

General Service in Malang, October 24, 2010 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 25:31-32

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.

At the time of Jesus' second coming, He appears as follows:

1. **As King of all kings**, reigning on the throne of His glory. Similarly, we have to become kings, namely ones who have victory over enemies (the sin, the world, and the flesh) so we can also sit on the throne of glory.
2. **As Shepherd**. Similarly, we have to become shepherded sheep, so we do not go astray, and lose our way but we can be with Jesus forever until we sit on the throne of glory.

Jesus appears as Shepherd three times in New Testament, meaning as follows:

- The trinity of God confesses that the shepherding is a very important matter.
- We are shepherded in our whole life, namely our body, soul, and spirit.

1. John 10:11

10:11. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

The first appearance: Jesus as Good Shepherd giving His life for the sheep.

Who are His sheep?

Matthew 15:24-26

15:24. But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

15:25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

15:26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

The sheep of God actually are only Israelites, the chosen people. We, Gentiles or all nations except Israel, are only as dogs, common animals, before God.

Jesus has died on the cross to save the sheep from the Israelites but a part of them have rejected Jesus, so the chance and the mercy of God to save the Gentiles are opened.

Romans 11:25-26

11:25. For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

A part of Israelites were hard-hearted and rejected Jesus so the Gentiles may be lifted up by the Good Shepherd.

John 19:32-34

19:32. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.

19:33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Actually Jesus has died on the cross with four main wounds, two in hands and two in feet, to save Israelites. Praise the Lord. He gives a chance through Romans soldier to make the fifth wound by piercing Jesus' side with a spear to lift up the Gentiles who are as dogs, to be saved by the Lord.

The process of having salvation for the Gentiles is through **the sign of blood and water** as follows.

- o **The sign of blood** (the Altar of Burnt Offering) (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_the+altar+of+burnt+offerings.html) = **repenting**, namely stopping sinning to return to God or being dead to sin, especially the eight sins leading one to enter into the hell directly.

Revelation 21:8

21:8. "But the (1) cowardly, (2) unbelieving, (3) abominable, (4) murderers, (5) sexually immoral, (6) sorcerers, (7) idolaters, and (8) all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second

death."

The cowardly indicates that one is afraid of something that makes him resist the Lord or God's Word.

- **The sign of water**(the Brazen Laver) (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_the+brazen+laver.html) =**waterbaptism**.

After being dead to sin, we have to be buried in water, as a dead man who must be buried in order not to be rotten.

Romans 6:2,4

6:2. Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Someone has not been baptized or been a sheep if his baptism is not in line to the Word of God.

The true water baptism is we are buried together with Jesus in water then we are risen in new life, namely righteous life.

We have to learn to live righteously from obeying the rules in our daily life. For example, we wear helmet in driving our motorcycle, whether in the city or in the village.

Righteous people will always be despised as Jesus who was righteous and despised, even spat whereas Barabbas, who was blameful, was praised and released. Nevertheless, the righteous people are the sheep God saves.

Let us check the result of being baptized.

One has not been a saved sheep if there is no righteous life.

Dogs can be lifted up to become sheep only because of the great goodness of God.

Ezekiel 20:37-38

20:37. "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;

20:38 "I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

After being saved, we have to pass under the rod of shepherd, meaning we obey the Shepherding Word so we are lead to enter into the sheepfold.

The sheepfold refers to the perseverance in committing three main services to the Lord as follows:

- Golden Candlestick (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_golden+candlestick.html) = the perseverance in committing General Service.
- Table of Showbread (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_table+of+showbread.html) = the perseverance in committing Bible Study Service and Holy Communion.
- Golden Altar of Incense (https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_the+golden+altar+of+incense.html) = the perseverance in committing Prayer Service.

Why do we have to enter into the sheepfold?

In order to be reckoned or firm in salvation and righteousness; we become the possession of God and do not go astray.

We are sanctified, washed, or cleansed in the sheepfold so we do not return to become dog licking the vomit, referring to unclean deeds and saying.

As a result of being patient in the sheepfold and reckoned or sanctified by the Lord is the Good Shepherd takes the responsibility to make all things good in His time.

We only need to wait His time. Just believe! The Good Shepherd must make all things beautiful in His time although our eyes see something bad now.

Our duties are: repenting, being baptized of water, living in righteousness to become saved sheep, and entering into the sheepfold to be reckoned and sanctified.

The term "Good Shepherd" obviously indicates that His duty is to make all things beautiful in His time.

2. Hebrews 13:20-21

13:20. Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

13:21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The second appearance: **Jesus appears as Great Shepherd rising from the dead to equip the sheep.**

There are two equipments the Great Shepherd gives us as follows:

○ **Ephesians 4: 11-12**

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 Great Shepherd equips the sheep with **ministry or the tunic of many colors** to lift them up to become priests and kings who are ready to be employed in the ministry of building the perfect Christ's body, namely the Bride of God who is ready to welcome Jesus' second coming as the Head or Heavenly Bridegroom.

Pray to Great Shepherd to ask the tunic of many colors for you who has not ministered yet.

Our life has not been beautiful yet if we do not minister the Lord or we do not have the tunic of many colors, although we have high education, great and firm job, et cetera.

The ministry is indeed done with many sufferings but our life will become beautiful.

If we do not want to minister in building the body of Christ, we will become the servant of sin again and be employed in building the body of Babel (the great harlot) which will be destroyed forever.

There is no other choice, the servant of God or the servant of sin

○ **Ephesians 6:13,17-18**

6:13. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

The Great Shepherd also gives us **the armor of God**, namely **the true teaching Word or the sword, and Holy Spirit** encouraging us to like to pray or worship God in order not to fall in ministry.

(It has happened in the building of the wall of Jerusalem that Israelites built while they were ready with their armor to make war because there were many people did not like the building).

Judas left the ministry and fell only because of money.

We will not fall in our ministry like Judas if we have the Word of God, Holy Spirit, and worship prayer. We can keep on serving, ministering God, and wearing our robe of ministry until Jesus comes a second time, even forever.

As a result, Great Shepherd will make all things beautiful in His time. We only need to wait His time.

On the other hand, whoever takes off the tunic of ministry will make all beautiful things naked and destroyed. Do not resist!

Let pray for those who have not ministered yet that God shows and gives the ministry.

We have to remember this thing:

We are only dogs although we seems to be great before men. The Good Shepherd saves and lifts us up. Afterward, do not forget to minister Him solemnly.

We do not know the time limit God will give us. It can happen that now is the last calling of God for those who have left the ministry. Rejecting it still, the consequence will happen like Esau weeping bitterly forever.

3. I Peter 5:4-6

5:4. and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

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."

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

The third appearance: **Jesus appears as Chief Shepherd in glory to give us the crown of glory that does not fade away.**

We can see the beautiful plan of God that He wants to make all things good, beautiful, and be glorified or lifted up.

The requirements are as follows:

- Not fading away, meaning we may not fade away or be bored of committing our service and ministry but **always being faithful and fervent in spirit.**
- Being humble
 - = ability **to confess our sins** honestly to God and other people, and **not to repeat the sins** after being forgiven.
 - = ability **to confess all failures and powerlessness.** Do not blame other people when we are in failures!
- Being submissive, meaning **being obedient until our flesh does not sound anymore**, whatever risk we have to face.

The result will be real as follows:

We are lifting up our hands to Jesus, the Great Shepherd, when we are faithful, humble, and obedient, as well as He is stretching His hand to us.

In shorts, we live in the hand of The Chief Shepherd.

John 10:27-28

10:27. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

- The merciful hand of the Shepherd is able to give **the guarantee of our life** to preserve our present life, and our future life forever.
- The merciful hand of the Shepherd is able to give us **victory over our enemies, even the impossible problems.** We have victory in Him.
- **I Peter 5:6**
5:6. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

The merciful hand of God is able **to lift us up, and to exalt us in His time.** We are lifted up from all failures and falls so we are successful and able to glorify His name.

- The merciful hand of the Great Shepherd **sanctifies and changes our life to become perfect as He is perfect,** we are worthy to get the crown of bride. The hand of the Shepherd lifts us up on the glorious clouds to welcome Jesus' second coming, and all things are successful and glorified. We are with God forever.

Jesus appears three times as the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, and the Chief Shepherd to lift up our life from Gentiles or dogs having many sorrows to live in His hand.

God has made enough efforts for us and the questions are as follows:

- Are we willing to receive the calling of the Good Shepherd? If yes, let us be shepherded.
- Do we receive the calling of the Great Shepherd? Let us minister Him!
- Do we accept the calling of the Chief Shepherd? Let us be faithful, humble, and obedient.

We maybe are not precious before men but God will lift us up if we receive His calling.

God blesses you.