

THE NEW COMPANIONSHIP
MATT.28:20

Louisville July
8, 1951

We like promises IF we have faith in the person making the promise. If it is some one that made you pay a note that you had endorsed with him you care very little about his promises flowery though they may be. But if some great thing has been promised you by one who is able and sure to do what you expect of him then you get joy out of that promise.

In the passage to day we are given a great promise. It is something that is far greater than all this material world can be. Here it is in black and white: "Lo I am with you ALWAYS even unto the end of creation." *Tragedy of broken promises - wedding vows.*

The ONE making that promise is one who has never broken a promise. "He has never broken any promise spoken

He will keep His promise I know."

To parents rearing children in these troublesome times, to young people in these times of the direst temptations and for fearful hearts that is a great promise and consolation.

The scene of that promise is great. After all the hallowed years in His company, after all the cruel treatment He had received, after hanging on the Cross, and after having arisen from the dead, living amongst them for over a month, now He is before them for the last time. Heaven is hovering around and the heavens are now opening to HIM...in these moments freighted with DIMINITY He speaks.. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature and lo I am with you always even unto the end of all creation."

Where a person is in his right mind we put much faith in farewell messages. A man was going away to war. He said, "Good-bye" to his wife and then remarked, "You will get along O.K. I am sure but be sure to take good care of my bird dog." As best we could understand my father said to my brother and me, "Take care of each other" Never could that farewell exhortation be forgotten or ignored.

Preceding this experience STRANGE things had been coming to pass. There was a strange atmosphere in those regions like at Christmas times the very air is filled with Christmas Carols. Some forty days before Jesus had been laid in

the tomb..roman soldiers had been placed there to guard HIM. They knew so little about God that they thought the only way He could escape would be for some one to steal Him away. The big wigs had given out the warning that some of His friends might steal Him away, to make it appear as if He had arisen. DECEPTION. People who are deceivers themselves can think of nothing but deception themselves.

The soldiers framed a lie to save their own skins, If they had told the truth the Kingdom would have been advanced mightily. It might have meant the soldiers death but think how much confusion would have been prevented had they told the naked truth that He arose.

After all the strange happenings and many appearances He now stands before His Apostles and offers to them the NEW COMPANIONSHIP. "Lo I am with you always."

You remember that Judas started out with Jesus but later turned back on him and did so for a little money. Oh how people go wild for money. Some leave the church out of their lives and put all their efforts to making money so that during church hours they can enjoy their cock tails to their hearts content. People members of this church do that and then want the church people to support them. So Judas was not the last one to betray his Lord for a little cash. All Judas was doing was to take something else rather than Christ. For a long time all the Apostles followed Him to get position in the earthly kingdom they thought He was to establish where they could get even with their enemies. THAT KIND OF WALKING WITH JESUS ALWAYS BRINGS COLD FEET. They scattered.

But after His Resurrection their vision changed. Life has come out of death. Jesus and Apostles stand on Mt Olivet. He gives them instruction. They are to travel a difficult road. Divine help will be needed. That help is offered in the new type of companionship. I say NEW because it is different from the type they had given Him. I will not sell you for money, I will not run away when you get in trouble, in courts I will stand by you, in death I will be by your side. But I will do this on the preceding proposition which is the Great Commission. You are to love, teach, go, preach, love neighbors etc.

These things were spoken in the presence of Angels.....
 heavenly witnesses. They witnessed Jesus saying, "Go back
 to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit and then go into all
 the world." Jesus leaves the earth and in amazement the
 Apostles stand gazing into the heavens. He had just said
 "I am with you always even unto the end of all creation"
 and yet yonder He goes where we can not go. A door was
 opened in the skys and He was received through it and out
 of sight.

They would like to have followed Him...But they may have
 remembered Peter's experience on Mt. of Transfiguration
 and the Demoiac who wanted to go with Jesus.

The agels spake to them and asked why they stood gazing
 into the sky..."He will come again in like manner as you
 see Him go away." "You are thinking too much about a go-
 ing away Christ and forgetting that He told you to go back
 to Jerusalem and get ready to tell all this to the whole
 world...you and they that will come after you.

"With you" not only the Apostles but Knox, Livingston,
 Wesley, and all Christians EVERYWHERE.

"With You Always" It will do no harm to the Scripture to
 make it read "I will be with you in all your right ways
 always...with preachers, merchants, doctors, nurses,
 teachers, farmers, R.R. men, garage men, and every body
 in their right ways.

He invites us to walk to the end of this road..faithful
to the end...that gets the crown. Let your feet get in
 the right road where He can be with you..do not select
 a wrong road and then ask Him to travel it with you for He
 wont do that.

I found a little poem some time ago and I want to give
 it to you;

TRAVELING WITH JESUS

MY PLANS WERE MADE, I THOUGHT MY PATH ALL BRIGHT AND CLEAR
 MY HEART WITH SONG O'ERFLOWED, THE WORLD SEEMED FULL OF CHEER
 MY LORD I WISHED TO SERVE, TO TAKE HIM FOR MY GUIDE
 TO KEEP SO CLOSE THAT I COULD FEEL HIM BY MY SIDE.
 AND SO I TRVELED ON.

BUT SUDDENLY IN SKIES SO CLEAR AND FULL OF LIGHT
THE CLOUDS FELL THICK AND FAST, THE DAYS SEEMED CHNGED
TO NIGHT.

INSTEAD OF PATHS SO CLEAR AND FULL OF THINGS SOSWEET
ROUGH THINGS AND THORNS AND STONES SEEMED ALL ABOUT MY
FEET

I SCARCE COULD TRAVEL ON

I BOWED MY HEAD AND WONDERED WHY THIS CHANGE SHOULD COME
AND MURMURED, " LORD IS THIS FOR AUGHT I HAVE DONE?
HAS NOT THE PAST BEEN FULL OF PAIN AND CARE?
WHY SHOULD MY PATH BE CHANGED TO DARK FROM FAIR?

BUT STILL I TRAVELED ON

I LISTENED QUIET AND STILL, THERE CAME A VOICE....
THIS PATH IS MINE NOT THINE I MADE THE CHOICE;
DEAR CHILD THIS SERVICE WILL BE BEST FOR THEE AND ME
IF THOU WILT TRUST AND LEAVE THE END TO ME
SO WE TRAVELED ON.

