

General Service in Malang, July 29, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 27 refers to **seven sprinklings of blood upon the Ark of Covenant**.

Now it means the suffering experienced by Jesus up to His death on the cross to save, purify, and perfect us.

In Matthew 27, there are seven passages that refer to seven sprinklings of blood experienced by Jesus up to His death on the cross as follows:

1. Matthew 27:1-10, Jesus handed over to Pontius Pilate and Judas's death.
2. Matthew 27:11-26, Jesus faces Pilate.
3. Matthew 27:27-32, the soldiers mock Jesus.
4. Matthew 27:33-50, Jesus's crucifixion.
5. Matthew 27:51-56, miracles happen at the time of Jesus's death.
6. Matthew 27:57-61, Jesus buried in Joseph's tomb.
7. Matthew 27:62-66, Pilate sets a guard.

We learn about the fourth passage, that is **Jesus's crucifixion** [Matthew 27:32-50].

Matthew 27:32-33

27:32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

27:33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

Simon, a man of Cyrene, is compelled to bear the cross of Jesus. It means that the flesh must be compelled to experience the cross or death together with Jesus.

The place of the crucifixion of Jesus is called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull. For the world, Golgotha is a scary place to judge the criminals and cursed men until their death. Their dead bodies will be left so many skulls are there.

But Jesus chooses Golgotha to prove that He is the Head who is responsible for us as His body, until He is willing to die in order to:

1. Destroy all the enemies, up to the last enemy, that is death.

Ephesians 1:22-23

1:22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:26

15:26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Jesus as the Head dies at Golgotha to destroy death so we as His body can also destroy it. We are not controlled by death.

The proofs of not being controlled by death are as follows:

- Not lying, but saying the right words and being honest.

Isaiah 28:15

28:15 Because you have said, *"We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves."*

Falsehood means making a covenant with death.

- Having no hatred.

1 John 3:14-15

3:14. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- Not doing sins up to the peak of sins, that is eating-drinking sins and marrying and being given in marriage sins. Eating-drinking sins include smoking, getting drunk, and consuming drugs. Marrying and being given in marriage include sexual deviation (homosexuality, lesbian), individual sex, mixed marriage, etc.

Thus, we win over death and we can live in righteousness.

2 Peter 2:5-9

2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;
 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;
 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked
 2:8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)â"
 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

Facing the darkness of this world, we must keep living in righteousness. The results are as follows:

- We experience peace.

Isaiah 32:17

32:17 The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

- We are saved.

Being physically saved means all problems are solved by God.

Being spiritually saved means we are not judged but we can receive eternal life.

2. Give us ministries so we can enter the ministry of building the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:15-16, 8-12

4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the headâ"Christâ"

4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

4:8 Therefore He says:â"When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.â"

4:9 (Now this, â"He ascendedâ"â"what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

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,

The price of our ministry is the sacrifice of Christ, which cannot be bought nor replaced by anything. Being unfaithful and leaving the ministry mean trampling down the blood of Jesus, and it is a guilt of bloodshed which cannot be paid by anything.

We must be active in the ministry of building the body of Christ, starting from:

- Within marriage, the smallest body of Christ.

The main task of husband is loving his wife as loving himself, and not being bitter toward her. It is added with other tasks as a husband, that is providing living, etc.

The main task of wife is submitting to her husband in every matter. It is added with other tasks as a wife. Wife should not want to become the head of marriage, since that kind of marriage will be broken.

The main task of children is obeying and helping the parents.

- Within shepherding.

The main task of a pastor is feeding to the congregation.

- Between shepherding.

- Up to the building of international body of Christ, when Israelites and Gentiles unite as one perfect body of Christ. We become Godâs bride who is ready to welcome His second coming.

Revelation 19:9

19:9 Then he said to me, â"Write: â"Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!â"â" And he said to me, â"These are the true sayings of God.â"

We will enter the marriage supper of the Lamb (spiritual marriage), a thousand years kingdom of peace (the future Paradise), up to the New Jerusalem (the Kingdom of Heaven).

Our entrance gate to this world is physical marriage. Our entrance gate to the Paradise is spiritual marriage.

If we do not want to minister the building of the body of Christ, sometime we will not be able to minister it anymore, but we will enter the building of Babylon (perfection in evil and uncleanness), the bride of Satan who will be destroyed forever.

The requirement in ministering the building of the body of Christ is living in purification.

John 15:1-4

15:1. *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.*

15:2 *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

15:3 *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

15:4 *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

To be able to live in holiness, we must become as the branch which abides in the true vine. It means we must be shepherded on the true teaching Word.

There are two relations between the branch and the vine as follows:

- Faithfulness or perseverance relation.

Within the Holy Place in Tabernacle, there are three types of equipment, which refer to three main services within the shepherding pen, that is:

- a. Golden Candlestick ☐ perseverance in General Service.
- b. Table of Showbread ☐ perseverance in Bible Study Service and Holy Communion.
- c. Golden Altar of Incense ☐ perseverance in Prayer Worship.

If the branch abides in the vine, it can grow and flower. God makes our life neat and beautiful.

- Purification relation.

Within shepherding pen, we experience purification continually from sins up to the peak of sins, also from small and unrealized sins (little foxes) which can make the flowers fall so it cannot bear fruit.

Song of Solomon 2:15

2:15 *Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.*

Little foxes mean as follows:

- a. Complaining.

Matthew 20:11-12

20:11 *And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,*

20:12 *saying, "These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day."*

- b. Envy (not appreciating the blessing, usage, and mercy of God).

Matthew 20:15

20:15 *Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?"*

- c. False teaching.

Ezekiel 13:1-4

13:1. *And the word of the Lord came to me, saying,*

13:2 *"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, 'Hear the word of the Lord!'"*

13:3 *Thus says the Lord God: "Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!"*

13:4 *O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts.*

If we are willing to be purified, sometime we will bear sweet fruit. We will get beautiful and happy life in God.

- 3. Purify and perfect us until we are blameless.

Ephesians 5:22-23, 25-27

5:22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

5:23 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*

5:26 *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

5:27 *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

In order to be purified, our attitude is being submissive. We should not resist at all.

- Submitting to God, to the Word.

James 4:7

4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

It means we are against Satan with God's strength. Being disobedient means we are together with Satan against God.

- Submitting to the rulers.

Titus 3:1

3:1. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

- Submitting to the parents.

1 Peter 5:5

5:5. Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.

We must submit to physical parents and spiritual ones (pastor). Do not make them grieve.

Being submissive is the attitude of shepherded life. The position of obedient life is within the embrace of God's hands. The results are as follows:

- God never leaves us.

Isaiah 49:14-16

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 understands us. He struggles for us to care and protect us who are powerless as babes in the middle of the wilderness of this world.

God also cares us spiritually, so we can live in righteousness and holiness.

- The loving hands of God lift up and exalt us on His time.

1 Peter 5:6

5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

God hands recover our life and exalt us on His time. We are purified and renewed until we become as perfect as God. We will be exalted on the glorious clouds on Jesus' second coming.

God blesses us.