

Why Community Groups?
Missionaries
8/23/2020

As we continue our series on Why Community Groups, we remind ourselves of our mission. And what is that mission? To know Christ and make Him known. Community groups exist to help us accomplish that mission. Our gathering here Sunday morning serves that purpose, but it does not fulfill every aspect of that purpose. We need more. We need to live life together as the family of God in small groups. We call them Community Groups.

We want our Community Groups to focus on three things: we are family, we are missionaries, and we are servants. Last week we talked about what the family of God looks like. This morning we are going to look at the importance of remembering that we are missionaries. Next week, John Marc will conclude talking about our Community Groups functioning together as servants.

By way of introduction to show the importance of being missionaries, of fulfilling our mission to make Christ known, I'd like to ask you a question. How did you come to saving faith in Jesus Christ? How did God save you? I'll tell you how it didn't happen. You didn't figure that out on your own. Someone told you that! You would never have understood that if someone didn't explain the gospel to you. Someone understood their mission: to know Christ and make Him known. Can you imagine removing the second half of that mission? To know Christ...and that's it? Scripture says our purpose is to be a disciple AND to make disciples. We are worshippers, and call others to worship. We are to know Him and make Him known. That is why Romans 10:14–15 says, "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!'"

The proclamation of the gospel from the lips of His people is the God-ordained means of bringing about the salvation He planned before the foundation of the world.

We must make Him known. We are called to be missionaries. And like last week, this is something we do together as the body of Christ. We believe fulfilling our God-ordained role of being missionaries happens best in the context of Community Groups. There are no lone rangers in the Christian faith. We will fulfill our role as missionaries better together than we ever will alone.

This morning we will turn to a familiar text of Scripture that clearly explains our mission of making Christ known. It is called the Great Commission and it is found in Matthew 28:18–20. These are the last words recorded in the book of Matthew. And last words are often of first importance. Let's read it together.

Matthew 28:18–20, "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.””

This is our mission—make disciples. As we look at our mission in this passage, we see three aspects of our mission.

- 1) The Power for Making Disciples
- 2) The Plan for Making Disciples
- 3) The Promise for Making Disciples

Here Jesus commands the universal mission of the Church; the mission of ever true believer here today; the mission of every true believer since the day of Pentecost—to make disciples of all nations. To do that, He explains the power that is behind this mission, the plan by which we will execute that mission, and the promise to take with us on that mission

I. The Power for Making Disciples

The main point of this passage is clear. You could read it yourself and catch it. Christ was not trying to be *clever*, He was trying to be *clear*. Our mission is to make disciples of all nations. He could have just said that and then said, “K, I’ll see you guys later when I return in glory.” But instead of just telling us our mission, He surrounds the mission with two powerful statements—a statement of *authority* which ensures the mission will succeed, and a statement of *promise* that ensures our security.

He tells His disciples, and the Church, here is the mission; I’m will accomplish my mission; and I will never abandon you in the mission. It would be foolish to jump into our mission without remembering these things. And I believe that when the Church loses its focus on its mission, it is usually because it has lost focus of Christ’s authority and His promise. So let’s first look at Christ’s authority.

This really is an amazing statement isn’t it. “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.” *All* authority. If we really understood that and believed that, it would change everything wouldn’t it?! There is not a rogue molecule in this universe that is not under the absolute authority of Christ our Savior. He said in Matthew 11:27, “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” All things have been handed over to Jesus by the Father.

Colossians 1:15–17 says, “He [that is, Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” He created all things, including every authority. There is no authority that is outside of His authority. Which is exactly what Romans 13:1 says, “For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” There is only one absolute authority, and it is found in Christ.

He created everything, including every authority that exists, and He *sustains* everything. He holds all things together. Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus, “upholds *all* things by the word of His power.” There is not a human breath that happens on this planet that is not dependent upon Jesus Christ.

Jesus declared His absolute authority to accomplish the mission of building His Church earlier in Matthew. He said in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” I *will* build my Church. Who will build the Church? Christ will build the Church. Our commanding officer never abdicates the responsibility of this mission to anyone else. He uses His people but never places its ultimate success in the hands of another. “I will build my Church.”

All authority! With that knowledge, is there any chance, even the smallest chance, that what Christ sets out to do might not happen? No. Absolutely not. Christ intends for us to have a robust theology of His sovereignty as we engage in our mission. Why? He does this to encourage us!

Imagine you are a commanding officer embarking on a mission into enemy territory. And you say to those under you, “There’s a high probability our mission will fail. We’re totally outmatched, outnumbered, and outwitted. They’ve got better technology, better training, and better experience. And if we do somehow accomplish our small mission, I have no guarantees that it will have any impact on the war at large. So we may be going to our death, and that death will likely be futile in the grand scheme of things. Who’s ready!?” I doubt you would get a very hearty response.

That is not how Christians enter into the battle. The victory is certain. The mission will succeed. There is no power that can contend with our commander. As we sang in *O Church Arise*, “When faced with trials on every side, we know the outcome is secure. And Christ will have the prize for which He died, an inheritance of nations.”

Our mission is backed by our Savior who has all authority in heaven and on earth. Every trial advances the mission. Every apparent roadblock moves us in the direction we ought to go. Every enemy who tries to thwart us functions as an unwilling servant of our Lord. Even Babylon is used by God to His purposes.

Let me just read you a few more passages to build the rock-solid foundation of God’s Sovereignty. Isaiah 46:9–11, “9 Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.”

Psalm 115:3, “But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.”

Romans 11:36, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”

We could go on and on. We have a rock-solid foundation of the total and complete authority of Christ to accomplish all His purposes. No one, and nothing, can thwart Him. No one, and nothing, can subvert Him. He will build His Church!

Does this have any practical implication on our mission? I believe it does. Let me draw out some of them for us based on the absolute authority of our Savior.

The battle is won! Really from God’s perspective, it was won before the foundation of the world. And from God’s perspective, there was never any chance He would fail in His purposes. He has all authority.

What are we afraid of? We are guaranteed victory! What could possibly go wrong? He has all authority.

The power is not in the messenger, but in the message. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” All authority has been given to Christ, not to you and me! The gospel is the power that saves, not the messenger. It is the treasure that saves, not the vessel that houses it. 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.” Weakness is not a liability with God, it is an asset.

We sow the seed, but God gives the growth. Understanding the sovereignty and authority of God helps us understand our mission. If you think of the parable of the sower, our job is to throw seed. God’s job is to cause the growth. Or as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6–8, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.” God rewards us based on our faithfulness, not based on our “converts.” Only God saves a person.

Sometimes I think we are reluctant to share our faith because of the frustration that comes from what appears to be a lack of success. You’ve talked to a family member for years, but they continue to reject Christ. You’ve tried to talk about spiritual matters with a friend, but they always shut you down. You’ve labored over your children, but they have yet to repent.

When I was in the music industry, I ended up on a gig that kept me away 20-25 days a month for 9 months. No one on that tour was a believer. I did my best, with some failures, to be a witness for Christ to everyone I was on the road with. I had some really good conversations, and some really not good conversations. At the end of it, no one professed faith in Christ. And I admit, that after so much time with those people day in and day out, it was disheartening to think of that. I mean, what was the point? My sweet wife reminded me that we don’t always get to know what role we play in God’s plan.

It was over a year later that my brother was talking to the boyfriend of that artist. And he told my brother that recently he saw her reading a Bible, which was not a particularly normal practice for her. When he asked her what she was doing, her response was, “I just really miss Jesse.”

That was a huge encouragement from the Lord for me and brought tears to my eyes. When she thought of me, she turned to her Bible. That’s what I want my life to be about—pointing people to Christ. I want to decrease so that He will increase. To this day, I know of no profession of faith by her, but we never know what role we play in people’s lives when it comes to the gospel. We know our mission—make disciples. But we don’t always know how God is using us in His purpose.

William Carey, often referred to as the father of the modern missionary movement, served for 7 years in India before he saw his first convert. Seven years. We will never know the impact Carey had until we are in Heaven. Christ has all authority to accomplish this mission. What He is looking for is faithfulness from His people. That’s why we read the parable of the sower earlier. Christ wants us to be faithful with what He’s given us. We sow the seed. He causes the growth. So don’t let a seeming lack of success prevent you fulfilling your mission.

What does this have to do with our Community Groups? Do you ever forget things? Do you ever lose your focus? Do you ever get distracted? Do you ever forget that God is totally in control? Sure you do! That's what the family of God is for! We're designed to fulfill our mission together. Maybe this morning you are realizing that you have forgotten about the absolute sovereignty of your Savior. Maybe you mentally assent to it, but how is it changing your life in regards to your mission? We need to encourage one another with Christ's authority.

It is this foundation that pushes us next to the plan and the purpose of our mission. Verse 19 starts with the word, "therefore." Jesus is saying, "*because* I am sovereign Lord of the universe and all authority is mine, go and make disciples." So now that we understand the power behind making disciples, we can move to the plan for making disciples.

II. The Plan for Making Disciples

The mission is clear—make disciples. How are we going to do that? How did God plan to accomplish this mission? The answer comes in verses 19–20a. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you." In these three verses, there is technically only one command. That command is our mission. Make disciples. There are three supporting words for that command. The first is go, the second is baptizing, and the third is teaching. So when we think about how to accomplish our mission, our mandate, three words should come to mind. Go. Baptize. Teach.

I need to get into the grammar here with you for just a minute. As I said there is one command, one imperative in these verses. Made disciples. There are three participles. What is a participle? Well the basic English equivalent is taking a word and adding "ing" to the end of it. "Go" is a regular verb. "I go to work." Hit is a regular verb. "I hit the ball." But "going" is a participle and changes the meaning. "I am going to work." "He is hitting the ball." So what does this all mean?

What it means is this—we are commanded to make disciples. These three participles describe *how* we do that. If I was a general contractor I'd say, "build that house." The sub-contractors say, "how?" Well by excavating the ground, laying the foundation, framing the walls, and so on. *How* do we make disciples? What is Christ's plan for us to accomplish our mission? Going. Baptizing. Teaching.

So let's start with **going**. You're thinking, "The plan is going?" That doesn't sound very complicated. Or perhaps that sounds kind of vague. But it's incredibly important. The plan for our mission is to do it *while you are going*. We could say, "having gone," make disciples. Having gone were? That's the beauty of it—everywhere! Our mission is always the same no matter where we go or what we do. You're not on mission sometimes and off mission other times. You're not on duty sometimes and off duty other times. You're not on call sometimes an on vacation other times. We are those who go. We are "sent ones." Jesus said in John 20:21, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Think about being a Navy Seal behind enemy lines. Are you ever "off mission?" No! It doesn't matter if you're sleeping, eating, advancing, retreating, or attacking, all of it is designed to serve the mission. We too are always on mission. The plan, the method by which we accomplish our mission, is in our everyday lives. Our mission is accomplished *while we are*

going. It's really more of an assumption than a command. You're going to go, and as you do, remember your mission.

Cornerstone, your mission is no different right now than it is tomorrow at 9 am. Men, women, moms, dads, grandparents, students...you are always on mission. And I say "Cornerstone" because here again we see the collective nature of this plan like we saw last week in the book of Ephesians. I know you thought you weren't going to have to listen to me say y'all again, but you were wrong! Because the command here is "y'all make disciples!" And the participles are all plural as well. "Y'all make disciples while y'all are going, and y'all are baptizing, and 'y'all are teaching." We are on mission together.

Think about the beauty of the collective nature of this command. I may not go where you go, and you may not go where I go. And none of us will go where others will. But God has it covered. I'm not regularly rubbing shoulders with astrophysicists, but when I was in the music industry, I had the opportunity to interact with musicians. They need Jesus just like the scientist or the police officer, or the engineer. And it's not just about the workplace. You have access to neighbors, parents of your kids' friends, co-ops. As long as there are people where you go, you can be on mission. The plan for making disciples is to do it while you go.

Being in the music industry is a tough thing. Anyone who has been self-employed knows a bit of what it's like. You never know when another job will come, and just because you have one now, doesn't mean you'll have one in the future. But what was interesting about that gig I mentioned earlier was I had just come back from a Christian retreat and I was convicted that I was asking God too much to give me a gig so I could make money and provide for my family. Obviously, that is important to. But I was convicted that I needed to be praying for ministry opportunity. Wherever we go is our ministry. So I started praying and I got that gig within a month of praying that. I'd never had that kind of gospel opportunity with unbelievers in my life.

Let's never forget that God's plan is that we make disciples as we go. Whether God has you go right where you are, or sends you around the world, wherever you go—make disciples.

Next, let's look at the plan for making disciples with the words **baptizing and teaching**. What does this mean? It means that there are only two kinds of people in the world—unbelievers and believers. There are those who need to come to know Christ for the first time, or they need to grow in their relationship with Christ. Baptizing and teaching means evangelism and discipleship. It means proclaiming the gospel to a lost world and building up the body of Christ. As you go, make disciples, and making disciples happens in two ways—evangelizing the lost, and teaching the found. I grew up hearing this as E²—evangelism and edification. However you remember it, this is what it means to make disciples.

There are only two legitimate relationships for the child of God. You are either in relationship to proclaim the gospel, or you are in a relationship to disciple a believer. The Bible knows of no other legitimate relationships. If you are in a relationship with someone simply to make money together, or read books together, or play games together, or join political forces together, and your aim is not the proclamation of the gospel or helping them grow in Christ, you have lost sight of your mission.

I'd like to read you a quote from Charles Spurgeon.

"Once more, he who really has this high estimate of Jesus will think much of him, and as the thoughts are sure to run over at the mouth, he will talk much of him. Do we

so? If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself; you will be whispering it into your child's ear; you will be telling it to your husband; you will be earnestly imparting it to your friend; without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent; your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of his sweet love. Every Christian here is either a missionary or an impostor. Recollect that. You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ, or else you do not love him at all. It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about him . . . but that man who says, ‘I believe in Jesus,’ but does not think enough of Jesus ever to tell another about him, by mouth, or pen, or tract, is an impostor.”

Do you love your kids? I bet you talk about them. Do you have a favorite sports team? I bet you talk about them. Do you have a favorite book? I bet you talk about it. Do you have views on our current events? I bet you talk about them.

Do you love Jesus? Do you love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Do you talk about Him? If you feel that sting of conviction, I feel it too. I have failed my savior more times than I would like to recall. But if we love Jesus, we will proclaim Him.

I think Spurgeon is right. I think our understanding of how great our Savior is and how great our salvation is, will be the antidote to a silent tongue. One of the greatest hurdles to sharing our faith is the love of self. Really, the problem is I love myself too much and I don't love Christ enough. I'm more concerned about me—my reputation, my comfort, my relationships—than I am about Christ. Fulfilling the great commandment, to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, will flow over to the second commandment, to love our neighbor as ourself. Are you glad someone told you about Christ? Are you glad He saved you? Are you glad you don't have to pay for your sins because Christ paid for them? Don't you think others want to hear that good news?

1 Peter 2:9 says, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” What is our purpose as the people of God? To proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us! That's why we are here.

If we as a Church get so wrapped up in “doing” things, even good things, but fail to make disciples, we have failed. Our Community Groups very naturally fill the discipleship, or teaching, aspect of making disciples. But part of the purpose of our groups is to encourage and help one another evangelize the lost. When someone has an unbelieving family member or co-worker or neighbor, we should pray for those people as a group.

But we should also help one another speak up for Christ. We should help one another come up with ways to engage and interact with unbelievers for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel. You could have some of your CG members over for dinner and invite a neighbor to join. If you're nervous about sharing your faith, you can tag team. We can hold each other accountable. We can encourage one another with ways to bridge the conversation to spiritual matters. We can help each other be more effective witnesses.

The family of God is most effective when we operate as the body of Christ. Scripture uses the body illustration to show the importance of unity through diversity. 1 Corinthians 12:17–20 makes this very point, “If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member,

where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body.” A foot can’t do what the hand can, and it’s not supposed to! But a foot can get the hand where it needs to go so the hand can do what it is designed to do. God designed us to function better together.

1 Peter 3:15 is a key verse when it comes to staying on mission. Peter says, “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.” Did you notice the similar connection between the Lordship of Christ, or His authority, and proclaiming His name? Both passages are founded on His complete authority, thus demonstrating the power behind the mission.

Peter then says we should always be ready to make a defense for the hope that is in us. Are you ready? Are you prepared? Do you have a defense? Are you on mission? Are you viewing every relationship as an opportunity to share the gospel or encourage the saints? Can you articulate a defense for the hope that is in you? I think this is one reason many are unwilling to share their faith. They say, “I’m not an amazing defender of the faith? I don’t know all the answers about where the Bible came from, or how it lines up with modern science, or how to prove miracles.” I would encourage you to grow in your knowledge and confidence of the faith, but do you know what an appropriate defense is? I once was lost, but now I’m found. I was a sinner, and God saved me by His grace. I didn’t deserve it, but I saw the amazing truth of the gospel and I put my faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And I’ve never looked back. That’s a defense. Who is going to argue with that?

John Newton, who wrote the hymn Amazing Grace which says, “I once was lost by now am found,” also said, “I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am.” And every genuine Christian has at least that defense to share with people. I’m not who I was. Do you want to know about my Savior? Always be ready. Always be on mission.

But there’s another really important question we need to ask ourselves. Are we living our lives in such a way that people will notice a hope in us that is worth asking? Is there something different about us? Last week we talked about love being the mark of the family of God. The world will know we are followers of Jesus by our love for one another. But they will also know us by our hope. And I think it’s worth mentioning that now is a fantastic time for our hope to shine.

My dad always told me growing up, “Jesse, it’s hard to tell a difference between the Christians and the non-Christians when the market is great, but when it tanks, then you know who the real Christians are.” That’s when our hope shines through. It is God’s grace to a lost world to get their attention through difficulty and suffering. And that time is now. The world is living in fear and anxiety. Their false hope is being stripped away. People are scared. Scared of the virus. Scared of each other. Scared of the future. People are suffering. They have lost their jobs. They can’t see their loved ones. They can’t go to the doctor. They can’t support their families. These are the very things that cause people to question life.

Christian, you have a hope! An imperishable hope! It is unchanged in good times and bad times, sickness or health, riches or poverty. For you, to live is Christ, and to die is gain! Now is the time to be people of hope. Use these circumstances to talk to the people you know who don’t have hope. Ask them where they find peace in a world that seems to have no peace? Ask them

how they fight anxiety. Ask them what worries them right now. And then be ready to tell them about the hope you have in Christ.

But don't just do this by yourself. Do this with the help and support of your brothers and sisters in Christ. This is why our Community Groups must focus on being missionaries. We are not just a holy huddle. Jesus said in John 10:16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd." Christ has other sheep. And He brings them in through the proclamation of His people. We have a mission—make disciples, and we have a plan for that mission—going, baptizing, teaching.

The power for making disciples is the absolute authority of Christ our Savior. The mission will never fail. It never could fail. The plan for making disciples is going, baptizing, and teaching. As we go, we evangelize and we disciple. Now we come to the promise for making disciples.

III. The Promise for Making Disciples

The promise comes at the end of verse 20. These are the last words of Matthew's gospel. The last thing the Holy Spirit wanted us to remember from this amazing account of the life of Christ is this: "And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." I am with you always. This is just a demonstration of the lavish grace of God. He already told us that all authority has been given to Him and the outcome is secure. Do we need more security than that?

But our Lord doesn't just *send us* on our mission, He *goes with us* on our mission.

Can you believe it? We read from John 20:21 that Jesus said, as the Father has sent me, so I send you." But here we read, "I am with you always." It would be encouraging to you if before you went into battle the general told you we are going to win. It's a done deal. But there would be a whole other level of confidence if he were right next to you in the trenches. Not only will the mission succeed, but you will never be lost.

Many find it difficult to share their faith because of fear. I think we all understand this. I have felt it myself. Do you know how to fight fear? Do you know how to fight anxiety? Do you know how to fight despair? **Promises.** God gives us promises to help us fight against our faulty view of this world.

I'm afraid! *I am with you always.*

I'm anxious! *I am with you always.*

I feel like giving up! *I am with you always.*

I don't know how to make disciples! *I am with you always.*

What if people hate me? *I am with you always.*

What if my family disowns me? *I am with you always.*

What if I lose my job? *I am with you always.*

What if...? *I am with you always. Even to the end of the age.*

What can go wrong? What could possibly dissuade us from fulfilling our mission? Why would we not engage in making disciples? Christ wins, and we will reign with Him in glory. He will never fail, and we will never fall. I don't mean we are perfect. I mean we will never ultimately

fall. He has all authority, and He uses that authority on our behalf. He saves, we simply go, baptize, and teach. He rules the universe from on high, but He is right next to us.

And this is just *one* of the precious promises we have. Listen to these words:

John 10:27–30 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.” You can never be taken out of the loving hand of your Father.

Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” The same Spirit that indwelt the apostles and disciples at Pentecost is the same Spirit that indwells us.

2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” The Spirit is working in us to displace fear with power and love and discipline. He hasn’t left you; He’s working on you.

Hebrews 13:5–6, “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, 6 so that we confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?’’’ The Lord is our helper! We will not be afraid! What can man do to us?!

Is there any excuse, any fear, any concern, or any other reason you can think of to not dedicate your life to making disciples that this promise and Christ’s absolute authority, does not dispel? We don’t need to live in fear. We need to live by faith. Even if you die for making disciples, death is a promotion to the presence of God.

We all have the same mission. To know Christ and make Him known. To make disciples of all nations. The absolute authority of Christ ensures the victory. The plan is going, baptizing, and teaching. The promise is “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” And we do this together as the body of Christ.