

General Service in Malang, May 16, 2010 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 25:1,13

25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Jesus will come a second time in glory as King of kings, Heavenly Bridegroom, who will lift us up on the glorious clouds forever with Him.

None knows the time of His second coming. Therefore, we must keep our **burning lamp**.

The requirements are below:

1. Receiving Bride Tidings = a light.

Matthew 25:6

25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

2. Having oil for supply.

Matthew 25:3-4

25:3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

25:4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."

ad. 1. Receiving Bride Tidings.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Human being enters into the world through physical marriage and will go out of it through spiritual marriage. Therefore, the marriage must be right.

Sinful men were judged until dead. Now, receiving Gospel of Salvation, sinful men can believe in Jesus and be saved.

Being saved, many Christians sleep spiritually. Consequently, they are left at the time of Jesus' second coming and perish.

Matthew 25:5-6

25:5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

Church of God must receive Bride Tidings, teaching Word sharper than any two-edged sword, the only one tidings able to make the spirituality of the Church awake [Matthew 25:6].

The term 'to make awake' means to sanctify and to perfect the Church until being ready to welcome Jesus' second coming.

Acts 12:6

12:6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

Peter who was sleeping refers to the Church sleeping spiritually because of being bound by Satan the trinity (Herod and two soldiers).

- Herod = Satan = wild dragon in the air [Revelation 12:3].
- The first soldier = antichrist = wild beast coming out of the sea [Revelation 13:1-2].
- The second soldier = false prophet = wild beast on the earth [Revelation 13:11].

The practices of spiritual sleeping are below:

1. Being conquered by Satan/the spirit of disobedience and of uncleanness until the Church falls and rises in sins up to the peak, i.e. sins concerning eating-drinking and sexuality.

Ephesians 2:1-2

2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Falling and rising in sins without any regret, one becomes hopeless and cannot be hoped whatever great things he has. On the contrary, one who seems not to be great but living in righteousness and holiness will be hopeful and can be hoped.

2. Being conquered by antichrist/the spirit of selling-buying/mammon as follows:

- Serving and ministering God to seek physical things
- Leaving service and ministry in order to seek money
- Seeking money in illegal ways
- Stealing the possession of God and men

Loving money means having no love.

3. Being conquered by false prophet/lies.

Lying, a priest will teach false teaching and a churchgoer will be hit by false teaching also.

Being conquered by false prophet, one departs from the faith.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

In short, the Church of the Lord who **sleeps spiritually** is the Church **losing the faith, hope, and love**.

The consequences are below:

1. The Church is in the midst of storm, without sun, moon, and stars.
2. Being unable to welcome Jesus' second coming = perdition forever.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13

13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Acts 12:7-9

12:7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

12:8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."

12:9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Peter was made awake so he could go out of the prison.

Now, the Church must experience spiritual revival in order to welcome Jesus on the clouds.

How can we make our spirituality awake?

1. Receiving the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ [Acts 12:7] = the Word sharper than any two-edged sword. It refers to the Table of Showbread in Tabernacle (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_table+of+showbread.html). Now it refers to the patience in committing Bible Study Service and the Holy Communion in which we can be pierced by the sharp Word and get a firm faith unable to fall. We cannot depart from it although false prophet attacks us.
2. The hand of God = the power of Holy Spirit striking the Church [Acts 12:7]. It points to Golden Candlestick in Tabernacle (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_golden+candlestick.html). Now it refers to the patience in committing General Service. This burning lamp results in hope.
3. Patience in praying.

Acts 12:5

12:5. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

It refers to the Golden Altar of Incense in Tabernacle (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_the+golden+altar+of+incense.html), that is to say the patience in committing Prayer Service resulting in love.

Thus, **the place to make our spirituality awake** is in the Holy Place = sheepfold = **patience in committing three main services**. We will face great storm if we are outside the sheepfold. On the other hand, we will be peaceful and quiet although we are

in the midst of storm if we are in the sheepfold.

The practice of being made awake in our spirituality is below:

1. The belt of righteousness = ready to be righteous always whatever risk may come.

Acts 12:8

12:8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."

Ephesians 6:14-15

6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

2. Sandals of willingness to sacrifice time, energy, money, or other things to serve and minister God.
3. Putting on garment = having priest's offices and the gifts of Holy Spirit [Acts 12:8]
This garment is Joseph's tunic of many colors. If God wants to employ our lives, it is to beautify our lives.
This tunic must be dipped in blood, meaning we have to suffer in the flesh willingly. It is already right when we serve and minister with suffering in the flesh.

Ministering with priest's offices and the gifts is to build Christ's body.

4. Being shepherded.

John 21:18-19

21:18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

21:19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Following the Lord = lifting up our hands to Him, meaning below:

- Being obedient until the flesh does not sound anymore, whatever risk may come.
- Being obedient forever.
- Sacrificing all things for God willingly, up to our soul as Peter did.

As a result, the hand of Great Shepherd will also be stretched for us. The hand of mercy and goodness is stretched to do these things:

- To help us in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- To make everything beautiful in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

- To open all doors which are impossible to open (the iron gate); what impossible for us is possible for God.

Acts 12:10

12:10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Revelation 3:8

3:8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

The door of impossibility in physical matters will be opened by God.

Furthermore, the door of impossibility in spiritual matters will also be opened by God. The veil will be opened by Him, we are renewed to become as glorious as He is.

Let us wait in the shepherding when we feel that the time has not yet come. Keep on girding ourselves with the belt of righteousness, tying our sandals of willingness and putting on the garment of ministry with the gifts of Holy Spirit. The time of God will come soon for sure.

God blesses you.