

"And when He had thus spoken, He showed them His hands and His feet".

Luke 24. v.40

This is a day of much profession of religion, for what many people call christianity in a general sense, from our own conjections we must conclude that some of it is idolatry, as all the ritualistic observances of the Romanists which appear to be advancing in an alarming degree in these days, and much of it is merely formal, unquestionably in what is an external professional show without any kernel, and what we sometimes call a dead profession; but there are some with whom it is real and who know something in some measure of the dealings of God with them in their souls, and this is what we need to feel. True religion is something more than notion, something must be known and felt. From this point of view and according to the line of teaching in this chapter, real religion is revelation.

I know there are many things involved and in the life and experience of the Lord's people, in their providences, in their afflictions and sufferings, in their daily lives and in their souls, but actually to possess a real religion that will take us to heaven is revelation, and by revelation I mean an uncovering of things. Having the veil lifted from the heart, the veil of ignorance that is upon us as fallen sons of Adam, hardened and darkened by the terrible consequences of sin, being in a state of nature and darkness and ignorance of God, without Him and without hope in the world, and no condition can be worse than this. But in the cases of the Lord's people there is a revelation and opening of the eyes by the Holy Spirit of God in a gracious way and a conviction brought into the heart which is a revelation to them of their own perilous, terrible position and state in the sight of a Holy God. It is a revelation of this whereby one is brought down before God in such a way as never before, but it is also a revelation of divine mercy and grace and love and redemption in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is a mercy to have any revelation of this.

Now we find this particular feature in the Scriptures with godly people. The good man in the Psalm, 119th Psalm, he said: "Open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law". He prayed for a revelation of the truth in his word. Do you? Have you ever? Have you sometimes been before God like this - "Open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law"? There must be a revelation. That is to say an opening, an unfolding, a revelation of things to us that we have never seen before; and so in the case of Peter, which has often been sweet to me. The Lord said to those disciples, 'Whom do men say that I am? and they said, O some one, and some another, but He said, Whom say ye that I am? and Peter said unto Him, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God; and the Lord said to him, blessed art thou Simon Barjonah for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven'. O that has been sweet! It is a mercy to have something living in our souls that flesh and blood can never reveal, and flesh and blood will never reveal a precious Christ, never. Flesh and blood can only reveal that which is of the flesh and blood, it cannot go any further. But in the experience of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is revelation of a Person, of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God. A revelation that flesh and blood can never reveal; and so we see the Lord says in the Gospel by John of the Holy Spirit, He says of this good Spirit, "He shall glorify Me, for He shall receive of mine and shall show it unto you". This is revelation, and do you feel that you can come in there? Has ever anything been shown to you of this glorious, blessed, Emmanuel? And we find in the case of John in the Revelation, from the first

chapter to the last chapter; just to mention this in the first verse of the last chapter he says: "And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb". O blessed John! Well, it is a mercy to have some revelation.

Now to come to this chapter. We have a revelation in the chapter. It is a very touching record that we have of these two disciples that were on their way to Emmaus. They were, as you know, conversing together of all the things that had just taken place, but as they communed together - notice that particularly, they were not talking about how much money they had or they could make or how they could advance in this world, they were not talking mundane things, they communed together and reasoned, and as they communed together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. Where there is real communion in divine things, that is, when it is from heart to heart, the dear Redeemer is not far away, He draws near and communes with us. He went with them, but still there was no revelation, and it seems very strange that their minds should be so dark upon this matter, because the Lord Himself had many times prefigured and spoken of ~~the~~ sufferings and death and resurrection from the dead. But still there was no revelation, their eyes were holden, that they should not know Him. It does not say that they did not realise Who He was, but that their eyes were holden for the time being, that is, just at that particular time. But this was in order that He might reveal Himself to them.

I will not go through this particularly touching and expressive conversation with which you are all familiar, but I will mention the reproof in verses 25 and 26, how when the women went to the sepulchre and found that He was not there, they were astonished, then He said unto them: "O fools", We are not to understand this word in the sense that it is often used, but in the sense that they lacked understanding of these particular things that had taken place, that is, a right ~~understanding~~ understanding of them at that particular time and did not perceive that all had come to pass that the prophets had spoken: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken, ought not Christ to have suffered these things / and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself". What a sermon it must have been!

Presently they came to the place whither they went and they constrained Him saying, abide with us, for He made as though He would have gone further: "Abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent". Take notice of that, particularly of this particular adjective, they constrained Him and He complied with their request; "And He went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed and break it and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they knew Him". Now they had the revelation. Those eyes that were previously holden were only holden for a set space and purpose. But now comes the sweet revelation, "Their eyes were opened". It does not say they opened their eyes, but their eyes were opened and they knew Him.

Then again, I might just refer you to verse 45 later, after that the Lord appeared to the 11. They seemed to be in a similar case and were troubled in their hearts, still seemed to be in the dark about things, but the Lord said unto them; "These are the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning Me. Then opened He their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures". Ah, they had a revelation, not only of Who He was, but of the design and purpose of His sufferings and death. "Their eyes were opened". O friends, that is just what I need the Lord to do for me. You may not feel the same

perhaps, but what I need is for the Lord to open my eyes, spiritually of course. Perhaps you say, Well, by what I know about you I should think He has, but what I mean is I want Him to be continually opening my eyes, and giving me further manifestations of Himself, to me. I want Him to open my eyes continually.

He opened their understanding; and it is very sweet the closing part of this Gospel, when He went up He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them and it came to pass that whilst He blessed them - not while they were having some contention about something, but while He blessed them He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. Well, I could not tell you what this has sometimes been to me. I know just as much as this, I believe I have a living Jesus and I know where He is, and I bless His holy Majesty for it, that He is exalted there at the Father's right hand to give repentance unto Israel and the remission of their sins.

When the Lord appeared to these disciples here it seemed that they were terrified and affrighted, although He said, "Peace be unto you..And He said unto them, why are ye troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts ? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself....and when He had thus spoken He shewed them His hands and His feet". O this is revelation ! He showed them His hands and His feet; and what can we see in this ? We cannot have that literal view of Him, they were particularly favoured for a particular purpose, but if I am not deceived I believe I can say that what His dear people do have is that sight by faith of Him. The revelation is that view of faith in some discovery to our souls of a risen and exalted Saviour. "When He had thus spoken He shewed them His hands and His feet".

I was looking, just before I came into the pulpit, at that hymn we have in our hymnbook where it says:

"See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown".

All this is the revelation of a suffering Redeemer. Have you ever seen Him by faith ? If you have, then there is a place in those mansions for you and for me, if this is the case, when time shall be no more. O it is a mercy to have a religion that is revelation to us of this glorious and blessed Person! Now what is it that faith can see in His holy, sacred, wounded hands and feet, what is it that faith can see ? First of all, we can see a proof of His identity, that He is the very same Jesus that was nailed to the cross. Not some kind of apparition, He says so: "A Spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see Me have", He said, "Handle Me and see, and He shewed them His hands and His feet". It was the same sacred body that His cruel persecutors nailed to the tree. Here was a proof that it was the same Jesus, and if you and I go to heaven through the merit of His sufferings, blood and death, it must be through the same Jesus. Just the same, there has never been another and never will, but it is this sweet view of faith: and how is this ? It is by the Holy Spirit Who lifts the veil, unfolds it, opens it up, discovers it to us, and then we are just as it were absorbed in it. I shall never be able to tell you what I hope I have seen in it, but I believe I did have a day when I saw Him by faith and I know the effect it had upon me. I was recently reading about dear Mr. Dickens who occasionally used to preach here and what he mentioned here when he was preaching once and he referred to his deliverance, and how the Lord appeared to him, and he said, "It was just like that, I saw Him hanging on the cross, and He drew near to me and said, It is finished" and that was his deliverance, and I believe I know something of that myself and I felt it so sweet because it was something similar to that in my own case.

Well, this is the revelation, and how do you stand about this ?

Has there ever been any opening of the veil in your heart ? It is said of Lydia that the Lord opened her heart that she attended unto the things that were spoken by Paul. Has the Lord opened your heart ? Has He so manifest Himself to you as that you have seen a beauty in Him that you could never describe ? Have you ever come just to that spot that good Asaph came to when he said, "Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee ?" Why, that is the religion, or rather the experience that will take you to heaven. O if He once comes into your soul, He will never leave you to sink into hell although the days of darkness after may be many, but there may be many sharp trials of faith, but He will never leave you. If He has once come that means that you are His property and He will have you to be with Him one day.

I believe I have mentioned before what good Richard ^{Dore} ~~Dave~~ said when he was walking down a street in London, he said he looked up into the heavens, it was though the heavens opened and he said, "There is a Man there in heaven Whom I love, and Who loves me"; and I have felt I could say that once or twice in my life, and now I know I am coming near to the end of my days and of my preaching, I know that it is evening time, but O I do want Him to draw near to me and to commune with me. Oft I feel O such a long way off, but if once He has come, nothing can separate us, nothing. Not death, or hell or thousands of devils, no, whom once He loves, He loves them for ever, and nothing can separate from it.

"He showed them His hands and His feet". But what does this lead us into, for here those hands and feet and it was that side that was pierced as we read of in another Gospel, and what does this lead us to ? It leads us to a view of faith, for if we have no spiritual revelation into those terrible sufferings that He did bear, far beyond all our conception, there were the marks of His sufferings ~~on that accursed tree, they are like a voice to us, and they~~ express the satisfaction of those sufferings. In those wounded hands and feet, faith sees a suffering Christ standing in the place of lost, guilty, sinful mortals who must otherwise sink to the bottomless pit, where their worm dieth not and their fire will never be quenched. O if we could realise friends what we owe to what is involved in those wounded hands and feet. Not just simply merely outwardly the wounded hands and feet, thousands may have suffered bodily wounds and suffered bodily sufferings too, but if what is involved in them, what it opens to us, what is revealed and not only does this open to us His amazing sufferings but the satisfaction that those sufferings gave. They were substitutionary you see, and all the dear Saviours sufferings were substitutionary on behalf of His poor dear people, and they were accepted at the hand of justice. In those sufferings we see by faith involved the curse of a broken law which you and I have broken. We see the curse fall upon Him that otherwise must have fallen upon you and upon myself, but this is what faith sees in those wounded hands and feet and side. Where faith sees that terrible law with its threatenings and thunderings that bring such terror into the conscience of a convinced sinner, all fulfilled, absolutely, every precept, all completely fulfilled for us if we are His. But also we see in those wounded hands and feet the awfulness of sin in such a way as that it cannot in the same way be otherwise seen. It is a revelation to us of the tremendous and inconceivable cost that it was to Him in suffering to rescue you from everlasting burnings, O it is something to break your heart. O but it is sweet to view by faith a suffering, bleeding, dying Lamb ! And what will it do ? Why it will sanctify the heart as nothing else can, and make you long to be free from this dreadful leprousy, O it is a dreadful thing is this sin and will be a terrible thing in the consequences of it for all who die, ~~who die~~ in their sins, for we know that such will fall under the wrath of God in a broken law with sin unforgiven, and it will be a terribly solemn retribution. O

friends, has the thought of eternity ever made you tremble ? If it has not I hope this day will not pass without the Holy Spirit bringing you to tremble in the prospect of eternity. O what if I should die lost ! and you know all about that parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

O may the Lord in His great compassion look upon us and open our blind eyes, for only He can, and grant us some sweet revelation of this blessed Person, the eternal Son of God, from eternity past, in His divine nature, in that holy, sacred, majestic, glorious relationship.

O may the Lord bless us with some sweet glimpse, just a flash of Him even this day. Think of this, "And when He had thus spoken, He shewed them His hands and His feet".

Amen.

(Transcribed verbatim and
not edited for publication).