

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 4: 31-44

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 4, verses 31 to 44.

Earlier we saw that Jesus returned to His hometown of Nazareth, but because the people there could not get past the Jesus they knew in the flesh, He was unable to do much there. Afterward, they even drove Jesus out of the town and tried to push Him off a cliff. This fulfilled what was said in John chapter 1, "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."

Verse 31: "Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths."

Capernaum is located on the north side of the Sea of Galilee, northeast of Nazareth, about 20 miles away. Capernaum was a major city in the Galilee region during Jesus' time and also a transportation hub. Three main roads led to Capernaum: one going north to Tyre and Sidon, one going east to Damascus, and another going south to Jerusalem.

Afterward, Jesus made Capernaum the center of His ministry, frequently coming and going from there, and even called Capernaum His own city. Capernaum was originally the hometown of the Old Testament prophet Nahum.

In Luke's account, starting from verse 31 all the way to the end, it tells us about Jesus' day in 24 hours: on the Sabbath, beginning in the morning teaching in the synagogue; then in verse 38, to Peter's house; verse 40, until evening; verse 42, until dawn the next day. It seems Luke deliberately lets us see how Jesus spent His day.

When Jesus began His ministry, He greatly cherished and made good use of every day of His time. So as we read further, we should keep this concept in mind. On the Sabbath, Jesus first entered the synagogue and taught the people there.

Verse 32: "And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority."

When Jesus preached, He was very different from the scribes of that time, because His words carried authority. Why did they carry authority? Because He spoke from the depths of His spirit; when the spirit came forth, it brought life, and with life came authority.

Just as in a family, parents have authority over their children because there is a life relationship between them. Once that life is removed, authority is naturally lost. Therefore, in the church, to help the saints, we must learn to supply other saints in life. When saints receive your supply in life, naturally your words will carry authority over them.

Verse 33: "Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice,"

It is very surprising that in the synagogue there was actually a man possessed by a demon. Here it speaks of the spirit of an unclean demon; that spirit in English is "spirit," or we can say an evil spirit. The synagogue was supposed to be a place to worship God, just like today's church, but while Jesus was preaching in the church, there was actually a person possessed by an evil spirit, crying out loudly:

Verse 34: "Saying : Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Many times we do not really know God, but the unclean demons and evil spirits know Jesus very well; as soon as they see Jesus, they know He is the Holy One of God, that is, the Son of God. So they immediately sighed first: "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Actually, Jesus did not directly go after these unclean demons and evil spirits, but when He released the word, His words were full of life, full of the Holy Spirit, and thus full of authority. In such an atmosphere, the unclean demons and evil spirits could not bear it and exposed themselves.

So the church should not fear having people possessed by demons, but fear lacking rich word supply. When God's word comes forth, full of authority and full of life, it will shake the kingdom of demons, making it impossible for evil spirits and unclean demons to remain in the church. Therefore, these demons recognized Him as the Son of God, the Holy One of God.

Verse 35a: "But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him!'"

In Jesus' rebuke, the first words are very meaningful: "Be quiet." In the following passages, we will see this repeated again and again. When unclean demons and evil spirits tried to testify for Jesus by saying He is the Son of God, Jesus did not accept such testimony.

How the Lord rejoices when we, His children, testify for Him: in our lives, before our family and friends, telling how He has changed our lives. But when unclean demons and evil spirits try to testify for Jesus, He does not accept it.

This principle is very important. Not only does God accomplish His purpose, but even the method of accomplishing it must be holy, righteous, and in line with God's nature. God never accepts any help from Satan; He would rather testify through weak, failing saints like us. He is unwilling to accept any proclamation from evil

spirits or unclean demons. After Jesus rebuked the unclean demon, He commanded it to come out of the man.

Verse 35b: "And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him."

Because Jesus' words were full of power and authority, with one word Jesus drove out the unclean demon.

Verses 36-37: "Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, 'What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.' And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region."

Jesus probably entered the synagogue in the morning, preaching there and supplying the spiritual needs of the people. Then He saw a man possessed by an unclean demon. The evil spirit attached to the person affected the soul—that is, the mind, emotions, and will—no longer able to function normally, but dominated by the evil spirit; this person's soul had a problem. Jesus used His word full of authority to command the evil spirit to come out and healed that man's soul.

Verse 38a: "Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house."

If you have the chance to visit Capernaum in Israel today, Simon's house from that time has become a museum. About 50 meters from Simon's house is the ancient site of the Jewish synagogue that remains from before, so these two places are very close, about a five-minute walk.

Verses 38b-39: "But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them."

In the synagogue, Jesus preached God's word, supplying people's spiritual needs, and also healed a man whose soul was possessed by an unclean demon. Then He came to Simon's house, where Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, and Jesus rebuked the fever, and it left.

We see that in the record of Jesus' day so far, He supplied people's spiritual needs, healed problems in people's souls, and also healed physical illnesses; causing people's spirit, soul, and body to prosper. Jesus' healing is holistic healing and complete healing. Just like Simon's mother-in-law, once healed, she immediately arose and served them.

Verse 40: "When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them."

Jesus' holistic healing quickly became well-known; as a result, the whole city brought all those with various diseases to Jesus. Peter's house became like a temporary clinic. Jesus healed them one by one.

Jesus laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. As the Son of God, during His earthly ministry, He healed countless people. Every time He healed, it was one by one, laying hands on them. He never did something like speaking one word to heal the crowds.

Could He do that? I believe absolutely yes. But more importantly, Jesus wanted to personally build a relationship with each person. Because physical healing, even if healed today, can get sick again later, and one day even die. So physical healing is temporary; what is more important is spiritual healing, the salvation of the soul. Therefore Jesus was willing to heal one person at a time personally. In such healing,

physical healing is secondary; more important is that their spirit and soul receive healing and salvation. Spiritual life is eternal life.

Verse 41: "And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!' And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ."

When Jesus cast out demons, those unclean demons all recognized: He is the Christ, the Son of God. But Jesus never accepted such testimony. We can imagine that Jesus was really very busy that day, probably continuing until late at night, healing and casting out demons one by one.

Verse 42: "Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place."

We do not know when Jesus slept, but at the break of dawn, Jesus went alone to the wilderness. What did He do in the wilderness? He personally prayed to the Father God. No matter how busy the day, He needed a morning time to be quietly with the Father God, having intimate fellowship with Him; this was the source of His power every day.

We can be very busy with work, but every day having a time alone with God in fellowship is absolutely necessary. Jesus knew very clearly that He could be busy until late at night, yet the next morning He still went alone to the wilderness.

Dear brothers and sisters, I also hope that each of us, in our busy daily lives, can set aside a period of time to read the Bible, pray, listen to messages, and have intimate fellowship with God. This will be the foundation of our daily life, the source of our power.

Verses 42b-44: "And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.' And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee."

After looking at Jesus' day, let us also think about our own day. How Jesus cherished and made good use of every day of His time. Let us also learn how to cherish and make good use of every day God gives us. But a basic principle: no matter how busy we are, every day we must set aside a time to fellowship with the Lord, read the Lord's word, and pray.

Let us pray together: Lord! Help us to learn from Jesus' example. How He preached with all His heart, how He helped people in spirit, soul, and body; even in such a busy life, He still set aside time every morning to go to the wilderness to pray to the Father God. Lord, help us also to establish a good life habit, having a fixed time every day to come before You. And use this time to personally speak the words on Your heart to each of us. Let us know You more and more, and be more and more willing to follow You. Bless our life this day, we pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.