



Prayer Journal **DAY 23**

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:18-20

"Missional living" is a church phrase that brings about confusion and even apprehension for many followers of Christ (myself included). We know that as believers in Christ, we are subject to the message He delivered to His disciples shortly after His resurrection. His Great Commission, as we now refer to it, defined the mission of the church and for us as members of it. We are tasked with carrying on the mission He set forth for his earliest followers. While this seems pretty simple, it can feel like a daunting task.

Merriam-Webster defines a mission statement as: "Something that states the purpose or goal of a business or organization." Many of us have functioned under the mission statement of the company for which we work. We live into its words as we act as agents for the company, and we strive to uphold its meaning and values as we carry out the company's business. Why then is it so hard for us to grasp missional living as it pertains to our discipleship of Christ? Perhaps it's a product of our comprehension of the language Jesus uses to communicate the mission statement for his "organization." "All nations" makes our mission seem like it's an "over there" thing, existing away from our normal walks of life and our daily interactions. Or maybe we don't feel qualified to join in on the task He gave to our ancestors in the faith.

In reality, Jesus calls us into his mission where we are, as we are. Maybe it's supporting a co-worker going through a tough time at home, or perhaps being more intentional with our actions after we tell someone, "I'll be praying for you." Jesus didn't intend to create barriers for His disciples to share the Gospel. He intended for us to view our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, churches, cities, social media feeds, etc. as our part of "all nations." He's willing to use us in our current state, as broken and unqualified as we may feel. He has a job for each of us, where we are, as we are.

P R A Y E R

Father, I'm here, and I want to be more open to being an active part of your mission. Help me recognize the opportunities you give me to show your love to the members of all nations that I interact with every day. Help me realize your presence in my life, where I am, as I am. May I feel your embrace as I share your love in my home, neighborhood, workplace, community and all of the places you lead me, regardless of how close or far away that may be. Amen

Written by: T.J. Thompson

