

Youth Service in Malang, May 18, 2013 (Saturday Evening)

Peace and grace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 4: 1-13 **Luke 4:1-13** is about '*the temptation in the wilderness*'. It is same as **the test of faith**.

The tested faith will result in righteousness and perfection. But, righteousness without faith or the Word of God is self-truth which results in dispute/ quarrel.

Quarell or dispute occurs as follows:

- When one is right and another is wrong.

The practices are as follows:

- the wrong person does not want to confess, but blames the right one,
- the right person does not want to forgive the wrong one although he already asks for forgiveness earnestly.

This dispute can be finished if the wrong person confesses and does not sin anymore after being forgiven and the right one forgives the wrong one.

- When both of them are wrong.

Both of them are wrong, but feel right and blame each other.

The way out is confessing and forgiving one another.

Jesus passes the test of faith that He has the tested faith and **isable to appear before two conditions** as follows:

1. **[Luke 4:14-15]** Jesus returns to Galilee; He is accepted and praised.
2. **[Luke 4:16-30]** Jesus is rejected in Nazareth.

These two conditions can happen to us too in our everyday life and ministry.

We discuss about the first condition.

Luke 4:14-15

4:14. *Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.*

4:15. *And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.*

It is same as **the experience of being blessed and glorified**. At that moment, Jesus has already been adult.

The experience of being blessed and glorified must be **faced by spiritual maturity**, that we do not fall in sin and become haughty.

Matthew 16:18, 23

16:18. *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

16:23. *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

The example of person who falls right after being glorified by God is **Peter**.

The blessing and glory must be faced with spiritual maturity.

To receive spiritual maturity, **we have to eat the solid food**, that is the Word that is sharper than two-edged sword.

'eat' = hearing and obeying the true teaching Word.

By eating, we experience **purification of the senses**, one of which is **mouth**, to become right and good.

Hebrews 5:14

5:14. *But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

When we are glorified and blessed, we have to keep our mouth. The mouth is only used for testifying and worshipping God. Testifying (to others) and worshipping (up) means creating the sign of cross.

1. Testifying.

It means we draw off the blessing to others.

We testify about the things follows:

- the gospel of salvation or gospel word that is about Jesus as the Saviour.
It is accompanied with the **light of righteousness**, that is living in truth that sinners who live in the darkness can believe in Jesus and be saved to live in the light.
- the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, or teaching Word, that is about Jesus who will come soon a second time in the honor of the King of kings, the Bridegroom of Heaven.
It is accompanied with the **light of holiness and renewal of life**, that people who have been saved can enter in the building of the perfect body of Christ, that is the perfect bride.

If we can testify, **we can be epistle or letters of commendation** wherever we are. We do not need to look for commendation by ourselves.

II Corinthians 3:1-3

3:1. *Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or **letters of commendation** from you?*

3:2. *You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;*

3:3. *clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.*

2. Worshipping.

It means as follows:

- Emitting the blessing and glory we accept to God.

Revelation 4:9-11

4:9. *Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,*

4:10. *the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:*

4:11. *"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

It means we confess that God who is worthy to be praised, not us. We confess that everything is God's mercy.

- Lifting up of our hands to God.

Psalms 141:2-3

141:2. *Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

141:3. *Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.*

It means we surrender our whole lives to the mercy of God. It is same as trusting and obeying.

This is sheep's character in the hand of the Chief Shepherd.

As a result, God will stretch out His hand to us.

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 results are as follows:

1. The hand of God's mercy gives certainty to care our lives now until we can get good future and eternal life.
2. The hand of God's mercy gives victory over all enemies like David wins against Goliath, sin, and the peak of sin.
The human efforts such as parents assistant, our own effort or the efforts of others are like the effort of Saul to help David by giving him armor. It cannot help, but gives us heavy burden .
God gives the victory.
3. The hand of God's mercy exalts us in due time; we are used by God in the revival of the building of the body of Christ. We are purified and perfected to become as perfect as God.

I Peter 5:6

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

God blesses us.