

General Service in Malang, January 02, 2011 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 25:31-34

25:31. *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

25:32 *All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.*

25:33 *And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

25:34 *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

On Jesus second coming, He will appear as King of all kings and Great Shepherd to divide the sheep from the goats. Neither all Christians, nor all God's servants are sheep, but there are goats. Judas is God's servant, but he was a goat. Husband and wife also can be separated; one is sheep and one is goat.

The sheep are on the right hand of God, the goats are on the left hand of God.

The bases of separation are not physical matters, but **characteristic**.

Matthew 25:35,39-42,44-45

25:35 *for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

25:39 *Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?"*

25:40 *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

25:41 *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

25:42 *for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

25:44 *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?"*

25:45 *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

The goats are on the left hand of God because of **egoism** that is not loving the other people who need. This is equal to not loving God, not being obedient.

Not loving the others and not loving God = without love. The consequence is entering the everlasting fire.

The sheep has **love character**, that is loving the other people who need. This is equal to loving God, being obedient to the Word of God.

Love is eternal, so the sheep will enter the eternal Heavenly Kingdom.

2010 is the year of being delivered as Israelites going out of Egypt.

2011 is **the year of separation**, and **the year of revival and the year of miracle**.

After Israelites were going out of Egypt, they went to Canaan. Therefore, Moses sent 12 spies. Here also there was separation based on characteristic.

1. 10 spies.

Numbers 13:27-28,32-33

13:27 *Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.*

13:28 *Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.*

13:32 *And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.*

13:33 *There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*

These 10 spies told a bad report, that is the mixing of the true teaching Word with the strange doctrines (the sound from the flesh, the other teaching, gossips).

These 10 spies was not obedient to the true teaching Word = without any love.

The consequence was these 10 spies died on the wilderness, they did not enter the movement of the building of the body of Christ, but entered the building of the body of Babel.

2. 2 spies.

Numbers 13:30

13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

Joshua and Caleb were obedient. They had love, such that they entered the movement of the building of the body of Christ until entering the Heaven.

There will be a separation between Israelites and Joshua and Caleb (they represent as God's servant).Â

10 spies also represent God's servant, but they brought a bad report, so that they will be separated.

1. The Israelites **complained**= the characteristic of goat which is being egoistic, without any love.

Numbers 14:1-2

14:1. So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

14:2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!"

Numbers 14:29

14:29 The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

The consequence of complaining is 603.548 people from twenty years old and above died and being carcasses in the wilderness. They were perishing physically and spiritually until became carcasses in the wilderness.

There will be a big separation. From 603.550 people, only 2 people who were true. We must be careful!

2. Joshua and Caleb kept **testifying and glorifying the true teaching Word**, there was no grumbling.

Numbers 14:8-9

14:8 If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'

14:9 Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

The result is Joshua and Caleb were used in the movement of the building of the perfect body of Christ, until entering the eternal Heavenly Kingdom.

The egoistic characteristic will grumble, but love character will always testify and glorify God whatever the situation faced.

1 Corinthians 10:5-8, 10-11

10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

10:7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

10:8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

10:10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Complaining is one of the sins at the end of the ages which will separate God's children.

There are 3 things which cause complaining as follows:

1. **When facing a temptation.**

Often we feel great, but when there is complaining, we just equal to carcasses.

Complaining happens because of making the temptation greater than the word of God, greater than the power of God.

Why does God let us experience a temptation?

God lets temptation come as **the faith test, such that our faith is pure as pure gold, the perfect faith which is not**

shaken, the faith which does not fall forever and is ready to welcome God's second coming.

1 Peter 1:6-7

1:6. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

When temptation comes, **we are still being trained to walk on the pure gold, the street of New Jerusalem.**

Revelation 21:21

21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Only people who have faith as a pure gold will be able to walk on the street of New Jerusalem.

A weak faith will not be able to walk on the street of New Jerusalem.

2. In the ministry.

Numbers 16:8-11

16:8 Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi:
16:9 Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;
16:10 and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?
16:11 Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?"

Why do we complain in the ministry?

Because of demanding for the rights, that is eating-drinking rights, compliment rights, demanding for a position.

Luke 17:7-9,10

17:7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?
17:8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?
17:9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.
17:10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

The right ministry is **having no rights, only having duties.** Jesus leaves all His rights, and does the duty to die on the cross.

Our primary duty in the ministry is **glorifying God, exalting God.**

Isaiah 49:3-4

49:3 "And He said to me, 'You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
49:4 Then I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, And my work with my God.'"

If we serve God with duties, **our rights and rewards are with the Lord;** not only the rights and rewards for the present life, but also the rights and rewards for eternal life.

3. Because of loathing manna.

Numbers 21:4-6

21:4. Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.
21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."
21:6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

Psalms 78:23-25

78:23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven,

78:24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven.
78:25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.

Manna is the angels' food.

Bread = the Word, angel = pastor.

Thus, manna denotes **the shepherding Word**, that is the Word entrusted to a pastor to be preached to the congregation faithfully and repeatedly, to become food for the congregation, such that the congregation grows to the spiritual maturity.

The shepherding Word cannot be learnt by any ways in the world, because manna is from the heaven. The shepherding Word **only can be learned under God's feet, and it is the form of God's grace.**

The shepherding Word is as the pure and spiritual milk from the mother.

Israelites loathed the shepherding Word, such that fiery serpents came as the consequence.

Numbers21:6

21:6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

Fiery serpents denote the sins which kill our spirituality, eating-drinking sins (smoking, drinking, consuming drugs) and sexuality sins, complaining sins.

Fiery serpents also denote false teachings.

Facing the true shepherding Word, we should not complain!

1 Peter2:2

2:2 as newborn babes,desire the pure milk of the word,that you may grow thereby,

The right attitude is being able to **honor, enjoy, and practice the true shepherding word**,as babes enjoy the mother's milk.

Then, our position is as baby on the embrace of mother's hands, **we are on the embrace of God's hands as the Great Shepherd.**

The result is as follows:

Isaiah49:14-16

49:14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."

49:15 " Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

49:16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

God will never forget us and leave us; but God always remembers us, cares us, God always understands and struggles with us.

God will protect and care us in the middle of difficult world. God's loving hands will solve all our problems even the impossible one. God's loving hands will give a beautiful future.

God will keep struggling until we may enter New Jerusalem, together with Him forever.

God blesses us.