

## **OCT 4TH COMMUNION MEDITATION**

### **LOOK BEYOND THE THE TABLE**

#### **OPENING COMMENTS RE: COMMUNION AND THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY**

#### **COMMUNION MEDITATION**

*Jesus nestled in a borrowed cradle at his birth, rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed beast, ate his last meal in a borrowed room, and at death lay in a borrowed tomb.*

*This divine drama of 3 closely packed years runs rapidly like flood water to the sea. The quiet last hour hovers about an upper room where 12 men, wide-eyed, hungry-hearted, caught in the onrush of forces higher and deeper than any similar group had ever before experienced, listen to and watch a strange winsome person at the center of a long table where food has been prepared for a feast.*

*Jesus is at the center of the table. For three years he has been the cente of their lives.*

*They sit there on this night about the long table where the Passover has been eaten. They have shared salt, broken bread, and supped from the common dish, and within these walls they have sealed a fellowship that started when the hermit John preached beside the muddy Jordan and pointed to the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

*Around the group are the walls of the upper room. Never again shall walls enclose this group. It is broken for all time.*

***These walls and other walls shall fall before his triumphal tread. In a few years the radiant person they have known will burst through all walls, and his will become the name above all names among the nations.***

***On this occasion they are sitting down. In the coming years they shall not sit often. Their watchword shall be: "Go! Go! Go!"***

***It is quiet on this night. The foot fall of the passover crowds has hushed. The city sleeps. Words drop from the lips of Jesus, that are life-bestowing kisses of an agonizing God-Father. In these words are the sturdy arms of a protecting shepherd who tenderly, constantly, ably watches every wandering sheep.***

***They listen. These Upper Room words printed indelibly upon the memory of John to be pictured upon papyrus more than a half-a-century later. They speak of peace, of power, of friends and of future, of oneness with God and of a world won, of sweetness and sorrow, of life that night and of life through every day that shall dawn later.***

***Judas leaves. The 13 are now 12. Jesus look into the upturned faces, knows their eager questions, knows all the calls the years shall make upon these men, and they way they shall respond.***

***Let's look beyond these walls. Let Jesus share his vision of the future with them, what then? Suppose in that last quiet hour he should address them like this: "I call you friends. You are my friends, and I make known to you the will of my Father. You shall go out of this room to suffer, beginning now. For my sake you shall be hated of men. Those who beat you and kill you shall sincerely believe that in so doing they are rendering service to God.***

***Andrew, you will be my witness in the land of cannibals. You will become the founder of a church at Byzantium which, when it shall have its name changed to Constantinople, shall be the capitol of a***

**great Christian Empire for hundreds of years. You shall die a martyr for your faith in me, and your bones shall rest on the southern coast of the Black Sea. Are you willing to go ahead, knowing the price you shall pay ?**

**Thomas, no man shall travel farther than you in your witness for me. You shall go toward the rising sun, and when the days of the years of your earthly pilgrimmage shall end, you shall die for your faith on the coast of India, and you shall lie in an unknown grave near where the great city of Bombay shall rise.**

**James, the son of Alphaeus, you shall remain in Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall not be an easy place to be true to me. the authorities here shall seek by the sword and with stone to rid the city of all who follow this Way, and persecution and martyrdom shall at last be your lot.**

**Simon, son of Jonah, you who are a rock, you will slip and return. I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not, and it shall not fail. Your eyes shall be opened to the unity of the human race, and to the responsibility God has for others as well as for the Hebrew. You shall be called upon to die. Your method of death will be my method of death.**

**John, you shall labor for the gospel in Asia Minor. You shall know exile on a lonely island whose white crags and bleak heights make every sailor shun its vicinity. You shall be the last of this group to die, and when you die it shall be with my name said lovingly by your feeble lips.**

**AND SO WE COULD GO ON! Are WE willing to go on? Or, do we wish to slip away in the darkness and hide while there is yet time? As we look at the broken bits of bread, and at the wine, what shall we do? "Lord, to whom shall we go?" You have the words of eternal life, and we believe you are the Christ.**

***When such a moment comes, shall we not, whether or not we can see beyond the dark walls which hem in the future days, shall we not reply with courage and faith unafraid, "Lord, we are able!" We are able because of Jesus, his incarnation, his life, his death, and his resurrection, all of which are the one act of God for the reconciliation of all humankind.***