

Make disciples of all nations

The Risen Jesus had called the disciples to meet him on a mountain in Galilee. The disciples were on their way, hurrying up the steep path. Peter, balding and overweight, was remembering all the other mountains he had climbed with Jesus. Glancing back he saw his familiar Galilee below—a blue blanket of water smoothed flat among the surrounding foothills.

Peter had climbed a mountain to hear Jesus preach the beatitudes; he had climbed a mountain to be in the dazzling light when Jesus was transfigured; he had climbed the Mount of Olives when Jesus ascended into the skies. Now, here he was again, legs aching, heart pounding, gasping for air, climbing mountains for Jesus.

The figure at the top of the mountain was silhouetted in sunlight. It was hard to make out the details. Peter's eyes tried to focus. The other disciples were all well ahead of Peter. When he saw them dropping to their knees, Peter knew it was Jesus standing at the top.

Jesus appeared before them in sharp reality. Peter clutched his heaving chest and gratefully dropped to his knees. It was overwhelming—Jesus presence filled not only his eyes, but filled his heart. Exhaustion was instantly replaced with soaring joy.

For the disciples, the rapture of this intense oneness with Jesus erased the world below them. Time was suspended. The sounds of the world were muffled and only the clear words of Jesus could be heard.

Andrew felt as if the sky were not only above him but below him as well. The vision of Jesus seemed to lift him into a crystal clearness.

Jesus walked toward them and proclaimed: "Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

A revelation swept Peter's mind. God the Father sent his son Jesus who sends his Spirit. And Peter began to know that he was a servant to the Spirit. Jesus continued. "Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!"



The disciples had been fearful when Jesus commanded them to go to all nations baptizing and teaching. But the monumental task seemed simple now that Jesus had said he would be with them always. Peter smiled confidently. The whole world was waiting and he was excited to begin his ministry.

Jesus had filled him with his Spirit. Now anything would be possible.



How well are we modern-day Christians doing with Jesus commandment to go out and preach to all nations? How are we doing with just ourselves. Have we made ourselves disciples of Jesus? Have we lived up to our own baptism? Have we carried out everything Jesus has commanded? Do we know that Jesus is with us always, until the end of the world?