

Youth Service in Malang, October 29, 2011 (Saturday Evening)

There are 2 kinds of the miraculous birth tidings in the gospel of Luke as follows:

1. **Luke 1:5-25 -->the birth tidings of John the Baptist.**

John the Baptist is an ordinary human being, but his birth was marked with miracle because he was born by a woman who was old and barren.

2. **Luke 1:26-38 -->the birth tidings of Jesus.**

Jesus is God (the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the Love of God) who was born to be same as human.

Jesus was born by a holy virgin.

So the birth of Jesus is really full of miracle.

The birth tidings of John the Baptist and Jesus were preached by the same angel that is the angel Gabriel.

Furthermore, it is not only becoming a tiding, but also becoming a fact/ reality.

1. An Angel = the Pastor.

Revelation 2:1, 8

2:1. *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, `These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:*

2:8. *"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, `These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:*

2. An Angel = the ointment of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 22:41-43

22:41 *And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,*

22:42 *"saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

22:43 *Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.*

If we hear the tidings of God's Word that is preached by the Pastor in the ointment of the Holy Spirit, the tidings will be a fact and reality in our lives.

Luke 1:5-6

1:5. *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elizabeth.*

1:6 *And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless*

The tidings that contain miracle were entrusted to Zacharias and Elizabeth.

Who is trusted even experiences the miraculous tidings?

1. A Levi married a Levite = a life that has a pure heart, not being mingled.

The pure heart: no dissimulation, no hypocrisy, and nothing is hidden.

So, **the service and ministry to God also are pure**, that is only for God, not looking for physical things.

In the gospel of Exodus, Aaron and his children accepted the pure ministry to God.

The pureness of the heart determines the fate of our ministry, including our descendant.

Amram and Jochebed gave birth to Moses, Zacharias and Elizabeth gave birth to John the Baptist.

Otherwise, if the marriage is false, there is only a giant that is living in carnal desires, grieving God's heart [Exodus 6].

2. Living in righteousness.

It is better to throw away the yeast (something that isn't right) and suffer to the flesh than our lives are thrown away!

If the yeast is thrown away, our lives will not be thrown away even we are chosen before God like Zacharias and Elizabeth.

3. Being obedient and faithful in the ministry up to the end line.

Zacharias remained in ministry to God up to his old days.

Moreover in youth, our bodies are still strong.

If in youth we are already not faithful in service and ministry to God, in old days we certainly leave God.

If tonight we want to live in pureness, righteousness, obedience, and faithfulness in service and ministry God, God will create a miracle in our lives.

It begins from the spiritual miracle (the biggest miracle).

Matthew 3:7, 9

3:7. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

3:9 "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as [our] father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."

The stones, vipers became the children of Abraham -->the gentiles who are hard-hearted become the children of Abraham.

Galatians 3:7

3:7 Therefore know that [only] those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

The children of Abraham = **living from faith, believing and entrusting our lives fully to God.** (Life of faith).

The Gentiles often vacillates, worries, doubts, also hopes on the strength of their own or others.

The Gentiles also often do not believe to God.

If we vacillate, worry, and doubt, we certainly cannot live in faith/ righteousness, and tend to choose false things.

John 11:39

11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been [dead] four days."

Be cautious! Martha refers to a woman, a girl, a church of God.

She is often doubtful and the effect is she is certainly not right.

Why does sometimes God allow us to experience things like Martha who faced the sick, dying, and decaying Lazarus?

Because it is to make us learn believing and entrusting ourselves fully to God.

As the result, a physical miracle also will happen.

Lazarus who had already died for 4 days was resurrected, meaning as follows:

- The impossible becomes possible,
- The bad/ rotten becomes good and beautiful in His time (including our future).

At the time of Jesus' second coming, we will be changed to be as glorious as Him and be lifted together with Him in the glorious cloud.

God blesses us.