

When Jesus' Presence Isn't Enough

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

MATTHEW 28:20

Written by Bill Perkins

Jesus promised His presence
as we step into disciple-making.

But what does that presence mean?

Is it a feeling I'd have
if I were spiritual enough?

Is it the rush
of immediate answers to prayer?

If so, I'd have to admit:
I don't always feel something,
and I don't always see
the answers I hope for.

So His presence must mean
something different.
Something better.

To see it, look back
at what His physical presence meant
to the disciples.

A boat.

A storm.

Water rising fast.

They're fighting
to keep the boat from going under.

And Jesus?

Asleep in the stern.

Present? Yes.

But asleep.

"Teacher, don't You care
that we're perishing?"
they cry (Mark 4:38).

With two commands,
He silences the wind
and stills the waves.

Here's the deeper issue:
they never doubted His presence.
They doubted His care.

And isn't that where we struggle?

Presence alone isn't comforting.
A stranger can be present.
A sleeping soldier can be present.
A distracted friend can be present.

The "better" is not mere nearness.
It is caring nearness.
Active nearness.
Committed nearness.

When we can't feel Him,
or see Him work,
or trace His hand in the moment,
He still cares.
He's still with us.

Like a guard
standing watch in the dark,
He is present
even when we cannot see Him.

Like the tide
pulling beneath the surface,
His work is steady,
unseen,
unstoppable.

That's the promise.

"I am with you always"
is not emotion,
not quick answers,

not visible results.

It's a settled reality.

The One who sends us
goes with us.

That is the promise
that makes the mission possible.

You may not know this about Jesus:
His presence doesn't fade when our feelings do.

Where am I tempted to mistake God's quietness
for a lack of care?

Jesus' presence is never passive.
His care is constant,
even when His work is hidden
and His voice is quiet.

Father, thank You for the promise
that Jesus is with me always.
Guard my heart from believing the lie
that Your silence means You don't care.
Teach me to trust Your presence
when I cannot feel it,
and Your care
when I cannot see it.
In Jesus' name, amen.