

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

Luke 17:20-27

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. We'll continue to read Luke Chapter 17; today, we will read verses 20-27.

Verse 20a: "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come,"

The Pharisees did not believe in Jesus at all. When they asked Jesus this question, there was more or less a tone of mockery in it. On the other hand, it also revealed that what they were expecting was a Messianic kingdom, or in other words, a political kingdom of Israel. Because at that time the whole Jewish nation had already been destroyed, and under the cruel rule of the Romans, they had been constantly expecting the Messianic kingdom spoken of by the Old Testament prophets to lead the Israelites to reestablish the nation. Of course, when they looked at Jesus, He did not possess any conditions for establishing a nation at all. Therefore, their tone should have been contemptuous and challenging: When will the kingdom of God come? Jesus certainly knew their intention, but Jesus answered them very sincerely. What did Jesus say?

Verse 20 b: "He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation;'"

In other words, Jesus first corrected them: The kingdom of God that you are hoping for is a political kingdom of Israel that can break free from Roman rule, but the true kingdom of God is not something your eyes can see; it is not like what you imagine.

Verse 21: “nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you (or among you).”

That is to say, it is not territorial; it cannot be defined by a place, here or there. It is not visible to the eye, nor is it territorial, because the kingdom of God is in your midst. The Chinese Union Version’s translation of “in your hearts” is actually inaccurate. The small note afterward—“in your hearts: or among you”—is actually more accurate. That is to say, the kingdom of God is among you.

It is not in one person’s heart, but in the midst of a group of you. Sometimes we say the kingdom of God is in our hearts, making it very abstract, but what Jesus said is actually very practical. It is not visible to the eye, nor is it territorial, yet it can be experienced. Why? Because it is right in the midst of you few people. If you truly believe in God and are truly under the constraint of God’s authority, the kingdom of God is among you.

Regarding the Pharisees’ question, He knew they were not sincerely seeking the answer, so Jesus’ words stopped here: It is not visible to the eye, it is not territorial, yet it can be experienced, because it is among you.

Verse 22: “Then He said to the disciples, ‘The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.’”

Jesus’ answers to the Pharisees were usually very concise and to the point, but to the disciples He was willing to say more, because these people were sincerely seeking. To everyone who sincerely seeks, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Jesus knew that when the Pharisees asked these questions, His disciples actually had the same questions in their hearts. Therefore Jesus said a bit more.

He knew that what the Pharisees asked might also be the question in the disciples’ hearts. How they longed for the day when they could see “one of the days of the

Son of Man,” that is, the day when Jesus would come again to reign. Jesus also told the disciples directly, but you will not see it.

Verse 23: “And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after them or follow them.”

Jesus mentioned that in the last days, when people are waiting for the days of the Son of Man and become somewhat anxious, uneasy, and unable to wait any longer in their hearts, many false prophets will be raised up. They will say, “Look here,” or “Look there.”

Jesus told these disciples, Do not go after them or follow them. What Jesus spoke two thousand years ago is still suitable today. In the past twenty or thirty years, many groups have arisen and made many false prophecies, saying when Jesus is about to return. As a result, just as Jesus said, some say “here,” some say “there.” Jesus tells us, Do not go after them or follow them, because no one knows that day or that hour.

Verse 24: “For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.”

What Jesus said is very interesting. Although we do not know when the day of the Son of Man will come, when He comes you will definitely not miss it, just like lightning. The public coming of the Son of Man is like lightning flashing from one part of heaven to the other. Before lightning happens we do not know, but once it happens, you definitely will not miss it. Therefore, we do not need to guess when that day is, because He will surely come, and when He comes you will certainly know.

Verse 25: “But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”

During the time Jesus was with these disciples, one day the Son of Man would descend from heaven, flashing like lightning from one side to the other, and everyone would see it. But before that day, the Son of Man must first suffer many things.

Just as now, He was leading the disciples up to Jerusalem. He had already revealed to them several times that there He would suffer, He would be killed, and He would even be rejected by this generation. Here He vaguely told the disciples, You are all expecting that one day He will come, but I truly tell you, before He comes, He must first suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

One who can truly ascend to the throne of glory must walk the way of the cross. He will descend from heaven; He must first go through suffering, through death, through resurrection, and even ascension. Only after ascension can He descend from heaven once again. The principle of obtaining glory is that one must walk the way of the cross. Everyone hopes to obtain glory, but how many are willing to bear the cross?

Therefore, Jesus first corrected the disciples’ concept: Yes, one day the Son of Man will return. You do not know when that day will be; even the Son of Man does not know. But the arrival of that day will be glorious and public, like lightning. Only before that day, the Son of Man must first suffer and must first be rejected by this generation.

On one hand, He also encouraged these disciples who followed Him: Now you may be suffering, but suffering is positive and has value, because today we suffer with Him, and on that day we will be glorified with Him. Then, Jesus seemed to give them some prophetic revelation.

Verses 26-27: “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

Jesus told His disciples that the signs of the day when the Son of Man comes will be exactly the same as in the days of Noah. In the days of Noah, people ate and drank, married and were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

We know that in the Old Testament book of Genesis, God’s first judgment on the entire human race was by flood. Because people at that time were so corrupt, and every intent of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually, God carried out a comprehensive judgment and destroyed that generation of people with the flood, leaving only Noah’s family of eight to enter the ark, pass through the flood, and be saved.

What Jesus said at this time was about His second coming. When the Son of Man descends, it will be like in Noah’s time—a comprehensive judgment. Back then, how Noah earnestly and patiently warned the people of his generation and built the ark on the mountain, inviting many people to enter with him, yet no one was willing to enter. Those who entered were those who were saved through the flood.

We often compare Noah’s family of eight being saved through the flood to Christians being saved and preserved through baptism. Here Jesus spoke out that in the end, what this generation will value is eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage. Although these are things that should exist to sustain life, in the end people will completely focus on these matters of survival and forget God’s salvation, refusing to accept God’s salvation.

Just when people are intoxicated with eating, drinking, and enjoying, and with marrying and being given in marriage, God’s judgment will come unknowingly. Just as the flood came upon the people of Noah’s generation at that time, in the same way God’s judgment on the whole earth will come upon that generation through the coming again of the Son of Man.

Although no one knows that day or that hour, the signs of the entire generation can be seen. Jesus told His disciples, You must be separated from this generation. Just as Noah built the ark and waited for God's judgment to come so that his family could be saved, in the same way we should not indulge in the pleasures of this present age. Although eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage are all things we must experience in life, these should not become the center of our life. Because one day when judgment comes, these things will not be able to stand before God.

Just as the Son of Man must first suffer and will be rejected by this generation, in the same way we who follow Him must also first take up the cross. We must, like Noah, bear a contrary testimony in our generation. Every child of God today is the same. In the position where God has appointed us, we bear a testimony that does not follow the trend of this generation. We are a group of people waiting for the Lord to come again.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. Although we do not know which day You will come again, You have told us to pay attention to the signs of this generation. Today this generation is indeed eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, with everyone busy with their own daily life. Lord, help us to be separated from this generation. Just as Noah faithfully accepted Your commission and built the ark back then, today likewise let us also be faithful to Your commission and build the church where we are. When one day You come again, we will be that group of people who have received grace and been saved. Thank You. Bless my life today. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ!