

be given. He allowed Thomas to touch Him, to put his hands into the nail prints. He ate in the presence of the disciples. He showed that He had a real body, though one far more efficient and responsive to the desires of the Spirit than these "bodies of humiliation."

He went away suddenly. No one of the disciples knew that morning that it was the day of their Lord's departure. He will return suddenly. Very frequently the Lord reiterated to His disciples such words as, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come".

What will be the results of the Lord's return? In the first place, it will be the end of all that is evil and sinful. He will put away all that is vile. His angels will gather the tares out of His field. Righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

In the second place, it will be the end of the curse. When men sinned, God put enmity between man and the brute creation. Nature is red in tooth and claw. The earth brings forth thorns and thistles, to remind man of his alienation from God. But this condition will be brought to an end. We find glimpses of that glorious consummation in the Old Testament. We are told in Isaiah 11 in very graphic language of the nature of the blessedness that is to come. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain." Paul tells us in Romans 8.22-23 that "we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body".

This brings us naturally to the third result. These changes which will be realized in the world, and in the creation, will have their counterpart in ourselves. This "body of humiliation" will be replaced by the glorious resurrection body. Vileness and sin will be entirely blotted out of our spirits. That work of sanctification which the Spirit is carrying on within us will be brought