



Encouraging Words

with DARLENE SALA

Oh, How I'll Love You

Richard Abanes wrote a beautiful love song meant to be sung at a wedding. The refrain goes,

And I'll honor you, I'll comfort you, abide with you forever.
I'll be true to you, stay near to you, forsake you never.
I will laugh with you, I will cry with you,
We will walk through life together;
And I'll love you, oh, how I'll love you.ⁱ

What bride wouldn't want to hear her husband-to-be pledge his love so beautifully—to promise always to love her, always to be there for her, walking through the experiences of life together. You know, I couldn't help thinking that this is also the kind of relationship God wants with each of us. More than anything God has demonstrated that He desires a bond with us. Why else does God call Himself our Father? Or why else is the body of Christ, made up of all believers, pictured as the bride of Christ?

When Jesus called the disciples, the Bible says, "He appointed twelve...that they might be with him" (Mark 3:14). Oh, yes, after that He sent them out to preach. But first, He called them to be with Him. That's how we get to know the Lord—by being with Him

Two men in the Bible, we're told, walked with God—Enoch and Noah (Gen. 5:22, 24; Genesis 6:9). No wonder they knew Him so well. If we just spend time walking and talking with God, we too will grow to be more like him. Sounds like marriage, doesn't it, where the more a couple is together, the more they begin to look alike.

Here's another thought. My husband knows beyond the shadow of a doubt that I love him. But he still wants to hear me tell him so every day—and so does God. How about a love song to God, where you promise, "I'll honor you, I'll be true to you, we will walk through life together; And I'll love you, oh how I'll love you."

ⁱ Words & Music by Richard Abanes © 1998