

**God Is With Us!**  
**Luke 24:13-16, 28-32 \* July 25, 2010**  
**McCabe UMC: Pastor Rick Fossum**

Do you remember Princess Diana? Her last words before she died in a car accident in Paris on August 30, 1997 were these four: “**My God! What’s happened,**” she said.

“**My God! What’s happened!**” Have you ever been there? You’re driving your car, minding your own business, enjoying the day and then *bam!* Someone runs into you and spoils your day!

Or, maybe you go to your doctor for your annual check up. After all the tests are run, your doctor sets you down and says, “**I’m afraid I have bad news for you!**”

Have you been there? Or maybe, you and your spouse are having trouble getting along. You never thought it would get this far, but you find a note on the table saying, “**I’m leaving you!**”

I could on and on, couldn’t I? Life is like that. In our heart of hearts, we want a smooth sailing kind-of-life ... no surprises please, no bumps, no detours, no bad news ... just sunny skies. We want our kids to grow up and be happy. We want our health to always be perfect and our jobs to always be rewarding and interesting. We want our friends to never forsake us. And yet ... it happens, doesn’t it? When we least expect it, life happens.

I have a good friend not from North Dakota. He has five grandchildren and he loves all five equally. A few weeks ago, his oldest grandson got into trouble with the law. Drinking and drugs were involved. The grandson is barely 21 years old. My good friends was devastated. He never saw it coming.

Do you know what I’m talking about? We make our plans for the good life and feel good about them and then something happens and upsets our lives. When we least expect it, life happens. What do we do? Where do we turn?

In our passage today from Luke, we heard about two disciples who were walking to Emmaus which was about seven miles north of Jerusalem. The two men were both sad and depressed. A few days earlier, they had seen their leader and their teacher and their friend hung from a cross. His name was Jesus.

They didn’t know what to do. What could they do? All of their hopes and

dreams for a new and better world had rested on Jesus and now he was gone. He was dead. It just didn't seem right or fair to them, but it happened.

Can you picture those two men and their despair? Just when the living was fine, this had to happen.

But wait! The story goes on. As they were walking, the two men are joined by a stranger. It's Jesus, but they don't recognize him. Later on in the evening, as they're sitting down having supper, their eyes are opened and they recognize their old friend. They said to each other, **“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”**

And then, just like that, the two men are given hope. When they were at their lowest point, God in Christ was with them.

Even though our lives don't always go as planned, we're not alone either ... never. God is with us.

This is one of the most powerful beliefs in our Christian religion. We're not alone ... never! God is with us: helping us, healing us, guiding us, teaching us and loving us. This is a basic part of our faith. God is our constant companion, always standing with us and helping us and seeing us through every part of life ... both the good parts and those not-so-good.

God is not some useless, dusty of the past who simply hangs around doing nothing. God is alive and real and can be a vital part of your life and mine.

Do me a favor. Sit back, close your eyes and try to imagine God. Imagine God sitting next to you. Can you see God? Can you feel God's presence? I want you to say to yourself, **“God is with me. God is with me.”** Are you saying it?

Now, I want you to say it out loud. **“God is with me. God is with me.”** I want you to say it several times today and tomorrow and keep saying it until it becomes your reality. **“God is with me.”** Make this your dominating thought in every part of your life.

Rev. Basil King, a Canadian pastor in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, once said, **“Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid.”** He was talking about God. He was talking about boldly claiming God's presence and boldly bringing all that God has to offer into your life.

**“God is with me.”** Say it again, **“God is with me.”**

It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who affirmed God’s presence when he wrote, **“They conquer who believe they can.”** Fill your mind with God, believing that God is always near ready to help you conquer whatever it is that you’re facing.

Are you having a bad day? God is with you. Are you upset? Depressed? Angry? Lonely? God is with you. **“They conquer who believe they can.”**

Years ago, a wealthy English family invited some friends to their estate in rural England. A tragedy almost happened on the first day. When the children were swimming in the pool, one of them got into deep water and started drowning. Fortunately, the gardener heard the child screaming and jumped into the pool and rescued the drowning child. That youngster’s name was Winston Churchill.

His parents, deeply grateful to the gardener, asked what they could do to reward him. He hesitated, then said, **“I’d like my son to go college someday and become a doctor.”**

**“We’ll pay his way,”** replied Churchill’s parents.

Years later, when Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of England, he had a severe case of pneumonia. Greatly concerned, one of England’s leading physicians was sent to Churchill’s bedside. The doctor’s name was Sir Alexander Fleming. He was the developer of penicillin. He was also *the son of that gardener who had saved Winston Churchill from drowning as a boy!*

Do you see how God works? When one door closes, God is with us to open new doors. When our options are few, when our life is at it’s darkest and lowest point, when helplessness and hopelessness are our only feelings, God is with us to show us new ways, to heal us and love us.

The key words are these: God is with us!

What’s going on in your life today? Is it smooth sailing for you with sunny skies? Great! Or, are you worried and troubled, facing problems that don’t seem to have solutions? **“God is with me.”**

Say it again, **“God is with me.”** And again, **“God is with me.”** Do I hear an amen?