

Public Service at Surabaya - Sunday, October 14, 2007

Jude 1:24, 25

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Beglory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Verse 24 and 25 are the closing verses of Jude which, in Tabernacle, refers to the badger skins. The badger skins mean the shelter of God's love to His true churches so they will not stumble or fall in the sin of stumbling. He will bring them to be faultless at the time of Jesus' second coming on which they become as perfect as Jesus.

We have learned about the sin of stumbling that seems meaningless and we also have learned that the sin of stumbling is the same as sin of Babylon that is going to be drowned/ perished forever.

In addition, we have known the cause of the sin of stumbling that is stone heart as Pharaoh's heart/ Satan' heart and also like Peter. Peter was a rock (Jesus had once praised him), but he immediately turned to be stumbling so Jesus said -->'Get behind Me, Satan!' since Peter used his fleshly mind.

In short, the causes of the sin of stumbling are:

1. Stone heart as Pharaoh's heart
2. Fleshly mind. If we deliver or hear the word of God with fleshly mind, we will easily stumble and become stumbling for others.

There are two kinds of stumbling:

1. stumbling from outside ourselves
2. stumbling from inside ourselves

We are going to deeply learn the first part of two kinds of stumbling that is stumbling from outside ourselves. What is the form of outside stumbling?

Ezekiel 7: 19, 20

19 They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them In the day of the wrath of the LORD; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.

20 As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations--Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it Like refuse to them.

So, one form of outside stumbling is gold and silver/ earthly wealth. We have to be alert of it.

May we not become wealthy and possess gold and silver? We may possess them but not be tied by them. Now we will know how gold and silver/ wealth can be stumbling.

Gold and silver/ wealthy can be stumbling if:

1. Verse 19 -->wealth/ gold and silver **become tie in our life**. Men/ children of God are tied to money. We may have gold and silver, but we may not let them tie us as it means they become stumbling and make us greedy.

Practices of greedy man are:

- He will not feel satisfied
- He will not be saved because his gold and silver cannot save him in the day of the wrath of the Lord. In 1 Corinthians, being greedy is similar to fornication.
- He will not be able to give.

2 Corinthians 9:12

12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

Abounding through many thanksgivings to God = satisfaction.

- Giving does not only mean give something to needed saints/ the members of the body of Christ, but also giving

thank/ satisfaction in our heart and people who receive it will also give thank/ have satisfaction. If we are not satisfied, we will easily murmur and do not give thanks.

- By giving others, we save spiritual wealth in heaven that is able to save us.

1 Timothy 6: 18, 19

18Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

19storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Differences of saving our wealth in this world and in the kingdom of heaven are:

- Saving our wealth in this world = we save our money in bank/ piggy bank because we have extra money (well, however, it is permitted).
- Saving our wealth in heaven = we give our money. It can save our soul. Thus, we have to be watchful and keep our wealth from being stumbling and do not let them tie us so we become greedy (stumbled within rich). I hope we can understand it.

2. Ezekiel 7:20

20'As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations--Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it Like refuse to them.

In conclusion, wealth **causes pride of life** meaning it makes us depend on and expect on earthly wealth/ gold and silver more than on God.

What is the practice of trusting on earthly wealth? The practice is we frequently leave (become unfaithful) in our service and devotion only to get earthly gold and silver. It is the practice of pride of life because we think that we live from earthly gold and silver, not from God. It does not mean that I forbid you to work, but you have to pray that your work and earthly wealth do not become stumbling and break up your relationship with God.

We know that unfaithful person who often leaves his service and devotion is similar to fruitless person. He is like stubble that is going to be burnt. In Matthew 25, it is written that fruitless person will be sent into the darkest place.

Malachi 3:18

18Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

The righteous = one who serves God, while the wicked = one who does not serve Him.

Malachi 4:1

1"Behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

Being similar to stubble = being fruitless. Do not serve God/ become unfaithful = being fruitless stubble which are waiting for being burnt up forever.

3. Ezekiel 7:20b *But they made from it The images of their abominations--Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it Like refuse to them.*

Firstly we are tied, and then trust in gold and silver and finally **we worship them (idolatry)**.

In short, the steps of the tie of gold and silver are:

- a. we become greedy
- b. we prefer to trust in gold and silver than in God
- c. we worship them (make them idol).

What is the form of idolatry?

Colossians 3:5

5Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Covetousness is an idol. It is a stumbling from the world (outside us) we must put to death. Covetousness = taking others' right. We

have to be careful! It starts from me. I have to keep myself from taking God's rights (tithes and offering) and others' right since it is included to idolatry. Idolatry is in the same level as fornication and evil desire which are the stumbling from this world. I hope we can understand it.

It is not wrong if God gives you gold and silver, but let us pray to God to keep us from making them stumbling that is they become ties and the practices are:

1. We become greedy
2. We become proud of ourselves because we trust in earthly gold and silver so we are unfaithful in our service and devotion
3. We worship them and we will run to fornication.

I remember about Israelites in the desert. They made a calf from gold to be their idol. If we worship gold and silver, we will shout and cry which go ahead to fornication.

Exodus 32:2, 4, 18, 19

2And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."

4And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

18But he said: "It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear."

19So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

Praising God is similar to song of victory, but what Israel did in the desert was not the song of victory. Shout and cry will bring you into the sins of sex and eating-drinking. These are stumbling from outside.

It is not a mistake if God blesses you with gold and silver, but do not let them become stumbling. There is an example in Acts (the age of the beginning churches) that one trusted in gold and silver. It happened when Peter was going to enter the temple of God and he passed the Beautiful Gate. There was a lame person who expected to receive gold and silver from Peter, but Peter said that he did not have them and he only had the name of Jesus. It points to the condition of churches/ children/ servants of God who are stumbled with gold and silver (wealth) so they stay in spiritual lame/ they fall and cannot stand anymore.

Acts 3:1-6

1Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

2And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

3who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

5So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

The lame person was in the gate of the temple which was called Beautiful during his life. Unfortunately, he could not get into the temple of God as he was stumbled with gold and silver.

Verse 5 -->the lame person expected to receive something/ gold and silver more than God although he was in the Beautiful gate which had the power of God. It refers to Christians in the end of days -->it had happened in the beginning of churches that was, the churches stumbled because of gold and silver. So do the servants of God, (especially the pastor who does not want to stay in his own church because he only has two persons as his congregation). He thinks that he cannot fulfill his needs so he wanders everywhere to get gold and silver. He does not want to enter the Beautiful gate and prefers to get into another gate. He never enters the temple of God and keeps on staying in the Beautiful gate to be a beggar.

Spiritual lameness in the end of days happens because of these reasons:

1. We are stumbled with gold and silver.
2. We worship gold and silver because we start to be tied by them. So, we prefer to trust in gold and silver than to God. We will worship them and our spirituality will fall and we cannot stand (get spiritual lameness).

What are the meanings and conditions of spiritual lameness?

- a. one cannot enter the temple of God for he has been satisfied with gold and silver.
- b. one is not faithful (non-active).

- c. one is more unlucky because he does not want to get into the temple of God whose gate is called as the Beautiful gate = his life is not beautiful. Young people have to be aware of it! Although you are smart, your life will not be beautiful if you do not want to get into the Beautiful gate. Instead, your life will be full of tears, sufferings and you will never be satisfied. In the youth service, I always say to them that I can't stand hearing the story about their life which is full of tears as I think that their life should be beautiful and happy. Hence, I always say to them to trust in God wholeheartedly.
- d. one who is lame usually sleep on a mat and it points to the sin of filthiness. His marriage will not be happy since there is a lot of tears and problems. Thus, if there is spiritual lameness, do not let it spread because it is risky and ahead for the sins of filthiness. I hope we can understand it.

If we do not want to stumble/ be lame because of gold and silver, we must run after/ have spiritual gold and silver so our life has balance.

What are the definitions of spiritual gold and silver?

I. the precious blood of Christ = being free from sins.

1 Peter 1:18, 19

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

In short, the first definition of spiritual gold and silver is **the precious blood of Christ = being free from sins**. We must have it these days. We may not keep on sinning although it is a little sin for if we are not covered by the blood of Christ, we will be covered by other sins and our sins will be mountain. Then, our mountain of sins will explode as if it is an atomic bomb which fell in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These towns become big cities now and it means they have living and wealth although there is still negative effect of the bomb. Nevertheless, if it is bomb of sins which fell in Sodom and Gomorrah because the sins were lifted before God, it will explode to be fire and brimstone. Then, they become Death Sea and there is no bacteria can live in it. This is the great power of the bomb of sins. Therefore, do not play with them! We have to fight to have spiritual gold and silver that is the redemption by the blood of Christ/ being free from sins by the blood of Christ.

It is not difficult to be free from sins. The processes which have been told frequently are:

1 John 1:7, 9

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We confess our sins to God and to our fellow honestly. Then, the blood of Christ will forgive our sins/ cover our sins until there are no sins as if we never sin. This is the power of the blood of Christ. Don't do the sins again since if we do sins again, the power of the blood of Christ/ forgiveness will be lost.

After that, the blood of Christ will take the root of sins so we do not sin again = the blood of Christ sanctifies us. This is the sanctification by the blood of Christ which we need to have today.

We reread **1 Peter 1:19**

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

This verse tells about the precious blood of Christ. So, sinner = worthless person. In contrast, if the person is set free from sins by the blood of Christ, he will be precious and acceptable person before God. Although he is smart and has high position, he will be worthless if he does sins (= unacceptable before God).

After being redeemed/ free from sins and becoming precious person, we may not do worthless things/ sin again because if we repeat our sins, we will be worthless person who insults/ stomps on the blood of Christ. Thus, we have to keep on being precious people. Being precious people does not mean that we have bracelet or gold earrings, but it means we have the blood of Christ that is spiritual gold and silver (we are set free from sins). We have to keep it for it is precious. I hope we become precious before God.

II. Sanctification

2 Timothy 2: 20, 21

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master,

prepared for every good work.

Verse 20 --> gold and silver are used for honor

Verse 21 --> a vessel is for honor.

In short, verse 20 and 21 talk about a vessel of gold and silver = people who are sanctified = spiritual gold and silver. So, the second meaning of spiritual gold and silver is **sanctification**. After being redeemed, we should get into the process of sanctification.

What should we need to sanctify gold and silver?

Malachi 3:2, 3

2"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap.

3He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.

Sanctification which is done by launderer's soap and a refiner's fire talks about the true teaching word which is hard and sharper than two-edged sword.

Being related to the launderer's soap --> we have known that if one washes dirty clothes, he will put soap and wash the clothes back and forth and brush them repeatedly. Otherwise the soap will not be useful. It points to the shepherding word of God (sanctification from spiritual gold and silver)/ repeated word of God (= sanctification Word of God).

I'm very thankful that I know this system that is the shepherding word of God. There is no other efficient and effective way to sanctify our life except the shepherding word of God --> back and forth and repeatedly until there is no sin/ spot. I hope we can understand it.

What sins that should be sanctified?

1. Youthful lusts

2 Timothy 2:22-26

22Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

We have to undergo sanctification from two sins:

Verse 22 --> it talks about sanctification from ***youthful lusts**. It should be the lusts (and not the youth) which have to be sanctified. Even though you are old, if you still have the youthful lusts, you must be sanctified.

In the story of Samson, the youthful lusts are described as a young lion/ the power of young lion in the vineyards. Hence, we have to be careful as the vineyard refers to the yard of the bride/ Bride's yard which is led by the Bride tiding, yet there are a lot of young lions/ youthful lusts inside. Old people still have chance to have youthful lusts, moreover the youth. So, the yard has an enemy in the form of youthful lusts/ young lion which is always ready in the vineyard.

Judges 14:5, 6

5So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him.

6And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

The definitions of young lion in the vineyard are:

a. Youthful lusts. We have to be alert of them. It starts from me and all of us as the employed people, such as for preaching the word of God or singing in the choir in the vineyard/ bride's yard which preaches the Bride tiding --> it is the job in the vineyard that has to face the young lion/ youthful lusts which heads for the peak of sins. Hence, we have to keep our mind/ heart, eyes/ sight and voice/ sayings from the youthful lusts.

b. Jealousy and ambition. God commanded people to work in the vineyard from morning to the afternoon (+5

p.m.) and all of them got the same wage that was one talent. However, those who started to work in the morning became irritated since they got the same wage as those who started to work in the afternoon. This is youthful lusts so their lord said --> "*Or is your eye evil because I am good?*" Jealousy can potentially increase to be ambition and hatred. These things happen in the Bride's yard.

For the students of Lempin-El, you have to notice it! The youthful lusts are our enemies which directly become barrier in the vineyard. The congregation which is shepherded in the Bride's yard also has to be aware because the young lion is ready to hinder you in your office/ job and wherever you are.

We thank to God because God has taken and put us in the vineyard and we have relationship with grapes and wine which both of them mean the marriage supper of the Lamb --> it is good. Nevertheless, we have to be alert with the young lion/ youthful lusts which are ahead for the peak of sins, jealousy and ambition. It is very dangerous, so we have to be sanctified if we want to have spiritual gold and silver so that we do not stumble and be lame.

If we are sanctified from youthful lusts, then --> **2 Timothy 2:22**

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

If the young lion has been torn/ sanctified by Samson with the power of God's spirit, we will be able to serve God with justice. We have to remember that the beginning of the vineyard is in the marriage/ bride's yard. If we have been sanctified from the youthful lusts, there would be justice in our marriage, not arbitrariness. If there is arbitrariness, there will be the young lion.

Then, there is faithfulness --> we have to be faithful in our marriage. Don't be a betrayer! If there is a betrayer, the young lion will not be torn/ sanctified. Next is peace --> there should be peace in our marriage. If there is a lion in the marriage, there will not be peace and there is only fear. Thus, the young lion has to be torn. I hope we can understand it.

2. The sin of strife

2 Timothy 2:23-25

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

We are sanctified from *the sin of strife. The servants of God may not generate strife. As a husband/ wife, you also may not generate strife. One who loves to generate strife cannot become a servant of God. Hence, we have to keep ourselves from generating strife so we have spiritual gold and silver.

If we are sanctified from generating strife, we will be patient, meek and smart to teach and correct those who are in opposition. It is especially for me as a shepherd who frequently face people who do not want to be served. I remember of the late Rev. Pong who said that we have to serve people who do not want to be served patiently, meekly, and smartly to teach and lead them to turn to God/ repent and walk in true path. I hope we can understand it.

As a result, as it is said in the previous part that we will be employed for honor/ gold and silver/ sanctification. One who is willing to be sanctified will be employed in the edifying of the body of Christ until we become perfect/ The Bride of heaven.

These are the first meaning of spiritual gold and silver; they are:

- a. The redemption by the blood of Christ/ setting free from sins.
- b. The sanctification by the repeated word of God/ shepherding word of God.
- c. The employment of God for us in the ministry of the perfect body of Christ. I hope we can understand it.

III. God's characteristics.

Proverbs 10:20

20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worthless.

Silver = the tongue of the righteous = no lies. As long as we lie, we will never be changed and never have God's characteristics. Hence, we have to start stopping lying and having the tongue of the righteous. In Ephesians 4, the change of life starts from not telling lies. If it is 'yes' you will say 'yes' and 'no' if it is 'no' since we are only men who are like woods,

while God is described as gold. I repeat again that as long as we tell lies, we will never have God's characteristics (we are never covered with gold and silver/ never be changed). I hope we can understand it.

Gold= being obedient. We can learn Jesus' characteristics on the cross. Jesus had a lot of characteristics, but the last characteristic He showed was being obedient until He died on the cross. Being honest and obedient is in one level. If we lie, we will not be obedient, yet if we are honest, we will be obedient whatever the risks that we have to face.

Jesus had been tested in the Gethsemane when he was going to be captured. There were a multitude of troops came and Jesus questioned: Whom are you seeking? They said: Jesus the Nazarene. If Jesus wanted to save His life, He could point to Jude or anyone in that place as Him because the troops did not recognize Him. However, Jesus was honest and said 'I am He' and He died on the cross because of His obedience. So, honesty and obedience are at one level.

Thus, as the servants of God, we have to be honest and obedient although we are in lame condition now that is we serve God for years as a shepherd, choir members, musicians, Sunday school teachers, etc, yet we feel that we are outside the Beautiful gate/ the heaven gate -->we do not feel beauty/ never feel the atmosphere of heaven because we are in the atmosphere of destruction.

Nevertheless, even though we are similar to the lame person when Peter came to him and he expected on gold and silver, yet Peter said that he did not have them. He only had "*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.*" If the lame person was disobedient, he would get angry. Fortunately the lame person did not get angry and he was obedient by standing up whatever the risks. Because of his obedient, he got spiritual gold and silver that was the power of resurrection from Jesus. I hope we can understand it.

Acts 3:6-8

6Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

7And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

In the beginning, the lame person was outside the gate, yet then he could walk and leap to get into the temple of God and he praised God. I hope we can understand it by being honest and obedient, so we get the power in the name of Jesus/ spiritual gold and silver.

If we are honest and obedient, we will be redeemed/ set free from sins and also sanctified so we get/ have God's characteristics (we are changed). As a result, we get the power of resurrection from Jesus.

What are the functions of the power of resurrection?

1. Physically:

The power of resurrection is the power of healing. If now you get illness, please be honest and obedient because you will get:

- The power of healing -->a lame person could walk = the power of resurrection in the name of Jesus
- The power to erase impossibilities -->the person was lame since he was born, but he could be healed because nothing is impossible for God.

Therefore, let us run after the spiritual gold and silver meaning we follow the process of redemption and sanctification until we are honest and obedient.

2. Spiritually:

The power of resurrection is the power of renewing of life. If we are honest and obedient, we will be continually covered with honesty and obedience. We are changed from earthly men to be spiritual ones.

On the previous part, it is said that physical miracle is in the form of a lame person was healed/ impossibility became possibility. On the other hand, spiritual miracle/ the power of resurrection spiritually is in the form of one can get into the temple of God by leaping up and praising God.

Acts 3:8

8So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

Leaping and praising God = being faithful in our service and devotion by being joyful and not in forced. Being faithful is good, yet we have also to be joyful in doing our service since if we are forced, we will feel like we are outside the Beautiful gate/ do not get into the temple of God.

Jesus was also pleasant to the vineyard --> **Isaiah 5:7**

7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

Jesus is very pleasant toward the congregation, but how is the congregation's attitude in their service and devotion? For those who are going to be the students of Lempin-El and also I/ Wijaya, are we pleasant or in forced in our service and devotion?

Now, let us have the spiritual miracle that is the renewing of life in the practice of keeping faithful and joyful in our service and devotion even though we are flesh (= get into the Beautiful gate so that everything becomes good).

Genesis 28:16, 17, 20-22

16Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

17And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

20Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

21"so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

22"And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

If we can get into the Beautiful gate/ heaven gate, we will be joyful like the lame person who could leap to get into the temple of God. The results are clothes, food, house and protection from God and also beauty/ the Beautiful gate so our life becomes more beautiful until we get the most beautiful thing at the time of Jesus' second coming that is we get into the marriage supper of the Lamb-->we turn back to the Paradise/ get into the kingdom of heaven forever.

Whatever our condition, let God make everything beautiful in our life. For young people, don't be afraid as long as you have:

- Redemption
- Sanctification/ God's characteristics
- Faithfulness and joy in your service and devotion.

Then God will not deceive us for where there is the temple of God, there will be clothes, food, house and protection from God (= the opening of the Beautiful gate). Moreover, God will open all closed doors that is solution for any problems until He opens the gate of heaven.

God blesses us!