

A p p r o v e d W o r k m e n A r e N o t s h a m e d

Mourn with those who mourn.

Japan is still in crisis because of experiencing big earthquake and nuclear meltdown. The whole world trying to help Japan and South Korea sent a special team of rescue workers and search dogs for Japan. South Korea also started to raise funds for helping Japan. The funds are rapidly raising up and the amounts are big more than expectation. Even though Korean history has bitterness toward Japan because Japan took over Korea for more 30 years. We Koreans still have sorry to Japan for the national territory issues. But those issues are not seems to be considered in front of big disaster.

But frankly speaking, I was in confused in the question of "what shall I do, as a Christian?". When I first heard the Japan earthquake news, I asked to myself "isn't it your turn in trouble?" Yes. I found my bitterness as a Korean in my deep heart even though I am a Christian. And I also heard the criticism from some church leaders saying "quake is God's punishment."

But I know that it is foolish for us to repeat mistakes. Even though they were attackers and we were victims in some days in the past, today's irresistible natural disasters cause them unspeakable grief and hardships. They all are in needs which is clear for now. The people in Japan are now suffering from the quake, which is only reason for me to give my help. We need to give our hands to the people in trouble which is the way to break out of a vicious circle.

When we try to speak about the punishment of God, we need to be careful. We need to remember what Jesus told about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam had fallen down. Jesus asked, "those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no!" And Jesus add one more sentence, "But unless you repent, you too will all perish"(Luke 13:4–5).

The earthquake of Japan gave me two things to think. First I looked at my spiritual life. I asked myself; Am I ready? Am I ready to face the days of storms in my life? Am I ready to meet my Lord in heaven?

Another thought caught me was the responsibility of being with people in trouble. They need someone who is mourning with. I know God's heart is broken for the Japanese people. We need to be rather a friend than a judge. It is what we are being called.

I am praying that all of Awana leaders, clubbers, their families and churches stand firm to keep their genuine faith in any season and respond the people in needs with the heart of Jesus. It is because we are the children of God and called to be a hand or foot of Him reaching out the people in trouble.

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"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15)