the water in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, namely Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20. who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

We are raised in the newness of life, so we have a good conscience as a straight way.

So, water baptism is the renewing from unclean heart (serpentine way) to good conscience (straight way). It means that we are free from wickedness and bitterness, so we can be honest in everything especially to confess our sin and failure.

Luke 7:29-30

7:29. And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

7:30. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

The lawyers and Pharisees keep their heart, so they **reject** repentance and water baptism. Consequently, their heart becomes the dwelling place of snake.

By being baptized, we have a good conscience and we become the dwelling place of God, namely the Word of God.

Matthew 14:16-20

14:16. But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

14:17. And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

14:18. He said, "Bring them here to Me."

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.

We have to sit on the grass. It means that **we enter the shepherding**. The sheep must be brought to the sheepfold, namely the Holy Place or perseverance in three kinds of main service as follows:

- Golden Candlestick: perseverance in committing General Service= fellowship with Holy Spirit God in His gifts.
- The Table of Showbread: perseverance in committing Bible Study Service and Holy Communion= fellowship with Son of God in the Word and His sacrifice.
- The Golden Altar of Incense: perseverance in committing Prayer Service= fellowship with God the Father in His love.

The results are as follows:

1. We have preservation from God.

1 Peter 2:25

2:25. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

We experience physical and spiritual preservation from God the Trinity, so we do not enter the famine of the world.

2. We are purified by God the Trinity until perfect.

Ephesians 4:11-12

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,

If we have been purified, we will be equipped with ministry and the gift of Holy Spirit, so we become the priest and king or the living stone.

If we **do not want** to serve God, we will return to serve the old master, namely Satan.

The living stone is used in the building of the spiritual house.

A living stone lives from God's mercy. It means that we can live anywhere, anytime, and in any circumstances.

3. **We are renewed and purified from living stone to precious one in New Jerusalem.**

Revelation 21:11

21:11. having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Clear as crystal means we are **honest and believe in God.**

If Jesus comes a second time, we will be changed until perfect and able to greet Him on the glorious clouds.

God blesses us.