

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

Luke 24:41-53

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. We continue to read Luke chapter 24. Today we read verses 41 to 53.

On the morning of the first day of the Lord's resurrection, He appeared to the women. Afterward, He accompanied the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, spending two and a half hours with them in the afternoon, walking together until they reached Emmaus. Afterward, when these two disciples returned to Jerusalem where the disciples had gathered, Jesus appeared on the spot for all to see, and He showed them His hands and feet and let them touch Him; so that they would know that His resurrection was a bodily resurrection. The nail marks were still on His hands, and the nail marks were still on His feet—this was truly and certainly the Jesus who had gone to the cross for them.

Verses 41-43: "But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, 'Have you any food here?' So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence."

It seems that God especially intended, through Luke—whom we know to be a physician—through this physician's pen, to particularly describe the body of Jesus Christ after His resurrection; not only that He had bone and flesh, with nail marks still on His hands and nail marks still on His feet, but also that He was able to eat food just like a man.

On the one hand, He seems to be just like a man, and on the other hand, at the very time when everyone was gathered together, Jesus could suddenly come into their midst. This spiritual body was no longer limited by time and space: He could go 12 kilometers away to meet with the disciples at Emmaus, and could

immediately come back again, appearing to Peter; and He could also, when everyone was gathered together, suddenly appear in their midst. Our limited minds can hardly comprehend what exactly a spiritual body is.

Therefore, the Lord especially, through Luke the physician, recorded such a fact, to let us know that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead—this is a great fact. Then Jesus also seized this opportunity to preach to the disciples.

Verse 44: "Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.'"

In fact, these three phrases: the Law of Moses speaks of the Five Books of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms speak of the Prophetic Books and the Wisdom Books—these already included all the Old Testament that the Jews had at that time. That is to say, the words spoken in the Old Testament, those concerning Christ, will certainly all be fulfilled. And through this one sentence He also tells us: every time we read the Scriptures, whether the Old Testament or the New Testament, we must read Christ out from within the Scriptures. Christ is the center of the entire Bible, the whole Bible bears witness for Christ, and the words that bear witness for Christ, every single one must be fulfilled.

Verse 45: "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."

Understanding the Scriptures is not a matter within the mind; the Scriptures are not merely black words on white paper as written ritual, but within the Scriptures there is even more life—it is God's present speaking. Therefore, our minds must be opened, and only then can we truly understand the Scriptures.

In John 20:22, John especially recorded that Jesus breathed on them, letting them receive the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of John, John once recorded thus: Jesus said

to them, if I do not go away, the Helper will not come; but if I go, I will send the Helper (that is, the Holy Spirit) to come among you. This Holy Spirit will lead you to know all the truth.

Many times, when we read the Scriptures and cannot understand, it is because there has not been the working of the Holy Spirit within our hearts. Through Jesus, after dying and rising again, personally breathing on the disciples, He let them receive the Holy Spirit. Once we have received the Holy Spirit, when we come again to read the Scriptures, it is just as Jesus opened our understanding; at that time we are then able to truly understand the Scriptures. After understanding the Scriptures, what is to be done?

Verse 46: "Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.'"

This they had all experienced, this they had all seen, and this they were all able to bear witness to. Then Jesus said to them:

Verse 47: "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Jesus thus very clearly revealed all the things that the disciples were going to do in the future. They were to rise up, they were to preach the gospel in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. What gospel? The gospel of repentance and remission of sins. Because Jesus Christ had already died for all on the cross, and three days later rose from the dead, the gospel had already been accomplished. And His disciples needed to go out for this gospel, beginning at Jerusalem, all the way to all nations.

Verse 48: "And you are witnesses of these things."

You have witnessed these things, so you are to become witnesses, going everywhere to preach the gospel. The word "witness," in Greek, is the same word as "martyr"; this is to become the most important thing in your life, and afterward you are to bear witness at all costs, even unto martyrdom.

Verse 49: "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Jesus was going to send His disciples out to preach, from Jerusalem all the way to all nations. After Jesus rose from the dead, He had already breathed on the disciples, and the disciples already had the indwelling Holy Spirit, but to go out in the name of the Lord to proclaim the gospel, still required greater power. This is also what Jesus told His disciples: "You are to tarry in the city." Tarry for what? Tarry for the Promise of the Father to descend upon you, and at that time you will receive power from on high.

Very soon, we will see in the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples indeed obeyed Jesus' command to them; they remained in the city of Jerusalem and prayed together. Until the time came, the Day of Pentecost came, and God poured down the Holy Spirit from heaven, letting the disciples all receive power and begin to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Luke recorded this here very concisely, because the Gospel of Luke is merely his former book. In fact, Acts 1:1-2 is the best ending to the whole Gospel of Luke. What does he say? He says: "The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen." Verse 3: "to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

The details Luke did not record; they are recorded in the other Gospels, especially in the Gospel of John. When Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke, or his former book, he

focused on Jesus' ministry and work on earth, ending with Jesus commanding them to remain in Jerusalem, until the Promise of the Father, the power from heaven, descended upon them.

Verses 50-53: "And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen."

They then, according to the command of Jesus Christ, remained in Jerusalem, waiting for the great power that was to descend.

Thank the Lord, we have spent six months reading through the Gospel of Luke in detail, and in the coming second half of the year, we will continue to read the Acts of the Apostles, which is the second book that Luke continued to write after the Gospel of Luke. Thank the Lord! Just as God spoke to us through the Gospel of Luke over the past half year, especially speaking of Jesus' ministry on earth; God will continue to bless us, using the second half of the year to tell us of Jesus' ministry in heaven; that is, after He sent down the Holy Spirit, how the Holy Spirit led His disciples to establish the church on earth, and to advance God's kingdom on earth.

My heart is filled with thanksgiving, thanking the brothers and sisters for their companionship over these six months. We have together experienced much of the riches of Christ, much of His grace; I personally am filled with thanksgiving. I hope that the brothers and sisters can also, in our reading of the Scriptures together, obtain the grace of God, and come to know better what Christ has laid down for each one of us. May it also help us to become a group of people in God's household who love Christ more, love His church more, and are more willing to lay down their lives for His church.

Thank the Lord! Just as God has blessed us, may God's doubled blessing continue to be with us. Thank you for your companionship; may God continue to bless you, your family, and the church where you are. Praying in the holy name of Jesus Christ.