

General Service in Malang, March 18, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

Matthew 21:15-17

21:15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, *âHosanna to the Son of David!â* they were indignant

21:16 and said to Him, *âDo You hear what these are saying?â* And Jesus said to them, *âYes. Have you never read, âOut of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praiseâ?*

21:17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

Jesus cleansed the temple that was used for trading.

Tongue or lip determines our destiny. Tongue or lip becomes the rudder that determines the direction of our spiritual life.

There are two directions as follows:

1. Being left by God, being separated from God, until being perished forever.
2. Together with God, such that we experience miracles from God.

Through child submission, we learn to have the tongue or lip of baby, that is:

1. An honest tongue, there is no lies.
2. It is only for crying, that is praising and worshiping God.

The requirements of having the tongue or lips of baby are as follows:

1. Drinking the pure and spiritual milk, that is the shepherding Word.
All of us must be shepherded to be able to have the lip of baby.
2. Purification from evil and unclean spirit, also purification from indignant spirit, from getting angry without any cause.

The result of having the lip of baby is spiritual miracle, that is we are always renewed. Physical miracle will also happen, impossible thing becomes possible. Every step of our life is miracle step. We are renewed continuously until Jesus' second coming, and we only say *âAlleluiaâ*.

GENERAL SERVICE

Matthew 26:69-75 is about *âPeter denied Jesusâ*.

If we do not become the true witness or reject the true testimony, we will become the false witness, despise God, even deny God as Peter.

Peter denied Jesus three times as follows:

1. Verse 69-70: Peter denied Jesus of Galilee.
2. Verse 71-72: Peter denied Jesus of Nazareth.
3. Verse 73-75: Peter denied Jesus even cursed and swore.

Ad. 1. Peter denied Jesus of Galilee

Matthew 26:69-70

26:69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, *âYou also were with Jesus of Galilee.â*

26:70 But he denied it before them all, saying, *âI do not know what you are saying.â*

Matthew 4:18-20

4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

4:19 Then He said to them, *âFollow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.â*

4:20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Peter got God's call and election by the Sea of Galilee.

Peter denied Jesus of Galilee means **denying God's call and election.**

Why there must be God's call?

Since sinful man are separated from God and has no ability to return to God, even he will go farther from God until being separated and perished forever.

How is God's way to call sinful man?

1. The first call is at the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:7-13

3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

3:9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

3:10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

3:12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

3:13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

God came to the Garden of Eden to call Adam and Eve who have sinned and been naked. They were afraid and they hid from God. But unfortunately, God's call was responded negatively, that is they used self-truth (fig leaves). They covered their fault by blaming the others, even blaming God. This kind of life will never realize sins and will never repent forever.

The consequence is Adam and Eve were outcast from the Garden of Eden to the world full of curse, and were separated far from God.

This is the lesson for us not to use self-truth. When we use self-truth, we will lose the ambience of Paradise and enter the ambience of curses, sorrows, and tears.

2. The second call is in this world.

Romans 3:23

3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

In this world, all have sinned up to the peak of sins, that is eating-drinking sins and marrying and being given in marriage sins. These are the naked lives but they are not ashamed, as Adam and Eve.

Previously Adam and Eve were ashamed, but their descendants are naked but not ashamed.

In order to call sinful man in this world, God had to come into the world in the appearance of Jesus as Man who does not sin, and had to die on the cross.

1 Peter 2:9

2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

The process of God's call is as follows:

- a. God calls sinful man out of darkness into His marvelous light.

The proofs of receiving God's call are as follows:

- Having faith, believing to Jesus through hearing the Word.
- Lip confesses sins such that we are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. After confessing and being forgiven, we must repent, that is stopping sinning and to return to God.
- Entering water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism, which return new life, that is living in righteousness. Living in righteousness equals to salvation. Salvation is more than any wealth in this world.

- b. God elects the righteous or saved lives to become priests and kings.

Not everyone can be elected, only life who gets the lots of Jesus's garment. If we can serve God, it is only by God's grace and trust.

Priests and kings are holy lives, lives who hold on the ministry.
Priests and kings are lives who minister and serve God.

Ministry equals to the beautiful tunic.

If God chooses and elects us to become priests and kings, it means that God makes our lives beautiful in front of God and we have the ambience of Paradise.

Through the shepherding system, God surrounds such that we have the ambience of Paradise in the middle of the world full of curses and is being perished.

Where a pastor gets the revelation of the Word, there Jesus presents as the Great Shepherd to surround the congregation to keep having the ambience of Paradise. We must be convinced where we are shepherded. Do not just follow the others and do not hear strange voice!

God's election to us as priests and kings is as Peter who was elected from fisherman to become fisher of man. This denotes flesh suffering. It seems as a loss, but actually God gives beautifulness in our life and surrounds us with the ambience of Paradise. God will give beauty more than anything we have sacrificed. God never fools us.

Unfortunately, Peter was desperate and disappointed suddenly when Jesus was crucified, and he denied Him. Peter returned to become fisherman.

John 21:3-4,7

21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

21:4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

Peter removed the ministry garment and denied God's call and election. The consequences are as follows:

- He did not know that it was God. It means that he was far from God, dry spiritually, and he felt nothing in ministry.
- Total failure. He did not catch anything the whole night.
- Being naked, losing the ambience of Paradise and returning to the ambience of curses. If he is left on that condition, he will be perished forever.

John 21:5-6

21:5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

21:6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

But God comes to call and elect us back through the teaching Word which is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Luke 5:4-6

5:4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

5:5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

5:6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

In the past, God's call and election was started by letting down the net. God calls and elects us back through the repeated and deepened Word (in John 21, it is added with "Cast the net on the right side"). This is the shepherding Word.

Every preaching of the shepherding Word, although it is sharp and repeated, it is to call us back and to stabilize God's call and election to us.

The sharp shepherding Word purifies our heart and mind.

- "...have you any food?" refers to heart purification, since it is the failure which is asked.
- Jesus asked them to let down the net when the morning had come refers to mind purification. It is logically impossible, but let us receive the purification by the Word.

If our heart and mind are purified, we will be more established in God's call and election.

John 21:11

21:11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

The result was they caught 153 fish (100 is the length of Tabernacle, 50 is the width of Tabernacle, and 3 is 3 places within Tabernacle).

- 100 = 10x10 is **listening**(10) and **obeying**(10) the Word.
- 50 is the number of Pentecost. Holy Spirit anoints us such that we are **faithful** and fervent in spirit to God.
- 3 is the renewal of body, soul, and spirit.

Matthew 26:75

26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

The renewal of body, spirit, and soul is started from **honestly confessing our condition in front of God**.

An obedient, faithful, and honest life is counted by God. Being counted means we are cared by God, defended by God, and God struggles for us. We are in the embrace of God's grace and merciful hands.

The results of being inside God's grace are as follows:

- God's grace cares and protects us in the middle of difficulties in this world.

Genesis 6:8

6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

The floodwater also refers to the sins up to the peak of sins. God's grace will protect us such that we will not fall into sins.

God's grace will also protect us from God's judgment in the future.

- God's grace made Joseph successful in the middle of limitation (the ambience of prison).

Acts 7:9-10

*7:9 "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him
7:10 and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house."*

During the famine in the time of antichrist will reign over the world for three years and a half, only life who is in God's grace as Joseph will survive.

God's grace also unites us in the building of the body of Christ (Joseph met his brothers).

- God's grace purifies and renews us little by little until we are perfect as God, and ready to welcome Jesus's second coming.

Revelation 22:20-21

22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

God blesses us.