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FINAL ADMONITIONS AND WARNINGS

After the conclusion of the farewell discourse to the eleven, Jesus visited informally with them and recounted many experiences which concerned them as a group and as individuals. At last it was beginning to dawn upon these Galileans that their friend and teacher was going to leave them, and their hope grasped at the promise that, after a little while, he would again be with them, but they were prone to forget that this return visit was also for a little while. Many of the apostles and the leading disciples really thought that this promise to return for a short season (the short interval between the resurrection and the ascension) indicated that Jesus was just going away for a brief visit with his Father, after which he would return to establish the kingdom. And such an interpretation of his teaching conformed both with their preconceived beliefs and with their ardent hopes. Since their lifelong beliefs and hopes of wish fulfillment were thus agreed, it was not difficult for them to find an interpretation of the Master's words which would justify their intense longings.

After the farewell discourse had been discussed and had begun to settle down in their minds, Jesus again called the apostles to order and began the impartation of his final admonitions and warnings.

1. LAST WORDS OF COMFORT

When the eleven had taken their seats, Jesus stood and addressed them: "As long as I am with you in the flesh, I can be but one individual in your midst or in the entire world. But when I have been delivered from this investment of mortal nature, I will be able to return as a spirit indweller of each of you and of all other believers in this gospel of the kingdom. In this way the Son of Man will become a spiritual incarnation in the souls of all true believers.

"When I have returned to live in you and work through you, I can the better lead you on through this life and guide you through the many abodes in the future life in the heaven of heavens. Life in the Father's eternal creation is not an endless rest of idleness and selfish ease but rather a ceaseless progression in grace, truth, and glory. Each of the many, many stations in my Father's house is a stopping place, a life designed to prepare you for the next one ahead. And so will the children of light go on from glory to glory until they attain the divine estate wherein they are spiritually perfected even as the Father is perfect in all things.

"If you would follow after me when I leave you, put forth your earnest efforts to live in accordance with the spirit of my teachings and with the ideal of my life -- the doing of my Father's will. This do instead of

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KONAČNE RIJEČI OPOMENE I UPOZORENJA

Po svršetku oproštajnog govora upućenog jedanaestorici apostola, Isus započe neformalni razgovor o brojnim iskustvima i događajima koji ih pogodiše kao grupu i kao pojedince. Ovi Galilejci konačno počеше shvaćati da ih se njihov prijatelj i učitelj spremao napustiti, te tako usmjeriše svoje nade prema njegovom obećanom povratku, spremno zaboravljajući da je ova buduća posjeta trebala biti privremena. Više apostola i vodećih učenika uistinu vjerovali su da je ovo obećanje kratkokrajnog povratka (kratkog razdoblja između uskrsnuća i uzašašća) značilo da je Isus namjeravao otići u kraću posjetu svome Ocu, nakon čega se trebao vratiti da utemlji kraljevstvo. I ovo je tumačenje njegovog učenja naočigled bilo u suglasju kako s njihovim uvriježenim vjerovanjima, tako i s njihovim najdubljim nadama. Kako su se na ovaj način njihova dugotrajna vjerovanja podudarila s njihovim nadama i priželjkivanjima, nije im bilo teško naći tumačenje Učiteljevih riječi koje bi potvrdilo njihove duboke čežnje.

Nakon što se po raspravi oproštajnog govora u njihovim umovima konačno uvriježiše ove ideje, Isus se odlučio obratiti jednom po jednom apostolu i upititi ih svoje konačne riječi opomene i upozorenja.

1. POSLJEDNJE RIJEČI UTJEHE

Nakon što jedanaestorica posjedalaše, Isus stade pred njih govoreći: "Dokle god se nalazim uz vas, jedino mogu djelovati kao pojedinac među vama i drugim ljudima cijeloga svijeta. Ali nakon što budem izručen iz ovog odijela smrtničke prirode, bit ću u prilici da se vratim u vidu duha koji boravi u pojedinačnim ljudima, vama kao i drugima koji vjeruju u ovo evanđelje kraljevstva. Sin Čovječji tako postaje duhovno utjelovljenje u dušama svih iskrenih vjernika.

"Kad dođem boraviti u vama i raditi kroz vas, bolje ću vas moći voditi kako kroz ovaj život, tako i kroz mnogobrojne stanove budućih života na nebu nad nebesima. U Očevoj vječnoj tvorevini život se ne svodi na vječni odmor dokolice i sebične lagodnosti, već na neprekidno napredovanje u otmenosti, istini i slavi. Svaka od mnogih, mnogih stanica u okvirima Očeve kuće predstavlja mjesto obustave, život koji vas treba pripremiti za buduće stadije. Djeca svjetla na ovaj način uzlaze u svijet slave, sve do konačnog postignuća božanskog statusa duhovnog savršenstva kojim nalikuju Ocu koji je po svemu savršen.

"Ako me želite slijediti nakon što vas napustim, uložite najiskrenija nastojanja kako bi živjeli u skladu s duhom mojih učenja i s idealom moga života – izvršenja Očeve volje. Tako činite, umjesto

trying to imitate my natural life in the flesh as I have, perforce, been required to live it on this world.

"The Father sent me into this world, but only a few of you have chosen fully to receive me. I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, but all men will not choose to receive this new teacher as the guide and counselor of the soul. But as many as do receive him shall be enlightened, cleansed, and comforted. And this Spirit of Truth will become in them a well of living water springing up into eternal life.

"And now, as I am about to leave you, I would speak words of comfort. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I make these gifts not as the world gives -- by measure -- I give each of you all you will receive. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful. I have overcome the world, and in me you shall all triumph through faith. I have warned you that the Son of Man will be killed, but I assure you I will come back before I go to the Father, even though it be for only a little while. And after I have ascended to the Father, I will surely send the new teacher to be with you and to abide in your very hearts. And when you see all this come to pass, be not dismayed, but rather believe, inasmuch as you knew it all beforehand. I have loved you with a great affection, and I would not leave you, but it is the Father's will. My hour has come.

"Doubt not any of these truths even after you are scattered abroad by persecution and are downcast by many sorrows. When you feel that you are alone in the world, I will know of your isolation even as, when you are scattered every man to his own place, leaving the Son of Man in the hands of his enemies, you will know of mine. But I am never alone; always is the Father with me. Even at such a time I will pray for you. And all of these things have I told you that you might have peace and have it more abundantly. In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have triumphed in the world and shown you the way to eternal joy and everlasting service."

Jesus gives peace to his fellow doers of the will of God but not on the order of the joys and satisfactions of this material world. Unbelieving materialists and fatalists can hope to enjoy only two kinds of peace and soul comfort: Either they must be stoics, with steadfast resolution determined to face the inevitable and to endure the worst; or they must be optimists, ever indulging that hope which springs eternal in the human breast, vainly longing for a peace which never really comes.

A certain amount of both stoicism and optimism are serviceable in living a life on earth, but neither has aught to do with that superb peace which the Son of God bestows upon his brethren in the flesh. The peace which Michael gives his children on earth is

što ćete pokušavati reproducirati tijekom mog prirodnog života koji sam bio primoran živjeti na ovom svijetu.

"Otac me poslao na ovaj svijet, ali me jedino nekolicina htjedoše bezrezervno primiti. Ja ću izliti svoj duh na sve ljude, ali svi ljudi neće htjeti primiti ovog novog učitelja kao vodiča i savjetnika svoje duše. Ali svi koji ga prime na taj način postaju prosvjetljeni, očišćeni i utješeni. I ovaj Duh Istine u njima postaje izvor žive vode koja teče u vječni život.

I dok vas se sada spremam napustiti, želim vam uputiti riječi utjehe. Ostavljam vam mir; mir, i to svoj, dajem vam. Ja vam ne dajem ove darove kakve svijet daje – svakome istu mjeru – nego dajem svakome onoliko koliko može primiti. Neka se ne uznemiruje i ne plaši vaše srce. Ja sam pobijedio svijet i u meni ćete se svi proslaviti svojom vjerom. Već sam vas upozorio da će ubiti Sina Čovječjeg, ali vas uvjeravam da ću se vratiti prije nego što odem k svome Ocu, premda neću dugo ostati uz vas. I nakon što uzadem do Oca, poslat ću novog učitelja da bude s vama i da boravi u vašim srcima. I kad vidite kako sve ovo prolazi, ne budite uznemireni već se učvrstite u vjeri, kako vam je sve unaprijed obznanjeno. Ja sam vas duboko volio i ne želim vas napustiti, ali tako hoće Očeva volja. Moj čas je došao.

"Ne sumnjajte u ove riječi ni nakon što se nađete raspršeni svaki na svoju stranu progonima i obeshrabreni mnogim patnjama. Kad se budete osjećali usamljeni u svijetu, ja ću znati o vašoj usamljenosti, kao što ćete i vi znati o mojoj usamljenosti kad se budete raspršili svaki na svoju stranu onoga dana kad Sin Čovječji padne u ruke svojih neprijatelja. Ali ja nikad nisam usamljen; Otac je uvijek uz mene. Ja ću se i u tom času za vas moliti. I sve ovo vam rekoh da imadnete mir u sebi i da ga imadnete u svoj punini. U svijetu ćete imati patnju, ali ohrabrite se; ja sam pobijedio svijet i obznanio put koji vodi k vječnom miru i beskrajnoj službi."

Isus pruža mir svojim bližnjima koji se posvećuju izvršenju Božje volje i ovaj se mir ne može usporediti s radostima i zadovoljstvima ovog materijalnog svijeta. Bezvjerni materijalisti i fatalisti jedino mogu osjetiti dvije vrste mira i duševne utjehe: Oni bilo mogu biti stoici koji se čvrsto odlučuju suočiti s onim što je neminovno i podnijeti najgore; ili mogu biti optimisti, uvijek puni nade koja vječno živi u ljudskim grudima, uzaludno se nadajući postignuću mira koji je nemoguće ostvariti.

I dok za vrijeme zemaljskog života ljudima dobro dođe određena mjera stoicizma i optimizma, ovi prilazi stvarnosti ne mogu poslužiti kao izvor blaženog mira koji Sin Čovječji poklanja svojoj zemaljskoj braći. Mir koji Mihael daje svojoj zemaljskoj djeci

that very peace which filled his own soul when he himself lived the mortal life in the flesh and on this very world. The peace of Jesus is the joy and satisfaction of a God-knowing individual who has achieved the triumph of learning fully how to do the will of God while living the mortal life in the flesh. The peace of Jesus' mind was founded on an absolute human faith in the actuality of the divine Father's wise and sympathetic overcare. Jesus had trouble on earth, he has even been falsely called the "man of sorrows," but in and through all of these experiences he enjoyed the comfort of that confidence which ever empowered him to proceed with his life purpose in the full assurance that he was achieving the Father's will.

Jesus was determined, persistent, and thoroughly devoted to the accomplishment of his mission, but he was not an unfeeling and calloused stoic; he ever sought for the cheerful aspects of his life experiences, but he was not a blind and self-deceived optimist. The Master knew all that was to befall him, and he was unafraid. After he had bestowed this peace upon each of his followers, he could consistently say, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

The peace of Jesus is, then, the peace and assurance of a son who fully believes that his career for time and eternity is safely and wholly in the care and keeping of an all-wise, all-loving, and all-powerful spirit Father. And this is, indeed, a peace which passes the understanding of mortal mind, but which can be enjoyed to the full by the believing human heart.

## 2. FAREWELL PERSONAL ADMONITIONS

The Master had finished giving his farewell instructions and imparting his final admonitions to the apostles as a group. He then addressed himself to saying good-bye individually and to giving each a word of personal advice, together with his parting blessing. The apostles were still seated about the table as when they first sat down to partake of the Last Supper, and as the Master went around the table talking to them, each man rose to his feet when Jesus addressed him.

To John, Jesus said: "You, John, are the youngest of my brethren. You have been very near me, and while I love you all with the same love which a father bestows upon his sons, you were designated by Andrew as one of the three who should always be near me. Besides this, you have acted for me and must continue so to act in many matters concerning my earthly family. And I go to the Father, John, having full confidence that you will continue to watch over those who are mine in the flesh. See to it that their present confusion regarding my mission does not in any way prevent your extending to them all sympathy, counsel, and help even as you know I would if I were

nije ništa drugo nego isti onaj mir koji je ispunjao njegovu dušu za vrijeme smrtničkog života na ovom svijetu. Isusov mir predstavlja radost i zadovoljstvo duše koja poznaje Boga i koja je ostvarila pobjedu pune upoznatosti s načinom izvršenja Božje volje za vrijeme zemaljskog života. Mir Isusovog uma počiva na temeljima apsolutne ljudske vjere u činjeničnost mudrog i suosjećanog bdijenja božanskog Oca. Dok je Isus susreo brojne neprilike tijekom svog zemaljskog života, te je štoviše greškom bio prozvan "čovjekom patnji," u okviru i tijekom svih ovih iskustava on je uživao utjehu pouzdanja koje mu je uvijek davalo snagu da slijedi svoje životne nakane s punim uvjerenjem u ostvarenje Očeve volje.

Dok je Isus bio odlučan, ustrajan i potpuno odan sprovedbi svoje misije, on nije bio bezosjećajan i okorjeo stoik; dok je uvijek težio k vedrim i veselim apsketima života, nije bio slijep i samozavaran optimista. Učitelj je unaprijed znao sve što ga je trebalo zadesiti i nije od toga strahovao. Nakon što je podario ovaj mir svim svojim učenicima, dosljedno je mogao reći, "Neka se ne uznemiruje i ne plaši vaše srce."

Isusov mir, stoga, predstavlja mir i uvjerenje sina koji duboko vjeruje da njegov životni put tijekom vremena i vječnosti sigurno i cjelovito počiva pod brigom i bdijenjem svemudrog, svebrižnog i svemoćnog Oca-duha. I ovo je naime mir koji nadilazi razumijevanje smrtničkog uma, ali koji može ući u okvire punog iskustva vjerujućeg ljudskog srca.

## 2. OPROŠTAJNA OSOBNA UPOZORENJA

Učitelj završi s oproštajnim riječima i zaključnim uputama upućenim apostolskoj grupi. On se zatim obrati svakom od njih pojedinačno s osobnim savjetom praćenim oproštajnim riječima blagoslova. Apostoli su još uvijek sjedili pored stola onako kako sjedose prilikom Posljednje Večere i dok je Učitelj išao oko stola, svaki se čovjek podiže na noge dok mu se Učitelj obraćao.

Isus reče Ivanu: "Ti si, Ivane, najmlađi od moje braće. Bio si mi jako blizak i dok te volim ljubavlju koju Otac daruje svojim sinovima, Andrija te postavi kao jednog od trojice apostola koji me svugdje pratiše. Ti si me, pored toga, uvijek zastupao i trebaš nastaviti djelovati u moje ime u poslovima koji se tiču moje obitelji. I ja idem k svome Ocu, Ivane, s punim pouzdanjem da ćeš se nastaviti brinuti o onima koji su moji u tjelesnom obličju. Neka njihova trenutna zbunjenost u pogledu moje misije ne stane na put tvome ispoljenju suosjećanja, savjeta i pomoći koju bi im, kako dobro znaš, ja ispoljio da ostanem na zemlji. I nakon što konačno svi uspiju vidjeti svjetlo i u

to remain in the flesh. And when they all come to see the light and enter fully into the kingdom, while you all will welcome them joyously, I depend upon you, John, to welcome them for me.

"And now, as I enter upon the closing hours of my earthly career, remain near at hand that I may leave any message with you regarding my family. As concerns the work put in my hands by the Father, it is now finished except for my death in the flesh, and I am ready to drink this last cup. But as for the responsibilities left to me by my earthly father, Joseph, while I have attended to these during my life, I must now depend upon you to act in my stead in all these matters. And I have chosen you to do this for me, John, because you are the youngest and will therefore very likely outlive these other apostles.

"Once we called you and your brother sons of thunder. You started out with us strong-minded and intolerant, but you have changed much since you wanted me to call fire down upon the heads of ignorant and thoughtless unbelievers. And you must change yet more. You should become the apostle of the new commandment which I have this night given you. Dedicate your life to teaching your brethren how to love one another, even as I have loved you."

As John Zebedee stood there in the upper chamber, the tears rolling down his cheeks, he looked into the Master's face and said: "And so I will, my Master, but how can I learn to love my brethren more?" And then answered Jesus: "You will learn to love your brethren more when you first learn to love their Father in heaven more, and after you have become truly more interested in their welfare in time and in eternity. And all such human interest is fostered by understanding sympathy, unselfish service, and unstinted forgiveness. No man should despise your youth, but I exhort you always to give due consideration to the fact that age oftentimes represents experience, and that nothing in human affairs can take the place of actual experience. Strive to live peaceably with all men, especially your friends in the brotherhood of the heavenly kingdom. And, John, always remember, strive not with the souls you would win for the kingdom."

And then the Master, passing around his own seat, paused a moment by the side of the place of Judas Iscariot. The apostles were rather surprised that Judas had not returned before this, and they were very curious to know the significance of Jesus' sad countenance as he stood by the betrayer's vacant seat. But none of them, except possibly Andrew, entertained even the slightest thought that their treasurer had gone out to betray his Master, as Jesus had intimated to them earlier in the evening and during the supper. So much had been going on that, for the time being, they had

celosti ući u kraljevstvo, dok im svi trebate radosno iskazati dobrodošlicu, uzdam se u tebe, Ivane, da im izraziš dobrodošlicu u moje ime.

"I dok se ovom prilikom spremam proživjeti posljednje časove svoje zemaljske misije, ostani uz mene kako bih ti mogao povjeriti poruke vezane uz moje obiteljske poslove. Što se tiče rada koji mi je Otac povjerio, sve sam obavio izuzev smrti u ljudskom obličju kojom se spremam ispitati posljednji kalež. Ali dok sam za vrijeme života mogao ispunjavati dužnosti koje mi ostavi moj zemaljski otac Josip, ovom se prilikom moram osloniti na tebe da djeluješ u moje ime po svim ovim pitanjima. I odabrao sam tebe, Ivane, zato što si najmlađi i što ćeš najvjerojatnije nadživjeti ove druge apostole.

"Nekoć prozvasmo tebe i tvoga brata sinovima groma. Ti nam pride tvrdoglav i netrpeljiv, ali se mnogo primijeni od onog dana kad si htio zvati oganj da siđe s neba na neuke i brzoplete nevjernike. Ali ti se još uvijek trebaš promijeniti. Trebaš postati apostol nove zapovijedi koju vam dajem ove noći. Trebaš posvetiti svoj život kako bi poučio svoju braću uzajamnoj ljubavi, ljubavi kakvu ja imam prema vama."

Stojeći u gornjim odajama ove kuće dok su se suze kotrljale niz njegove obraze, gledajući Učitelja Ivan Zebedejev reče: "Učinit ću kako kažeš, Učitelju, ali kako ću naučiti produbiti svoju ljubav prema bližnjima?" Isus odgovori: "Naučit ćeš produbiti svoju ljubav prema bližnjima nakon što prvo produbiš svoju ljubav prema njihovom nebeskom Ocu, te nakon što se počneš podrobnije zanimati za njihovu blagodat u vremenu i vječnosti. I svako takvo ljudsko zanimanje počiva na podstreku suosjećajne naklonosti, nesebične službe i darežljive oproštajnosti. Neka nitko ne prezire tvoju mladost, ali ovim ti hoću skrenuti pažnju na to da godine obično rađaju iskustvom i da ništa ne može zamijeniti ulogu istinskog iskustva u ljudskom životu. Trebaš nastojati živjeti u miru sa svim ljudima, a posebno sa svojim prijateljima u bratstvu nebeskog kraljevstva. I Ivane, ne zaboravi, ne trebaš se pripraviti s dušama koje nastojiš pridobiti u nebesko kraljevstvo.

Nakon ovih riječi, prolazeći pored svoje stolice, Učitelj za trenutak zastade pored stolice Jude Iskariotskog. Apostoli su bili prilično iznenađeni što se Juda nije bio vratio i jako ih je zanimalo značenje Isusovog tužnog izraza dok je stajao pored prazne stolice ovog izdajnika. Ali nitko od njih, izuzev do neke mjere Andrije, nije ni pomislio da je njihov blagajnik otišao izdati Isusa, kako im je Isus natuknuo nešto ranije te večeri kao i za vrijeme večernjeg objeda. Toliko se toga dogodilo do ovog časa da su za trenutak više-manje bili zaboravili Učiteljev

quite forgotten about the Master's announcement that one of them would betray him.

Jesus now went over to Simon Zelotes, who stood up and listened to this admonition: "You are a true son of Abraham, but what a time I have had trying to make you a son of this heavenly kingdom. I love you and so do all of your brethren. I know that you love me, Simon, and that you also love the kingdom, but you are still set on making this kingdom come according to your liking. I know full well that you will eventually grasp the spiritual nature and meaning of my gospel, and that you will do valiant work in its proclamation, but I am distressed about what may happen to you when I depart. I would rejoice to know that you would not falter; I would be made happy if I could know that, after I go to the Father, you would not cease to be my apostle, and that you would acceptably deport yourself as an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom."

Jesus had hardly ceased speaking to Simon Zelotes when the fiery patriot, drying his eyes, replied: "Master, have no fears for my loyalty. I have turned my back upon everything that I might dedicate my life to the establishment of your kingdom on earth, and I will not falter. I have survived every disappointment so far, and I will not forsake you."

And then, laying his hand on Simon's shoulder, Jesus said: "It is indeed refreshing to hear you talk like that, especially at such a time as this, but, my good friend, you still do not know what you are talking about. Not for one moment would I doubt your loyalty, your devotion; I know you would not hesitate to go forth in battle and die for me, as all these others would" (and they all nodded a vigorous approval), "but that will not be required of you. I have repeatedly told you that my kingdom is not of this world, and that my disciples will not fight to effect its establishment. I have told you this many times, Simon, but you refuse to face the truth. I am not concerned with your loyalty to me and to the kingdom, but what will you do when I go away and you at last wake up to the realization that you have failed to grasp the meaning of my teaching, and that you must adjust your misconceptions to the reality of another and spiritual order of affairs in the kingdom?"

Simon wanted to speak further, but Jesus raised his hand and, stopping him, went on to say: "None of my apostles are more sincere and honest at heart than you, but not one of them will be so upset and disheartened as you, after my departure. In all of your discouragement my spirit shall abide with you, and these, your brethren, will not forsake you. Do not forget what I have taught you regarding the relation of citizenship on earth to sonship in the Father's spiritual kingdom. Ponder well all that I have said to you about

proglas da ga je jedan od njih trebao izdati.

Isus zatim ode do Šimuna Revnitelja koji je stajao pored stola spreman da čuje riječi opomene: "Ti si pravi sin Abrahamov, ali nije mi te bilo lako pokušati pretvoriti u sina ovog nebeskog kraljevstva. Ja te volim i tako čine sva tvoja braća. Ja znam da me ti voliš, Šimune, jednako kao što voliš nebesko kraljevstvo, ali ti još uvijek pokušavaš preurediti ovo kraljevstvo po svojoj volji. Dobro znam da ćeš s vremenom shvatiti duhovnu prirodu i značenje moga evanđelja i da ćeš hrabro raditi na njegovom promicanju, ali strahujem od toga što će se dogoditi nakon moga odlaska. Bilo bi mi drago znati da nećeš skrenuti s puta; radovalo bi me ako ustanovim da, nakon što budem otišao k Ocu, nećeš sići sa svoje apostolske pozicije i da ćeš se prihvatljivo nositi kao poslanik nebeskog kraljevstva."

Isus je teško imao prilike završiti s ovim riječima upućenim Šimunu Revnitelju kad ovaj vatreni patriot, brišući suze s očiju, odgovori: "Učitelju, ne trebaš strahovati za moju odanost. Ja sam se svega odrekao kako bih se mogao posvetiti utemeljenju kraljevstva na zemlji i ja neću skrenuti s puta. Već sam proživio svako razočaranje, i ja te se neću odreći."

I zatim, polažući ruku na Šimunovo rame, Isus reče: "Raduju me tvoje riječi, naročito u ovom času, ali dobri prijatelju, ti još uvijek ne znaš o čemu govoriš. Ja ne bih niti jednog trenutka posumnjao u tvoju odanost, tvoju privrženost; znam da ne bi oklijevao stupiti u borbu i položiti svoj život radi mene, kao što ne bi oklijevali ni ovi drugi apostoli" (na što svi spremno kimnuše glavama), "ali to se od tebe neće tražiti. Ja sam ti već više puta rekao da moje kraljevstvo nije od ovoga svijeta i da se moji apostoli neće boriti radeći na njegovu utemeljenju. Ovo ti rekoš mnogo puta, Šimune, ali ti se odbijaš suočiti sa istinom. Mene ne brine tvoja odanost prema meni i prema kraljevstvu, već to što ćeš učiniti nakon što ja odem i nakon što se konačno probudiš i shvatiš da nisi razumio značenje mojih učenja, da se moraš riješiti svojih zabluda i prilagoditi stvarnostima novog i duhovnog reda poslova novog kraljevstva?"

Šimun htjede nastaviti s govorom, ali Isus podiže ruku i zaustavljajući ga, reče: "Ni jedan apostol nije iskreniji i časniji u srcu od tebe, ali ni jedan neće biti toliko uznemiren i obeshrabren nakon moga odlaska, kako ćeš ti biti. Unatoč svoj tvojoj obeshrabrenosti moj će duh boraviti s tobom i ova te tvoja braća neće napustiti. Ne zaboravi ono što sam te učio vezano uz pitanja odnosa između statusa koji imaš kao državljanin ovoga svijeta i kao sin Očevog kraljevstva. Dobro razmisli o tome što sam ti rekao

rendering to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and to God that which is God's. Dedicate your life, Simon, to showing how acceptably mortal man may fulfill my injunction concerning the simultaneous recognition of temporal duty to civil powers and spiritual service in the brotherhood of the kingdom. If you will be taught by the Spirit of Truth, never will there be conflict between the requirements of citizenship on earth and sonship in heaven unless the temporal rulers presume to require of you the homage and worship which belong only to God.

"And now, Simon, when you do finally see all of this, and after you have shaken off your depression and have gone forth proclaiming this gospel in great power, never forget that I was with you even through all of your season of discouragement, and that I will go on with you to the very end. You shall always be my apostle, and after you become willing to see by the eye of the spirit and more fully to yield your will to the will of the Father in heaven, then will you return to labor as my ambassador, and no one shall take away from you the authority which I have conferred upon you, because of your slowness of comprehending the truths I have taught you. And so, Simon, once more I warn you that they who fight with the sword perish with the sword, while they who labor in the spirit achieve life everlasting in the kingdom to come with joy and peace in the kingdom which now is. And when the work given into your hands is finished on earth, you, Simon, shall sit down with me in my kingdom over there. You shall really see the kingdom you have longed for, but not in this life. Continue to believe in me and in that which I have revealed to you, and you shall receive the gift of eternal life."

When Jesus had finished speaking to Simon Zelotes, he stepped over to Matthew Levi and said: "No longer will it devolve upon you to provide for the treasury of the apostolic group. Soon, very soon, you will all be scattered; you will not be permitted to enjoy the comforting and sustaining association of even one of your brethren. As you go onward preaching this gospel of the kingdom, you will have to find for yourselves new associates. I have sent you forth two and two during the times of your training, but now that I am leaving you, after you have recovered from the shock, you will go out alone, and to the ends of the earth, proclaiming this good news: That faith-quickeners are the sons of God."

Then spoke Matthew: "But, Master, who will send us, and how shall we know where to go? Will Andrew show us the way?" And Jesus answered: "No, Levi, Andrew will no longer direct you in the proclamation of the gospel. He will, indeed, continue as your friend and counselor until that day whereon the new teacher comes, and then shall the Spirit of Truth lead each of you abroad to labor for the extension of

kako trebaš ostaviti caru što je carevo a Bogu što je Božje. Posveti svoj život, Šimune, nastojanju da pokažeš ljudima kako će prihvatljivo ispuniti svoje civilne temporalne dužnosti, istodobno sprovedeći duhovnu službu u bratstvu kraljevstva. Ako budeš odlučio dopustiti da te vodi Duh Istine, nećeš osjetiti sukob između zahtijeva građanske dužnosti i statusa sina nebeskog kraljevstva, izuzev ako se svjetovni vladari drznu zatražiti ono poštovanje i iskazanje obožavanja koje pripada samom Bogu.

"I sada, Šimune, nakon što konačno uspiješ razabrati sve što ti govorim i što se oslobodiš depresije i kreneš promicati ovo evanđelje u silnoj moći, ne zaboravi da sam bio uz tebe kroz sva tvoja razdoblja obeshrabrenosti i da ću nastaviti biti uz tebe sve do samoga kraja. Uvijek ćeš biti moj apostol i nakon što se odlučiš početi gledati kroz oči duha i što spremnije podrediš svoju volju volji nebeskog Oca, vratit ćeš se k djelovanju u ulozi moga poslanika i nitko ti neće oduzeti, radi sporosti razumijevanja istina kojima sam te učio, vlast koju ti ja dadoh. I tako Šimune, ponovo te upozoravam da svi koji se mača hvataju od mačagin, dok oni koji se duha hvataju dočekaju život vječni u kraljevstvu koji im dolazi u radosti i u miru kraljevstva koje je stupilo na snagu. I po svršetku zemaljskog rada koji ti je povjeren, ti ćeš Šimune, sjesti sa mnom u mom nebeskom kraljevstvu. Uistinu ćeš ugledati kraljevstvo za kojim toliko čezneš, ali ne za ovog života. Nastavi vjerovati u mene i u ono što sam ti ja obznanio, i primit ćeš život vječni."

Nakon što je završio s ovim riječima upućenim Šimunu Revnitelju, Isus zastade pored Mateja Levije i reče: "Nećeš više dugo biti zadužen za apostolsku blagajnu. Uskoro, za vrlo kratko vrijeme, bit ćete raspršeni svaki na svoju stranu; neće vam biti dopušteno da uživate u prijatnom i okrijepljujućem društvu jednog jedinog prijatelja apostola. Istog časa kad počnete promicati ovo evanđelje kraljevstva, trebate si naći nove prijatelje i suradnike. Ja sam vas slao dvojicu po dvojicu za vrijeme ove obuke, ali sad kad vas se spremam napustiti, nakon što se oporavite od iznenađenja, morate ići sami na sve krajeve svijeta, promičući ovu radosnu vijest: Da su smrtnici koji su osnaženi vjerom istinski Božji sinovi."

Matej zatim reče: "Ali Učitelju, tko će nas poslati i kako ćemo znati gdje trebamo ići? Hoće li nas Andrija slati?" Isus odgovori: "Ne Levija, Andrija vas više neće usmjeravati pri promicanju kraljevstva. On će vam, naime, ostati prijatelj sve dok ne primite novog učitelja, nakon čega će vas Duh Istine početi voditi svakog ponaosob dok budete radili na proširenju kraljevstva. Toliko se toga promijenilo od onog dana

the kingdom. Many changes have come over you since that day at the customhouse when you first set out to follow me; but many more must come before you will be able to see the vision of a brotherhood in which gentile sits alongside Jew in fraternal association. But go on with your urge to win your Jewish brethren until you are fully satisfied and then turn with power to the gentiles. One thing you may be certain of, Levi: You have won the confidence and affection of your brethren; they all love you." (And all ten of them signified their acquiescence in the Master's words.)

"Levi, I know much about your anxieties, sacrifices, and labors to keep the treasury replenished which your brethren do not know, and I am rejoiced that, though he who carried the bag is absent, the publican ambassador is here at my farewell gathering with the messengers of the kingdom. I pray that you may discern the meaning of my teaching with the eyes of the spirit. And when the new teacher comes into your heart, follow on as he will lead you and let your brethren see -- even all the world -- what the Father can do for a hated tax-gatherer who dared to follow the Son of Man and to believe the gospel of the kingdom. Even from the first, Levi, I loved you as I did these other Galileans. Knowing then so well that neither the Father nor the Son has respect of persons, see to it that you make no such distinctions among those who become believers in the gospel through your ministry. And so, Matthew, dedicate your whole future life service to showing all men that God is no respecter of persons; that, in the sight of God and in the fellowship of the kingdom, all men are equal, all believers are the sons of God."

Jesus then stepped over to James Zebedee, who stood in silence as the Master addressed him, saying: "James, when you and your younger brother once came to me seeking preferment in the honors of the kingdom, and I told you such honors were for the Father to bestow, I asked if you were able to drink my cup, and both of you answered that you were. Even if you were not then able, and if you are not now able, you will soon be prepared for such a service by the experience you are about to pass through. By such behavior you angered your brethren at that time. If they have not already fully forgiven you, they will when they see you drink my cup. Whether your ministry be long or short, possess your soul in patience. When the new teacher comes, let him teach you the poise of compassion and that sympathetic tolerance which is born of sublime confidence in me and of perfect submission to the Father's will. Dedicate your life to the demonstration of that combined human affection and divine dignity of the God-knowing and Son-believing disciple. And all who thus live will reveal the gospel even in the manner of their death. You and your brother John will go different ways, and one of you may sit down with me in the eternal

kad si u carinarnici udlučio poći za mnom; ali mnogo se toga još treba odigrati prije nego što budeš mogao ugledati viziju bratstva u kojem Židovi i nežidovi sjede jedni uz druge kao braća. Ali nastavi slijediti svoj poriv koji te navodi da pridobiješ svoju Židovsku braću sve dok ne budeš u cjelosti zadovoljan svojim nastojanjima, te nakon toga usmjeri svoju energiju na nežidove. Neka ti jedno bude jasno, Levija: Pridobio si povjerenje i naklonost svoje braće; svi te vole. (I sva desetorica dadoše znaka svome suglasju s Učiteljevim riječima.)

"Levija, ja znam za tjeskobe, žrtve i napore o kojima tvoja braća ne znaju, a koje si ulagao kako bi napunio blagajnu i drago mi vidjeti da je, unatoč odsutnosti našeg blagajnika, uz nas ovdje prilikom ovog oproštajnog govora glasnicima kraljevstva, ostao publikanski poslanik. Molim Oca da ti pomogne da raspoznaš značenje mojih učenja očima duha. I nakon što u tvoje srce dođe novi učitelj, slijedi ga dok te bude vodio i dopusti svojoj braći -- kao i cijelom svijetu -- da vidi ono što je Otac u stanju načiniti od omraženog carinika koji se usudio poći za Sinom Čovječjim i vjerovati u evanđelje kraljevstva. Od samog početka, Levija, volio sam te onako kako sam volio ove druge Galilejce. Kako, naime, znaš da ni Otac ni Sin nemaju pristranosti prema bilo kojoj osobi, ni sam ne trebaš stvarati razlike među onima koji tvojom službom budu htjeli postati vjernici ovog evanđelja. I tako, Matija, posveti cijeli svoj budući život ovom nastojanju da pokažeš ljudima da Bog ne pravi razliku među ljudima; da su u Božjim očima i u bratstvu kraljevstva svi ljudi jednaki, da su svi vjernici Božji sinovi."

Isus zatim stade pored Jakova Zebedejevog koji je stajao bez riječi kad mu se Učitelj obrati: "Jakove, kad ti i tvoj mlađi brat jednom dodoste tražiti da vam dadnem naročite počasti u kraljevstvu, rekoh vam da one pripadaju onima za koje odredi moj Otac i upitah možete li piti kalež koji ću ja piti, kad rekoste da možete. I ako ga onom prilikom niste mogli piti i ako ga ne možete piti ni u ovom času, uskoro ćete biti spremni za ovu službu zahvaljujući predstojećim iskustvima. Ali ovakvim ste činom naljutili svoju braću. Ali vam već nisu potpuno oprostili, oprostiće kad ugledaju kako pijete moj kalež. Bilo da imadnete kratku ili dugu službu, učvrstite svoje duše u strpljenje. Kad primite učitelja, dopustite mu da vas pouči ravnoteži koja proizlazi iz samilosti kao i toj suosjećajnoj trpeljivosti koja nastaje kao rezultat blaženog pouzdanja u mene i u savršeno predavanje Očevoj volji. Posvetite svoj život ispoljenju ovog spoja ljudske naklonosti i božanskog dostojanstva učenika koji poznaju Boga i koji vjeruju u Sina. I svi koji ovako žive obznanjaju evanđelje i u načinu na koji polažu svoj život. Ti i Ivan ćete svaki ići svojim putem i jedan mi od vas može prići u vječnom kraljevstvu mnogo prije drugoga. Dobro bi vam

kingdom long before the other. It would help you much if you would learn that true wisdom embraces discretion as well as courage. You should learn sagacity to go along with your aggressiveness. There will come those supreme moments wherein my disciples will not hesitate to lay down their lives for this gospel, but in all ordinary circumstances it would be far better to placate the wrath of unbelievers that you might live and continue to preach the glad tidings. As far as lies in your power, live long on the earth that your life of many years may be fruitful in souls won for the heavenly kingdom."

When the Master had finished speaking to James Zebedee, he stepped around to the end of the table where Andrew sat and, looking his faithful helper in the eyes, said: "Andrew, you have faithfully represented me as acting head of the ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom. Although you have sometimes doubted and at other times manifested dangerous timidity, still, you have always been sincerely just and eminently fair in dealing with your associates. Ever since the ordination of you and your brethren as messengers of the kingdom, you have been self-governing in all group administrative affairs except that I designated you as the acting head of these chosen ones. In no other temporal matter have I acted to direct or to influence your decisions. And this I did in order to provide for leadership in the direction of all your subsequent group deliberations. In my universe and in my Father's universe of universes, our brethren-sons are dealt with as individuals in all their spiritual relations, but in all group relationships we unfailingly provide for definite leadership. Our kingdom is a realm of order, and where two or more will creatures act in co-operation, there is always provided the authority of leadership.

"And now, Andrew, since you are the chief of your brethren by authority of my appointment, and since you have thus served as my personal representative, and as I am about to leave you and go to my Father, I release you from all responsibility as regards these temporal and administrative affairs. From now on you may exercise no jurisdiction over your brethren except that which you have earned in your capacity as spiritual leader, and which your brethren therefore freely recognize. From this hour you may exercise no authority over your brethren unless they restore such jurisdiction to you by their definite legislative action after I shall have gone to the Father. But this release from responsibility as the administrative head of this group does not in any manner lessen your moral responsibility to do everything in your power to hold your brethren together with a firm and loving hand during the trying time just ahead, those days which must intervene between my departure in the flesh and the sending of the new teacher who will live in your hearts, and who

bilo ako naučite da istinska mudrost pored hrabrosti obuhvaća i uviđavnost. Naučite povezati oprez s agresivnošću. Dok vas uistinu čekaju oni blaženi časovi kad moji učenici neće oklijevati položiti svoje živote u ime ovog evanđelja, pri svim svakodnevnim okolnostima bilo bi puno bolje ako ublažite gnjev nevjernika kako bi sačuvali život i nastavili poučavati radosnu vijest. Koliko je do vas, trebate nastojati živjeti što je moguće dulje na zemlji kako bi vaš dugi život urodio pridobijanjem mnogih duša u ime nebeskog kraljevstva."

Nakon što Učitelj završi s obraćanjem Jakovu Zebedejevom, krenu oko stola do Andrije stolice i gledajući u oči svome vjernom pomagaču, reče: "Andrija, vjerno si me zastupao u ulozi poglavara ambasadorske grupe nebeskog kraljevstva. Premda si nekom prilikom osjećao sumnju, dok si više puta ispoljio opasnu strašljivost, uvijek si bio iskreno vjeran i nadasve pošten prilikom obraćanja svojim suradnicima. Otkako si sa svojom braćom postavljen na poziciju glasnika kraljevstva, djelovali ste kao samoupravna grupa u pogledu svih administrativnih poslova, izuzev što sam tebe postavio kao aktivnog starješinu ovih odabranih apostola. Ni na koji drugi svjetovni način nisam pokušavao usmjeriti ili promijeniti vaše odluke. I tako sam učinio kako bih vas pripremio za buduće donošenje zajedničkih odluka. U mom svemiru i u svemiru nad svemirima moga Oca, mi se povodimo prema svoj svojoj braći-sinovima kao individualnim osobama pri svakom duhovnom odnosu, dok pri svim grupnim odnosima postavljamo upravitelje. Naše je kraljevstvo domena reda i pri svakoj uspostavi suradnje između dvaju ili više bića obdarenih voljom, uvijek mora postojati autoritet uprave.

"I tako, Andrija, kako ti djeluješ u ulozi poglavara svoje braće prema vlast koju ti ja dadoh i kako si na taj način služio u ulozi mog osobnog zastupnika, kako vas se ja spremam napustiti i otići k svome Ocu, oslobađam te svakog oblika dužnosti vezanog uz svjetovne i administrativne poslove. Od ovog časa više nemaš vlasti nad svojom braćom, izuzev ukoliko ostvariš ovu vlast djelujući u ulozi duhovnog vođe i do mjere do koje tvoja braća slobodno priznaju ovu vlast. Više ne možeš ispoljavati vlast nad svojom braćom izuzev ako te oni sami zakonski postave na poziciju autoriteta nakon što ja odem svome Ocu. Ali ovo oslobođenje od dužnosti administrativnog starješine ove grupe ni na koji način ne umanjuje tvoju moralnu odgovornost prema kojoj, naime, trebaš učiniti sve što je u tvojoj moći kako bi očuvao jedinstvo svoje braće čvrstom i brižnom rukom tijekom teških iskušenja koja vam predstoje za razdoblja između časa kad vas budem napustio u tjelesnom obličju i časa kad vam pošaljem novog učitelja koji će boraviti u vašim srcima i koji

ultimately will lead you into all truth. As I prepare to leave you, I would liberate you from all administrative responsibility which had its inception and authority in my presence as one among you. Henceforth I shall exercise only spiritual authority over you and among you.

"If your brethren desire to retain you as their counselor, I direct that you should, in all matters temporal and spiritual, do your utmost to promote peace and harmony among the various groups of sincere gospel believers. Dedicate the remainder of your life to promoting the practical aspects of brotherly love among your brethren. Be kind to my brothers in the flesh when they come fully to believe this gospel; manifest loving and impartial devotion to the Greeks in the West and to Abner in the East. Although these, my apostles, are soon going to be scattered to the four corners of the earth, there to proclaim the good news of the salvation of sonship with God, you are to hold them together during the trying time just ahead, that season of intense testing during which you must learn to believe this gospel without my personal presence while you patiently await the arrival of the new teacher, the Spirit of Truth. And so, Andrew, though it may not fall to you to do the great works as seen by men, be content to be the teacher and counselor of those who do such things. Go on with your work on earth to the end, and then shall you continue this ministry in the eternal kingdom, for have I not many times told you that I have other sheep not of this flock?"

Jesus then went over to the Alpheus twins and, standing between them, said: "My little children, you are one of the three groups of brothers who chose to follow after me. All six of you have done well to work in peace with your own flesh and blood, but none have done better than you. Hard times are just ahead of us. You may not understand all that will befall you and your brethren, but never doubt that you were once called to the work of the kingdom. For some time there will be no multitudes to manage, but do not become discouraged; when your lifework is finished, I will receive you on high, where in glory you shall tell of your salvation to seraphic hosts and to multitudes of the high Sons of God. Dedicate your lives to the enhancement of commonplace toil. Show all men on earth and the angels of heaven how cheerfully and courageously mortal man can, after having been called to work for a season in the special service of God, return to the labors of former days. If, for the time being, your work in the outward affairs of the kingdom should be completed, you should go back to your former labors with the new enlightenment of the experience of sonship with God and with the exalted realization that, to him who is God-knowing, there is no such thing as common labor or secular toil. To you who have worked with me, all things have become

će vas s vremenom uvesti u svu istinu. Dok vas se ja spremam napustiti, oslobađam te od svih administrativnih dužnosti i vlasti koje si nosio tijekom moje prisutnosti među vama. Od ovog ću časa jedino ispoljavati duhovnu vlast nad vama i među vama.

"Ako te tvoja braća odluče zadržati kao savjetnika, trebaš na sve svjetovne i duhovne načine učiniti sve što je moguće promičući mir i sklad među različitim grupama iskrenih vjernika u evanđelje. Trebaš posvetiti ostatak života unaprijeđenju praktičnih aspekata bratinske ljubavi među svojom braćom. Budi dobrotiv prema mojoj zemaljskoj braći koja će s vremenom u cjelosti povjerovati u ovo evanđelje; pruži brižnu i nepristranu odanost prema Grcima na Zapadu kao i prema Abneru na Istoku. Premda će ovi moji apostoli uskoro biti raspršeni na sve četiri strane svijeta, gdje će promicati radosnu vijest spasenja Božjih sinova, čuvaj ih zajedno za teških časova koji vam predstoje za ovog razdoblja intenzivne kušnje kad morate naučiti vjerovati u ovo evanđelje bez moje osobne prisutnosti, nestrpljivo očekujući dolazak novog učitelja, Duha Istine. I tako, Andrija, dok tebi ne pristaje izvršenje radova koje ljudi obično smatraju velikim djelima, trebaš se zadovoljiti djelovanjem u ulozi učitelja i savjetnika onih koji čine takva djela. Nastavi sa svojim zemaljskim radom do samog kraja, nakon čega ćeš nastaviti ovu službu u vječnom kraljevstvu, jer zar ti ne rekoh više puta da ja imam i drugih ovaca koje nisu iz ovog ovčinjaka?"

Isus zatim ode do Alfejevih blizanaca i stojeći između njih, reče: "Moja dječice, vi pripadate jednoj od triju grupa braće koja odlučite poći za mnom. Sva šestorica učiniste sve što je bilo u vašoj moći kako bi miroljubivo surađivali sa svojom zemaljskom braćom, ali nitko se ne može usporediti s vama. Ali vama tek predstoje teški dani. Moguće da nećete razumjeti sve što će snaći vas i vašu braću, ali nikada nemojte posumnjati da ste bili pozvani da radite na utemeljenju kraljevstva. Određeno vrijeme nećete biti praćeni masama, ali ovo vas ne treba obeshrabriti; po svršetku vaših djelatnosti, ja ću vas primiti na nebu gdje ćete u slavi kazati serafskim vojskama i mnoštvu visokih Božjih Sinova o svome spasenju. Posvetite svoje živote oplemenjenju svakodnevnog crnčenja. Pokažite svim zemaljskim ljudima i nebeskim anđelima kako se smrtni čovjek može vedro i hrabro, nakon što je na određeno vrijeme radio u posebnoj Božjoj službi, vratiti svojim ranijim dužnostima. Ako se za sada s ovim završava vaše sudjelovanje u poslovima kraljevstva, vratite se svojim prijašnjim djelatnostima s novim prosvjetljenjem iskusnih Božjih sinova i s uzvišenim znanjem da s gledišta ljudi koji poznaju Boga, ne postoji djelatnost koja bi se smatrala svakodnevnim radom ili svjetovnim crnčenjem. Vama koji ste surađivali sa mnom sve je postalo sveto i svaki

sacred, and all earthly labor has become a service even to God the Father. And when you hear the news of the doings of your former apostolic associates, rejoice with them and continue your daily work as those who wait upon God and serve while they wait. You have been my apostles, and you always shall be, and I will remember you in the kingdom to come."

And then Jesus went over to Philip, who, standing up, heard this message from his Master: "Philip, you have asked me many foolish questions, but I have done my utmost to answer every one, and now would I answer the last of such questionings which have arisen in your most honest but unspiritual mind. All the time I have been coming around toward you, have you been saying to yourself, 'What shall I ever do if the Master goes away and leaves us alone in the world?' O, you of little faith! And yet you have almost as much as many of your brethren. You have been a good steward, Philip. You failed us only a few times, and one of those failures we utilized to manifest the Father's glory. Your office of stewardship is about over. You must soon more fully do the work you were called to do -- the preaching of this gospel of the kingdom. Philip, you have always wanted to be shown, and very soon shall you see great things. Far better that you should have seen all this by faith, but since you were sincere even in your material sightedness, you will live to see my words fulfilled. And then, when you are blessed with spiritual vision, go forth to your work, dedicating your life to the cause of leading mankind to search for God and to seek eternal realities with the eye of spiritual faith and not with the eyes of the material mind. Remember, Philip, you have a great mission on earth, for the world is filled with those who look at life just as you have tended to. You have a great work to do, and when it is finished in faith, you shall come to me in my kingdom, and I will take great pleasure in showing you that which eye has not seen, ear heard, nor the mortal mind conceived. In the meantime, become as a little child in the kingdom of the spirit and permit me, as the spirit of the new teacher, to lead you forward in the spiritual kingdom. And in this way will I be able to do much for you which I was not able to accomplish when I sojourned with you as a mortal of the realm. And always remember, Philip, he who has seen me has seen the Father."

Then went the Master over to Nathaniel. As Nathaniel stood up, Jesus bade him be seated and, sitting down by his side, said: "Nathaniel, you have learned to live above prejudice and to practice increased tolerance since you became my apostle. But there is much more for you to learn. You have been a blessing to your fellows in that they have always been admonished by your consistent sincerity. When I have gone, it may be that your frankness will interfere with your getting along well with your brethren, both old

je oblik zemaljskog rada postao služba Bogu Ocu. I kada budete čuli vijesti o djelima svojih negdašnjih apostolskih suradnika, radujte se s njima i nastavite sa svojim svakodnevnim radovima kao ljudi koji čekaju na Boga i koji pri ovom čekanju obavljaju svoju službu. Vi ste bili moji apostoli i uvijek ćete to biti i ja ću vas se uvijek sjetiti u predstojećem kraljevstvu."

Isus zatim ode do Filipa koji je, stajući na noge, primio slijedeće Učiteljeve riječi: "Filipe, ti si postavio mnoga glupava pitanja i ja sam učinio sve što je bilo u mojoj moći kako bih na svako odgovorio, i ovom prilikom želim odgovoriti na posljednje pitanje koje se rodio u tvom nadasve častoljubivom ali neduhovnom umu. Dok sam ti prilazio oko stola, ti si se neprestano pitao, 'Što ćemo učiniti ako nas Učitelj napusti i ostavi same na svijetu?' O, bezvjerni! A unatoč tome ti imaš gotovo jednako mnogo vjere koliko je imaju mnogo tvoja braća. Ti si bio dobar opskrbnik, Filipe. Samo smo par puta ostali bez namirnica, a iskoristili smo te situacije kako bi ispoljili Očevu ljubav. Tvoja se opskrbiteljska pozicija uskoro treba okončati. Neće dugo proći kad ćeš morati podrobnije raditi na onome što sam te pozvao da učiniš – promicanju ovog evanđelja kraljevstva. Filipe, uvijek si želio da ti se pokaže, i uskoro trebaš ugledati mnoge velike stvari. Bilo bi daleko bolje da si uspio ugledati ove događaje očima vjere, ali kako si bio iskren u materijalističnosti svoga gledišta, uistinu ćeš imati prilike posvjedočiti ostvarenje mojih riječi. I ovom ćeš prilikom, nakon što primiš blagostanje duhovnog gledišta, nastaviti sa svojim radom posvećujući život upravljanju ljudi pri potrazi za Bogom i za stvarnostima koje su vidljive očima duhovne vjere, a ne očima materijalnog uma. Ne zaboravi, Filipe, da pred tobom stoji velika misija na zemlji, jer svijet je prepun duša koje promatraju život upravo onako kako si ti to imao običaj činiti. Pred tobom stoje velika djela i kad ih sprovedeš u vjeri, doći ćeš kod mene u moje kraljevstvo i ja ću ti s velikom radošću pokazati ono što oko nije vidjelo, što uho nije čulo, na što ljudski um nije pomislio. U međuvremenu, trebaš postati kao malo dijete u kraljevstvu duha i dopustiti meni da te povedem u duhovno kraljevstvo. I na ovaj ću način biti u stanju učiniti za tebe mnogo toga što nisam bio u stanju učiniti za života u smrtničkom obličju. I nikad ne zaboravi, Filipe, onaj koji je vidio mene vidio je i moga Oca."

Učitelj zatim ode do Natanije. Dok se Natanije dizao, Isus ga zamoli da se sjedne i sjedajući pored njega, reče: "Natanije, otkako si postao moj apostol, naučio si živjeti iznad predrasuda i sve više prihvaćati stavove trpeljivosti. Ali još imaš toliko toga naučiti. Bio si pravi blagoslov svojim bližnjima po tome što si svojom dosljednom iskrenošću uvijek služio kao opomena. Nakon što ja odem, moguće je da ti vlastita iskrenost stane na put suglasnosti sa tvojom braćom, kako starom tako i novom. Trebaš naučiti da

and new. You should learn that the expression of even a good thought must be modulated in accordance with the intellectual status and spiritual development of the hearer. Sincerity is most serviceable in the work of the kingdom when it is wedded to discretion.

"If you would learn to work with your brethren, you might accomplish more permanent things, but if you find yourself going off in quest of those who think as you do, in that event dedicate your life to proving that the God-knowing disciple can become a kingdom builder even when alone in the world and wholly isolated from his fellow believers. I know you will be faithful to the end, and I will some day welcome you to the enlarged service of my kingdom on high."

Then Nathaniel spoke, asking Jesus this question: "I have listened to your teaching ever since you first called me to the service of this kingdom, but I honestly cannot understand the full meaning of all you tell us. I do not know what to expect next, and I think most of my brethren are likewise perplexed, but they hesitate to confess their confusion. Can you help me?" Jesus, putting his hand on Nathaniel's shoulder, said: "My friend, it is not strange that you should encounter perplexity in your attempt to grasp the meaning of my spiritual teachings since you are so handicapped by your preconceptions of Jewish tradition and so confused by your persistent tendency to interpret my gospel in accordance with the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees.

"I have taught you much by word of mouth, and I have lived my life among you. I have done all that can be done to enlighten your minds and liberate your souls, and what you have not been able to get from my teachings and my life, you must now prepare to acquire at the hand of that master of all teachers -- actual experience. And in all of this new experience which now awaits you, I will go before you and the Spirit of Truth shall be with you. Fear not; that which you now fail to comprehend, the new teacher, when he has come, will reveal to you throughout the remainder of your life on earth and on through your training in the eternal ages."

And then the Master, turning to all of them, said: "Be not dismayed that you fail to grasp the full meaning of the gospel. You are but finite, mortal men, and that which I have taught you is infinite, divine, and eternal. Be patient and of good courage since you have the eternal ages before you in which to continue your progressive attainment of the experience of becoming perfect, even as your Father in Paradise is perfect."

And then Jesus went over to Thomas, who, standing up, heard him say: "Thomas, you have often lacked faith; however, when you have had your

i ako se radi o dobrim idejama, njihov izraz treba biti usklađen s intelektualnim statusom i duhovnim razvojem tvojih slušatelja. Iskrenost je najkorisnija pri radu u kraljevstvu kad je spojena s promišljenim oprezom.

"Ako uspiješ naučiti surađivati sa svojom braćom, moguće je da ćeš biti u stanju ostvariti trajnija postignuća, ali ako odlučiš raditi nasamo tragajući za istomišljenicima, trebaš posvetiti život kako bi pokazao da učenik koji poznaje Boga može postati graditelj kraljevstva radeći samostalno i u izolaciji od svojih bližnjih suvjernika. Znam da ćeš ostati vjeran do kraja i da će ti s vremenom izraziti dobrodošlicu u uvećanoj službi mog nebeskog kraljevstva."

Natanije progovori, postavljajući slijedeće pitanje Isusu: "Slušao sam tvoja učenja otkako si me prvi put pozvao u službu ovom kraljevstvu, ali priznajem da ne mogu shvatiti puno značenje svega što nam govoriš. Ne znam što bih sada očekivao i vjerujem da se većina moje braće osjeća jednako smetenim, samo što to oklijevaju priznati. Možeš li mi pomoći?" Stavljajući ruku na Natanijeva ramena, Isus reče: "Prijatelju, nije čudno što osjećaš smetenost nastojeći shvatiti značenje mojih duhovnih učenja zato što se povodiš za svojim krutim sujevjerjima vezanim za židovsku tradiciju i upornim nastojanjima da protumačiš moje evanđelje sukladno s učenjima književnika i farizeja.

"Dok sam te dosta poučio putem svojih riječi, živio sam život među vama. Učinio sam sve što je bilo moguće kako bih prosvijetlio vaše umove i oslobodio vaše duše, i to što niste bili u stanju naučiti iz mojih učenja i iz moga života, sada se morate spremati da naučite od tog svevišnjeg učitelja – istinskog iskustva. I pri cijelom ovom iskustvu koje vas sada očekuje, ja ću ići pred vama dok će Duh Istine biti s vama. Nemojte se plašiti; to što ovom prilikom niste u stanju shvatiti, ovaj će vam novi učitelj po svom dolasku obznanjivati do kraja vašeg zemaljskog života i tijekom obuke i školovanja u vječnosti."

I osvrćući se prema svima, Učitelj reče: "Nemojte se uznemiravati što niste u stanju shvatiti puno značenje ovog evanđelja. Vi ste konačni, smrtni ljudi, dok je ovo čemu vas učim beskonačno, božansko i vječno. Budite strpljivi i puni istinske hrabrosti kako vam predstoje vječna doba kad možete nastaviti s progresivnim postignućem iskustva dok postavljate savršeni kao što je savršen vaš Rajski Otac."

Isus zatim ode do Tome koje je ustajući sa stolice, čuo slijedeće riječi: "Tomo, tebi je često nedostajala vjera; unatoč tome, nakon što bi

seasons with doubt, you have never lacked courage. I know well that the false prophets and spurious teachers will not deceive you. After I have gone, your brethren will the more appreciate your critical way of viewing new teachings. And when you all are scattered to the ends of the earth in the times to come, remember that you are still my ambassador. Dedicate your life to the great work of showing how the critical material mind of man can triumph over the inertia of intellectual doubting when faced by the demonstration of the manifestation of living truth as it operates in the experience of spirit-born men and women who yield the fruits of the spirit in their lives, and who love one another, even as I have loved you. Thomas, I am glad you joined us, and I know, after a short period of perplexity, you will go on in the service of the kingdom. Your doubts have perplexed your brethren, but they have never troubled me. I have confidence in you, and I will go before you even to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Then the Master went over to Simon Peter, who stood up as Jesus addressed him: "Peter, I know you love me, and that you will dedicate your life to the public proclamation of this gospel of the kingdom to Jew and gentile, but I am distressed that your years of such close association with me have not done more to help you think before you speak. What experience must you pass through before you will learn to set a guard upon your lips? How much trouble have you made for us by your thoughtless speaking, by your presumptuous self-confidence! And you are destined to make much more trouble for yourself if you do not master this frailty. You know that your brethren love you in spite of this weakness, and you should also understand that this shortcoming in no way impairs my affection for you, but it lessens your usefulness and never ceases to make trouble for you. But you will undoubtedly receive great help from the experience you will pass through this very night. And what I now say to you, Simon Peter, I likewise say to all your brethren here assembled: This night you will all be in great danger of stumbling over me. You know it is written, 'The shepherd will be smitten and the sheep will be scattered abroad.' When I am absent, there is great danger that some of you will succumb to doubts and stumble because of what befalls me. But I promise you now that I will come back to you for a little while, and that I will then go before you into Galilee."

Then said Peter, placing his hand on Jesus' shoulder: "No matter if all my brethren should succumb to doubts because of you, I promise that I will not stumble over anything you may do. I will go with you and, if need be, die for you."

As Peter stood there before his Master, all atremble with intense emotion and overflowing with genuine love for him, Jesus looked straight into his

premostio svoje sumnje, nikad ti nije nedostajala hrabrost. Ja dobro znam da tebe neće zavarati lažni proroci i patvoreni učitelji. Nakon što ja budem otišao, tvoja će braća porasti u cijenjenju tvog kritičkog pogleda na nova učenja. I nakon što bude došao čas kad ćete biti raspršeni svaki na svoju stranu, ne zaboravite da ćete još uvijek biti moji poslanici. Posvetite svoj život velikom djelu demonstriranja činjenice da čovjekov kritički materijalni um uistinu može izvojevati pobjedu nad inercijom intelektualne sumnje pri ispoljenju žive istine koja djeluje u iskustvu muškaraca i žena rođenih od duha koji u svojim životima rađaju rodovima duha i koji se uzajamno vole onako kako sam ja vas volio. Tomo, drago mi je što si nam prišao i znam da ćeš nakon kraćeg razdoblja smetenosti nastaviti svoju službu u kraljevstvu. Dok si znao svojim sumnjama zbuniti svoju braću, ovo me nikada nije uznemirilo. Ja se uzdam u tebe i ići ću pred tobom do najudaljenijih dijelova svijeta."

Učitelj zatim ode do Šimuna Petra koji se podiže dok mu se Isus obraćao: "Petre, ja znam da me voliš i da ćeš posvetiti život javnom proglašenju ovog evanđelja kraljevstva Židovima i nežidovima, ali brine me činjenica da nakon svih ovih godina bliskog odnosa sa mnom nisi naučio promisliti o stvarima prije nego što o njima progovoriš. Što je to što bi te potaklo da stražariš nad svojim jezikom? Koliko si nam neopretnost izazvao svojim nepromišljenim govorom, svojim preuzetnim samopouzdanjem! I sigurno ćeš stvoriti još više problema samome sebi ako ne naučiš savladati ovu slabost. Ti znaš da te tvoja braća vole unatoč ovom nedostatku, i trebaš razumjeti da ovaj problem ni na koji način ne umanjuje moju ljubav prema tebi, ali on zbija umanjuje tvoju korisnost drugima, dok tebi neprestano stvara teškoće. Ali nesumnjivo će ti pri ovome uveliko pomoći ono što se treba dogoditi ove noći. I ovo što ti sada govorim, Šimune Petre, isto tako govorim svoj tvojoj braći koja su se ovdje okupila: Postoji opasnost da ćete se vi svi još noćas zbog mene pokolebati. Znaš da je zapisano: 'Udarit će pastira, i ovce će se razbjeći.' Nakon što ja odem, lako je moguće da će neki od vas podlijeći sumnjama i da će se pokolebati zbog onog što me bude snašlo. Ali ja vam obećavam da ću se uskoro vratiti i da ću ići pred vama u Galileju."

Petar zatim, polažući ruku na Isusovo rame, odgovori: "Ako se doista i svi pokolebaju zbog tebe, ja ipak neću; obećavam da se neću pokolebati zbog bilo čega što učiniš. Ja ću ići s tobom i ako treba, svoj ću život dati za te."

Dok Petar stajao pred Učiteljem, dok su svi podrhtavali od snažnih emocija preplavljeni iskrenom ljubavlju prema Isusu, on čvrsto pogleda u njegove

moistened eyes as he said: "Peter, verily, verily, I say to you, this night the cock will not crow until you have denied me three or four times. And thus what you have failed to learn from peaceful association with me, you will learn through much trouble and many sorrows. And after you have really learned this needful lesson, you should strengthen your brethren and go on living a life dedicated to preaching this gospel, though you may fall into prison and, perhaps, follow me in paying the supreme price of loving service in the building of the Father's kingdom.

"But remember my promise: When I am raised up, I will tarry with you for a season before I go to the Father. And even this night will I make supplication to the Father that he strengthen each of you for that which you must now so soon pass through. I love you all with the love wherewith the Father loves me, and therefore should you henceforth love one another, even as I have loved you."

And then, when they had sung a hymn, they departed for the camp on the Mount of Olives.

navlažene oči, govoreći: "Petre, zaista, zaista, kažem ti, sigurno pijetao neće zapjevati dok me ne zaniječeš tri ili četiri puta. I tako ćeš naučiti velikom mukom i mnogim patnjama ono što nisi naučio iz mirnog odnosa sa mnom. I nakon što istinski budeš naučio ovu vrijednu lekciju, ovim ćeš znanjem osnažiti svoju braću dok nastavite posvećivati život promicanju ovog evanđelja, dok je moguće da budete zatvoreni i da neki od vas plate najvišu cijenu za brižnu službu u izgradnji Očevog kraljevstva.

"Ali sjetite se moga obećanja: Nakon što budem podignut, ja ću biti s vama kraće vrijeme prije nego što odem k Ocu. I prije svršetka ove noći molit ću Oca da učvrsti svakog od vas kako bi bili u stanju podnijeti ono što vas čeka. Ja vas ljubim istom onom ljubavlju kojom Otac ljubi mene i vi imajte ljubavi jedan prema drugome onako kako sam ja ljubio vas."

I zatim, nakon što otpjevaše psalme, izidoše ne Maslinsku goru.