

DAY 32

A Promise to Receive

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

Leadership Affirmation

I surrender my leadership fears to the second imperative verb of the Great Commission.

I've often heard there is only one verb in the Great Commission: the imperative verb "make disciples." There is, in fact, a second verb, also an imperative. The imperative mood is used to give commands, often with an implied and emphatic *You!* as the subject.

Imperative verb number one states our *mission*: As we go about our duties each day, we are intentionally focused on making disciples. Each day, we seek opportunities to deepen our relationships with someone we are discipling. Each day, we seize the opportunity to deliver a reconciling word into their lives. That's the mission. It's not complex. It is straightforward. Go and make disciples.

Imperative verb number two states our *mindset*: We must remember who our Sovereign is, the extent of our Sovereign's domain, and how our Sovereign equips and enables His children. This imperative verb is variously translated *Lo!* Or *Behold!* Or *Remember!* It is not a mere reminder to remember a fact; it is an attention-grabbing command to *take notice* of a promise: You are not going on mission alone!

On the basis of His resurrection, Jesus announced that He had been given absolute and ultimate authority. His authority is not limited by the geopolitical lines that separate nations. It is universal. There is nowhere we can go that His authority does not hold sway. There is no one in heaven or on earth who is not subject to His sovereign reign. There is nowhere we can go where His reconciling word will not be persuasive. In effect, Jesus said, *Remember! I am investing the full weight and power of heaven itself in you and your words as you speak reconciliation to those who are alienated and estranged. I, even I, will be with you!*

As crucial as the mandate is and as important as the mission is, the method of accomplishment is grounded in the presence of Jesus Himself. We have the promise of both His power and His presence. We are not called to accomplish the mission in a vacuum. Jesus invests His authority in us and through us. *Lo! I am with you!*

Prayer for Protection

Father, no storms can assail my unwavering confidence in Your abiding presence.