

Luke 24:36-53 The Teacher of Scripture

Luke 24:36-53 (ESV)

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,^[a] ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for^[b] the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Introduction

We are trying to retrace Jesus's life from the Bible in the new series titled "Who is Jesus?" Last Sunday was Easter Sunday, so we focused on the Resurrection. Yes, Jesus is still alive.

Today we are going to look at the fact that Jesus who was resurrected is the teacher of our life. Particularly the Bible tells it deeply and richly. I suppose you have been influenced greatly by various teachers whom you've met. However, historically there was none like Jesus who had profound impact on so many lives.

Jesus never wrote a book. He never made any kind of schools nor research institutes. Nevertheless, he had an enduring impact on mankind. He preached the Gospel to several disciples and taught it with the Bible. How did he teach and transform people?

The passage we've just read is a very unique episode that Jesus, after his resurrection, appeared to his disciples. From here let's take a look at how Jesus, who is an extraordinary teacher, teaches us. Three points. First, Jesus tells us about himself and God's plan from the Bible. Second, Jesus teaches us through his own models. That is, his teaching is not empty but real. Third, he is a teacher who transforms us from our heart to every aspect of our life through his own Holy Spirit. First, the teacher who guides us through the Bible. Second, the teacher who guides us through his models. Third, the teacher who guides us through the Holy Spirit.

1. The teacher who guides us through the Bible.

The passage we've just read is an episode that Jesus, after his Resurrection, appeared to his disciples. A unique story, which is somewhat humorous, is described. Jesus extended his hands and legs to be touched and devoured a piece of broiled fish in the presence of people who still did not believe his resurrection. And then he unraveled the Bible.

He always taught his presence and work, connecting it to the Bible. Especially he unravels the Resurrection, the event hard to believe, from the entire Bible so that his disciples are able to accept it. This is the way Jesus does always. Both before and after crucifixion and the Resurrection. Still Jesus shows himself through the Bible and manifests God's plan.

The passage we studied last week, just before today's episode, describes that the resurrected Jesus had a short trip with his two disciples from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The two disciples were in despair, but Jesus unraveled the Resurrection from the entire Bible.

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Then the two disciples who heard what Jesus told them were transformed to be able to understand Jesus, the Cross, and the Resurrection in a new light. Looking back at the incident, they say the following:

Luke 24: 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

And now the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples, officially in a sense, unraveled the Resurrection again from the Bible to the disciples who still can't believe.

Luke 24: 46-47

⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for^[a] the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Here Jesus is talking as if he cited a specific part of the Old Testament, which describes his suffering on the cross and death, the Resurrection, and forgiveness of sin and repentance. However, the fact is, you cannot find such words in the Old Testament. Perhaps Jesus summarized everything written about himself in the Old Testament in a word.

For example, Jesus's suffering and death is written in an articulate manner in Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

In Psalms 22, the cry of Jesus who is suffering on the cross is written.

Psalms 22:1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

In Zechariah 9:6 it is stipulated that the Messiah who is the King will come riding on a donkey.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Then let's take a look at Psalms 16 about the resurrection of Christ.

Psalms 16:10

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.^[a]

In this way the entire Bible points to Jesus himself. Jesus, too, professes this way.

Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Therefore, please read the Bible carefully. Please look at how the events that happened to Jesus (,that is Gospel) are connected to the Bible. Jesus who has been resurrected opens our minds and teaches.

Heartfelt letters and/or mails are not just the characters nor information. They convey the sender's mind and

can change our feelings, thought, or the way we live. That way the resurrected Jesus resurrected is the teacher of the Bible. Still he speaks to us through the Bible, teaches and guides us.

Right now we are holding a campaign titled, '50 Promises till Pentecost' towards the Pentecost (May 31). Every day it introduces a Bible verse that gives us encouragement and help and guides us. They are famous verses, so please memorize them. If you want Jesus to teach you, read the Bible.

2. The teacher who guides us through models.

By the way what was the reaction of the disciples like when the resurrected Jesus appeared to them? According to v. 37-38, they thought they saw a spirit. They are troubled, and doubts arise in their hearts. Modern people would speculate that it might be hallucination or illusion.

This idea is one of cons against the Resurrection of Jesus. However, Lee Strobel, who was a journalist at Chicago Tribune and investigated Jesus thoroughly cites the following explanation by a psychologist Gary Collins about this Hallucination theory.

Hallucination is a phenomenon that happens to each individual. Although one person can see hallucination, multiple persons can't see the same hallucination at the same time. You cannot manipulate another person to see the same hallucination, either. Hallucination exists only in the subjective world, thus it is not possible for another person to see it at the same time. (*Is Jesus of Nazareth the son of God?* p.393, *The Case of Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus (Case for ... Series)* by Lee Strobel)

Or the idea that is readily accepted by modern people is (due to the influence of Greek thought) a spiritual resurrection theory that the Resurrection of Jesus was just spiritual or mental. Not physical. Not resurrection of flesh. Ideologically, this is a fairly sophisticated view, isn't it?

However, please look at it carefully. Jesus had a piece of fish! By eating fish as he used to before he was crucified, (though it was a different flesh filled with glory,) he proved that the resurrected body was material and physical existence. Thus, the disciples were able to recognize that it was Jesus.

It may be a little surprise, but the center of Christian message is not the eternity of spirit or soul (immortality of soul). It is resurrection of body. Why? Because God created us as the existence with body. He created us with the material that returns to the soil and breathed life into us. He made us as a creature with hands and feet, which if beaten, would hurt and bleed. God loves our bodies and this material world.

Because for Him these are immeasurably the most important things.

Therefore, Jesus exists in the center of the disciples, had a piece of fish, and taught the truth, showing himself. The meeting of the resurrected Jesus and the disciples, the word 'behold' is repeated five times. Jesus showed himself concretely and taught them.

God is invisible, but He sent us Jesus. God showed us Himself clearly through Jesus's physical and material existence, behavior, and acts. Still the resurrected Jesus teaches us the truth through his own behavior. That way Jesus guides us through his models.

However, how is Jesus able to teach us through his models now? First, we can learn Jesus's acts and behavior through the Bible. His model is presented in the Bible brimfully. Therefore, no one can say he/she does not know Jesus's models.

Then secondly, through the one who resembles Jesus and Christians who are made Jesus's brothers and sisters, Jesus's models are manifested in a more contemporary way.

Last Saturday on 18th we had a big storm. Nonetheless, we carried out our Obento project.

Thank you for your prayer for that. The rain and wind were at its peak during the lunch hour in which we work on Obento project. Even so we offered obento, clothes, some drugs, and masks to about 30 homeless people. Five volunteers who wanted to share love and the Gospel with them came to help.

In the midst of rain and wind, seeing them walking in the outer garden of the Imperial Palace from their behind, I thought they were soldiers of love whom God sent. Although it's a little thing, Jesus makes the things that are taught in the Bible, such as what is love and how justice is realized, visible through such a model. (Since Obento project is essential needs for homeless people, we would like to continue as much as possible despite the voluntary ban due to coronavirus.)

3. The teacher who guides us through the Holy Spirit

How did the disciples change after Jesus taught them this way? For the results, please look at v. 52. They were transformed to have great joy. This process must be interesting to you.

At first they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. (v.37) And troubled ... and doubts arise in their hearts. (v.38) Then Jesus showed them his hands and feet. Yet they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling (v.41), so Jesus proved that he was alive by eating a piece of broiled fish.

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (v.45). What we should focus on at the end is Jesus opens our minds through Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:48-49 ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Here Jesus promised that they are given the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? It means if Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, which is his own spirit, then they are transformed to be new persons. They will come to live up to his models. They become the witness of his death on the cross and the Resurrection and come to live with a new perspective of the world.

A famous business book Seven Habits by Steven Covey says that our way of viewing things, our mindset, our paradigm, and our interpretation of the world are very important. In particular he speaks to our heart in a way that we are transformed inside-out. In this respect he writes a very impressive experience.

It was an incidence on a New York subway train. A father and his children got on the train. The children started making a fuss, shouted, threw things, even took up another passenger's newspaper. The father was just sitting in silence. He did not warn them. He did not seem even notice what his children were doing. I grew impatient and asked him to warn them. Then, he said, "We are just on the way back from the hospital. Their mother died. I don't know what to do, and kids are unsettling." Having had heard it, my view on them and my mind totally changed.

This way our mind and how to live are changed completely as Jesus guides us through the Holy Spirit through the Bible. Our way of thinking and the way we view things become different. In fact the disciples came to believe the stunning news of the Resurrection of Jesus. Although they were in despair and disappointment, they came to have great joy and ensured the meaning of their life.

Furthermore, they came to proclaim the Gospel of the wonderful resurrection of Christ to people in every nation. Verse 48 says, "You are witnesses of these things." They 1. convey the Gospel clearly by words, 2. show love by acts, and serve for the needs of others.

In this way Jesus is the teacher who guides us through the Holy Spirit. Let's live making Jesus your teacher of life. There may be many excellent teachers around you. But the teacher you must first ask is Jesus. Jesus unravels word of God and teaches you through his models - being alive after he sacrificed his own life and was resurrected. He guides you through the Holy Spirit in order to open your mind.