

Go and Make Disciples

September 27, 2020

Matthew 28:16-20

The mission of the Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel through all the world and **by making disciples** who make disciples.

Introduction: Matthew 28:18-20 has been commonly called the “Great Commission.”

I. What is a **commission**?

To *commission* someone is to formally choose them to do a special task or duty, and to give them the authority and power to do it.

II. Who is doing the **commissioning**?

- A. Jesus who was crucified and has risen from the dead (vv. 5-7)
- B. Jesus who now has been given all authority in heaven and earth (v. 18)

III. Who is being **commissioned**? (Is this only a commission for “great” Christians?)

- A. Jesus appeared to more than five hundred brothers at the same time. (I Corinthians 15:6)
- B. So, in reality, Jesus gave this commission to *every* person who follows Him.

IV. What is **the task** Jesus commissions us to do?

- A. The command: “**make disciples**” – reborn followers of Jesus Christ
- B. Three dimensions to this task:

- 1) Deliverance: Making disciples begins with witnessing and evangelism, the part of the Great Commission that tells us to **baptize them**.
- 2) Development: Making disciples continues with developing them as followers of Christ, the part of the Great Commission that tells us to be **teaching to observe all that [Jesus] commanded**.
- 3) Deployment: Making disciples is not complete until we send them to make disciples themselves where they live, work, and play. This comes from the part of the Great Commission that tells us to “**go**” (or “*as you go*”).

- C. The scope: “**of all nations**” – every distinct ethnic people group

V. What **power** is given to us to fulfill this commission?

I am with you always (v.20) – the promise of His presence and power

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'Connecting' Questions:

- 1) Who were the people that God used in your life to lead you to become a follower of Christ?
- 2) We use the term "witnessing" to mean telling our own story of how God worked in our life so that we became a follower of Christ. Could you "witness" to somebody if you only had 5 minutes to do so? What would be the essential aspects of your story that you would want to include?

NOTE: Your group may want to consider having different group members share their witnessing story over the next few weeks.

- 3) How can we support you in prayer this week?

'Applying the Word' Questions:

- 1) Dan cited a 2018 Barna Research Group poll that asked churchgoers the question: *Have you heard of the Great Commission?* More than half answered they had never heard the term. Discuss your familiarity or unfamiliarity with the term and its meaning (prior to Dan's sermon).
- 2) The famous missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, said "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." Discuss what you think might have prompted Taylor to make such a statement.
- 3) Dan taught that Jesus gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) not just to the eleven apostles, but to the surrounding crowd of His followers (I Corinthians 15:3-6), and therefore by implication to *every follower of Christ*. Discuss the implications of this being a commission for every believer until Christ returns.
- 4) At the heart of the Great Commission is the command to **make disciples**. A *disciple* is a learner and a follower committed to a significant master. Discuss what it means for you personally to be a *disciple* of Jesus.
- 5) Jesus calls us to *make disciples* by **baptizing them**, which Dan taught is the public profession of their decision to follow Jesus, resulting from our witnessing and evangelizing. Have you been baptized? If you have, how did it publicly profess that you were now following Christ? If you haven't been baptized, what is holding you back from making this public profession?
- 6) Jesus also calls us to *make disciples* by **teaching them to observe all that [He] commanded**. What have been some of the most helpful ways that you have been *taught* how to follow Jesus?
- 7) Jesus tells us to *make disciples* as we **go** out from the church to where we live, work, and play. Discuss what holds us back from "going," and what can motivate us to a lifestyle of "going."