

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

THURSDAY BLOG

Leadership is Hard

BY BRYAN MARTINEZ

In August of 2023, I attended the Global Leadership Summit in Chicago. This is a leadership conference, with many church and business leaders from all over the world gathering in one place. The conference is faith-based, with Christian leaders like Craig Groeschel leading the way.

They played an interview that GLS had with Dallas Jenkins, the director and creator of the hit series “The Chosen.” He spoke about a time when he was working in Hollywood, directing movies and working with stars. He explained there was a movie he had directed and helped produce that completely flopped when it hit the box office. To this day, it’s still considered one of the worst flops of all time in the movie industry. The failure basically pushed him out of Hollywood.

One night while he was at his computer, a message popped up from a friend of his on Facebook. Dallas explained that he really didn’t know the guy very well, that it was an acquaintance of an acquaintance. The message didn’t say, “Hey Dallas, how are you?” or “It’s been a while!” The message simply said this: “Remember, it’s not your job to feed the 5,000. All God is asking you to do is to provide the loaves and the fish.”

This quote resonated with me. At that time, I was at the end of my ministry rope. I was burnt out. I was frustrated with my current ministry situation. It looked as though ministry wasn’t my calling. I was trying to do everything. But sometimes, things are out of our control. It’s not our job to “feed the 5,000.” It’s our job to “bring our loaves and fish” to Jesus, trusting that he will do amazing things with it.

Dallas went back to work at a church as part of their creative arts team, producing and directing short films for their church services. He created a short film called “The Shepherd,” highlighting the shepherds’ point-of-view for the night of Jesus’ birth. Some executives from a “small” company called “Peacock” got a hold of it and wanted to make it into a TV series that we now know as “The Chosen.” Dallas explained he was skeptical, especially since the entire project would be crowd funded. But he chose to “bring his loaves and fish,” trusting Jesus with the rest.

Today, “The Chosen” is currently working on its season 6 release. It’s streaming on platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Peacock. They have their own app on smart TVs and smartphones. They have their own merchandise. They even have their own Bible studies that you can purchase to do while watching the show. And as of February 2026, “The Chosen” has broken the Guinness World Record for the most translated season of a series, with 125 different languages available to see the life of Jesus and his disciples portrayed. The goal is 600 languages.

This weekend Bobby D is back in town with a 2-week series called “Never Quit.” This weekend we’ll be in Philippians 1:27-30, where Paul is urging the church in Philippi to “stand together in one spirit and one purpose.” Being a leader is hard. And sometimes, we want to quit. But Paul urges us to keep going; to stand firm in our faith, even when it’s hard. Galatians 6:9 tells us “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” Dallas could’ve easily given up. He could’ve said, “This making movies and directing thing isn’t for me.” But he stuck with it. He didn’t give up. He never quit. I pray this story inspires you to join us this weekend.

Finally, I want to say “Thank You.” Thank you for the kind and encouraging words during this time of leadership while Bobby & Connie have been away. Thank you for your constant support through prayer. Thank you for giving your time, talent, and treasure to a place called Journey Community Christian Church. Be sure to welcome Bobby & Connie back this weekend. Thank them for their endless leadership of Journey Church. We really are better together. God is good!

**NEVER
QUIT**