

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

Luke 24: 19-29

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. This week, we are going to read Luke Chapter 24 and today we will read verses 19 to 29.

Jesus accompanied the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus. Because they did not understand the events that had taken place in Jerusalem, Jesus walked with them and encouraged them to express, in their own words, the doubts and questions that were in their hearts.

Verse 19: "And He said to them, 'What things?' So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.'"

Clearly, these two disciples had followed Jesus and had seen how mighty He was in both word and deed before the people: performing miracles, giving sight to the blind, and enabling the lame to walk. Especially during the final week, when He went into the temple and confronted the chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees, He refuted their arguments with power and authority. Therefore, they were fully convinced that Jesus was a prophet. Not only did they know that He was a prophet, but they also loved Him deeply. There was no problem with their faith, and there was no problem with their love for Him either.

Verse 20: "And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him."

This was the one thing they could not understand and could not accept. They had clearly recognized Him as a prophet, so how could He end up suffering such a fate?

Not only was He handed over to the authorities, not only was He condemned to death, but He was also subjected to the most severe and cruel form of execution—being crucified on a cross.

Verse 21: “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.”

These words reveal the true source of their confusion. They believed that Jesus had come from God and that He was the One who would redeem Israel—this had always been their hope. During the time when Jesus was preaching and performing miracles on earth, they were fully convinced that He was the Messiah, the One for whom they had long been waiting. Yet, He was crucified. Not only that, but by this time three days had already passed since these events had taken place.

According to the Jewish custom of that time, once a person had been dead for three days, death was considered final; it was no longer possible for the person's spirit to return. This situation left them deeply perplexed. Although they still believed and still loved Jesus, their hope that He was the Messiah seemed to have been shattered. For He had not only been crucified, but three days had already passed. As a result, they seemed to have grown discouraged and to have fallen back. It was for this reason that they left Jerusalem and set out for Emmaus. Yet along the way, their hearts were still filled with many questions and doubts.

Verse 22-23: “Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.”

This refers to the women mentioned at the beginning of chapter 24. They had gone to anoint Jesus' body, but instead they discovered that the tomb was empty. Through the message delivered by the angels, they were told that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Verse 24: “And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

What is being referred to here is that Peter and John also went to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. This seemed to confirm what the women had seen. However, an additional detail is mentioned here: they did not see Him. Although they heard the testimony of the women, the Lord's disciples had not personally seen Jesus.

All of these events left the two disciples on the road to Emmaus—disciples who had begun to fall back—deeply confused. Their faith was not the problem, nor was their love for the Lord. Rather, there was a problem with their understanding of Him, causing their hope to seem shattered. After Jesus had listened to them pour out all the doubts and questions in their hearts, He said to them:

Verse 25: “Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!’”

At the beginning, Jesus seemed to speak some words of rebuke to them, calling them foolish people. He also told them that although they had faith, their faith was too slow to believe. Many times, we are just like these two disciples. It is not that we have no faith; rather, we are too slow in believing. The words that God speaks to us in the Scriptures, and the truths that He confirms to us through circumstances, must be received more fully through the growth of our faith.

What we saw yesterday is not enough to meet the needs of today; what we receive today may also be insufficient for tomorrow's new circumstances and new experiences. God desires that our faith continue to grow constantly. Whenever we become slow to believe and sluggish in faith, we are like these two disciples on the road to Emmaus. At such times, we especially need Jesus Himself to come alongside us, to accompany us, and to speak personally to us.

Verse 26-27: “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

Whenever we read this passage, how we wish that we could have been walking alongside those two disciples, listening as Jesus personally and systematically explained the Scriptures to them. In order to help these two disciples, Jesus began with Moses and went through all the prophets, explaining to them one by one everything that had been spoken concerning Himself.

We can imagine how rich and orderly Jesus' exposition must have been along the way. Beginning with Moses: did not Moses tell the people of Israel that God would raise up from among their brethren a prophet like himself? Jesus would have made it clear to them that the prophet Moses foretold was Himself. Did not God also tell David that He would establish the throne of his descendant forever? The descendant of David who would reign upon the throne forever is Jesus.

When Solomon, in the height of his glory and prosperity, built the temple for God, every article and furnishing within the temple pointed to Jesus. He is also the One spoken of in Isaiah 9:6, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” This One is Jesus.

He is also the righteous Branch spoken of in Jeremiah. He is the stone seen in Daniel that struck and shattered the great image—the stone cut out without human hands. He is the true Hosea, who takes unfaithful Israel as His bride. He is also the reality foreshadowed by Jonah's three days and three nights in the belly of the fish. And continuing through all the prophets to the very end, He is the Sun of Righteousness spoken of by Malachi.

We can imagine that as Jesus unfolded these truths along the journey, the two disciples were not merely following His reasoning and understanding His explanations; they were completely absorbed by what they heard. How we wish that we could have been there, listening as Jesus Himself showed how all the words spoken by the prophets in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Him.

Verse 28-29: “Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, ‘Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.’ And He went in to stay with them.”

The typology and foreshadowings in the Old Testament are so rich that these two disciples found Jesus' teaching absolutely captivating and never wanted it to end. When they arrived at their destination, Emmaus, Jesus appeared as though He intended to continue on. But the two disciples urged Him strongly to stay. Why did they insist? It was already late; the sun was setting, and it was probably close to seven o'clock. They had been walking for about two and a half hours. As they listened to Jesus explain the Scriptures, everything that had puzzled them suddenly became clear. They could not bear to see Him leave, so they urged Him to stay with them. And Jesus went in to remain with them.

This passage clearly teaches us that whenever we become cold, weak, discouraged, backslidden, or stumble in our spiritual walk, we must return to the Word of God—especially to Christ as revealed in God's Word. Through the prophecies spoken by the Old Testament prophets, Jesus repeatedly explained to these two disciples how He had become the Christ, the Savior of all people. He continually set these truths before them until they were completely engrossed. They could not allow Jesus to continue on His way, so they strongly urged Him to stay. And Jesus was indeed willing to dwell with them.

Dear brothers and sisters, the next time you feel weak in faith, when your love grows cold, or when your future seems without hope, what should you do? Return to the Scriptures, especially to the prophecies concerning Christ. The purpose of reading God's Word is not merely to increase our knowledge, but to discover Christ within its pages. As we find Christ there, He Himself will become our help. When our longing for Christ reaches the point that we do not want Him to leave, when we earnestly desire Him to remain with us, we will find that Christ is very willing to dwell with us. And in the process of living with Christ, all our problems find their solution. We are renewed in strength and are able to soar on wings like eagles.

Let us pray together: Lord, remind us once again to treasure Your Word, especially the life that is found within it and the experience of Christ revealed through it. As we spend time before You each day, reading and meditating on Your Word, Lord, use these few moments to bring us face to face with You, so that we may personally hear You speaking to our hearts. May Your Word become the support of our daily lives and the source of our strength each day. Lord, thank You. May the words You speak to me today become the motivation that moves me forward and also a source of help to those around me. Bless my life today. I pray in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!