

“Blessed to be a Blessing”

RINGKASAN KHOTBAH

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Dear brothers, nice to see all of you come to worship on this day. We are grateful to the Lord Jesus, in the midst of difficult circumstances like now, we are still allowed to gather and worship in God's church. I understand that it is not easy for us to get out of the house and go to church in this current pandemic, there are many regulations that we must obey and the threat of the coronavirus that could infect us at any time. However, with our enthusiasm and love for the Lord Jesus, we continue to take steps to come to church. I am glad to see that all of you are so eager to worship God, remembering that there are so many Christians who at this time are lazy to worship. Many people take advantage of this situation as an excuse not to come to worship God.

Dear brothers and sisters, today I will deliver the Word of God about “Blessed to be a blessing”. Let's open our Bible to 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 10.

The Word of God says, " As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God ". In the context of our reading today, it is explained that Peter is delivering a message to Christians in the area of North Asia Minor who are called God's pilgrim people. Did you know that the intention of Peter in sending this letter was to strengthen Christians in Asia Minor who were experiencing severe persecution due to their belief in Jesus Christ. Christians at that time experienced great pressure and persecution, that is why Peter sent them a letter with the aim of reminding them of Jesus' promise of eternal life, with the hope that they would remain firm in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But in that letter, there is a verse that I think is so extraordinary and very touching, namely the verse that we just read together. In that verse, it is written, that Peter wanted Christians at that time to serve and help

each other. People who are under stress are encouraged to serve, an attitude that may be considered strange by many people, how can we serve others when we are in a difficult situation?

Ladies and gentlemen, one day a student just came home from school, he went to school quite far from home, that's why he had to use a public bus to return home. These students always bring supplies when going to school, because the distance to go home is quite far and takes a lot of time. When he wanted to eat on the bus, he was annoyed by the attitude of a grandmother who always stared at him. The student felt uncomfortable and curious about the grandmother, so he ventured to ask the grandmother. "Do you want to try this food?" the grandmother replied "no! you must be very hungry! please eat, it is yours" then the child replied to the grandmother "Yes I am very hungry, it's been a long day. But you must be hungry too, and it's been a long day for you too! come eat with me, it will taste good. The child is sharing his food with the grandmother even though he is hungry!"

People, we are in terrible times. Things like this we have never experienced before, where a virus spreads violently and fiercely to almost

all corners of the earth. It has been almost a whole year that we have been caught amid this very sad spread of the coronavirus. We all know that the present situation causes a lot of sadness and worry for many people, and Christians are no exception. So many people have lost their jobs, possessions, and even their lives because of the impact of the coronavirus that we are facing today. This situation certainly brings deep sorrow and worry to everyone, including us as God's children, we will continue to feel worried and also affected by the spread of this coronavirus. Maybe there are some among us today, who have lost their jobs, so it is difficult for us to meet our daily needs. We may find it difficult to meet the needs of our household, our children, or our own needs. The coronavirus has brought a big changing impact on the world, everyone feels the bad impact of the spread of this virus, regardless of the type of work or social status. Everyone from all fields of work must also feel the impact. Traders must be willing to lose their buyers, employers must be willing if their company cannot operate properly, an athlete must be willing to postpone his competition, and many other professions must suffer losses.

But today God says to all of us, that we are blessed people, therefore we must also be a blessing to others. Dear friends, from the verses of God's Word, that we read, I would like to convey two things for us all.

First, we are people who are blessed by God. Maybe we think that at times like this, it is difficult for us to feel God's blessings in our lives. However, do we realize that the Lord Jesus never stops blessing us? If you can come to church today with a healthy body, that is God's blessing. If today you can still have breakfast in the morning, it is God's blessing. If today we can still live, it is God's blessing. If today we feel peace in our hearts, it is God's blessing. Everything we have today, whether it is of little or great value, is a blessing from God. We are people who are blessed by God. Peter said that let us serve according to the gifts given by God. So we are people who have been gifted by God. The question is whether we are aware of God's blessing or not. Many people don't realize all of God's blessings in their life, so they never feel fulfilled and in the end, they are never satisfied. They demand so many things from God, they think that God bless them when they get what they want, that's a

misconception. The truth is, God has blessed us, even when we weren't aware of the blessing!

Second, God blesses us with a purpose. God never does anything without a lofty purpose. Peter said that let us serve according to the gifts that God has given us. Dear friends, this is what we as Christians to do in difficult times like these. We must be a blessing to others. We must not focus on ourselves and be selfish, but we must serve others according to the abilities God has given us. In difficult times like this, some so many people need help, maybe you think that I also need help, I realize that everyone needs help in difficult times like this. But if we can do something with people who are more difficult than us, or those who are less fortunate than us, then we must help and serve them, according to the abilities God has given us. By helping others amid distress, that's where we are becoming a blessing for that person. God blessed us with the aim that we could be a blessing to others. Following what Peter said, that God gave us something with a noble purpose so that we could serve one another. This is what many Christians today forget, they become selfish and think only of themselves, without wanting to open

their hearts to help people who are more difficult than themselves.

Dear brothers and sisters, today God has spoken for us all. If God blesses you enough, then learn to be a blessing to others. You can be a blessing with simple things! If you see that your neighbor has no food and you have more, then learn to be generous and share what you have. If you look at the current pandemic era, many people are struggling to live and you have extra money, learn to share what you have! remember that God has blessed you so that you can be a blessing to others. Maybe with what you do, other people can feel God's love, and they know God through you, isn't that a great joy? therefore, hear these words of God, you must be a blessing to others, for God has blessed you!

Brethren, before I close this sermon, I want to say that God never runs out of blessings! he is a source of blessing, everything comes from him! but God always wants his people to be his agents in distributing these blessings! we must not be greedy, if we have enough then we must learn to share with those who are in need! Many people are so rich in wealth, but it is very difficult to help others, and in the end, all their

wealth will be passed on to their children, and they will leave everything behind. I want us all to be great people, to be a blessing to others! it is not judged by what you do or give to other people, but it is judged by how much you desire to be a blessing for other people because you realize that God has blessed you!

Therefore, dear brother, come home with these words in your heart! be a blessing in your home, where you work, in your relationships, and wherever you are! Always remember that you are a person who is blessed by God, and you are responsible for being a blessing to others. Only by helping us be helped, by comforting us, and by blessing are we blessed. Always remember these words in your heart "I am blessed to be a blessing", Amen.

Catatan: Ringkasan khotbah ini telah dilombakan dalam Pekan Bakti Kreativitas Mahasiswa antar Perguruan Tinggi Kristen se-Indonesia_Lomba Khotbah dalam Bahasa Inggris yang diselenggarakan oleh IAKN Tarutung dan mendapatkan Juara 1.