

Matt. 28:16-20: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
¹⁷ & when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ & Jesus came & said to them, "**All** authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore & make disciples of **all** nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe **all** that I have commanded you. & behold, I am with you **always [all the days]**, to the end of the age."

Intro: Last Sunday we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ! He is risen! Jesus rose from the dead so that you might glorify Him & enjoy Him forever! Today, we start a two part series on what has become known as the great commission. This is important because this is the mission statement of our church - & it should be the mission of all churches! This is what we are to be about: this is our life, our mission, our purpose, our holy ambition!

1) Because Jesus has all authority in heaven & on earth, & because Jesus will always be with you: go & make disciples of all nations. 2) Jesus is the ever present King! He reigns over the whole world! So go make disciples of all nations!

1. Jesus Commands The Great Commission From A Mountain

Matt. 28:16: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

a. The disciples go: They obey! Disciples of Jesus obey Jesus! By His presence & power they obey!

b. Jesus' disciples go to Galilee: This is where Jesus grew up – this is where it all began! This is where Jesus was baptized by John & began His public ministry. This is where Jesus did 80% of His ministry: walked on water, calmed the storm, fed the 5,000, healed the sick, cast out demons, caused the blind to see & the deaf to hear, made the lame to walk, raised people from the dead, preached the sermon on the mount!

- **Matt. 4:15:** Galilee of the Gentiles

c. Jesus is perfect Israel: Remember Israel: Called God's Son (Ex. 4:22); Called out of Egypt; Baptized in the Red Sea; Led into the wilderness to be tested; In the wilderness for 40 years

- **Jesus Is The Only Perfect Israelite:** Jesus is God's Son; Called out of Egypt; Baptized by John; Led into the wilderness to be tempted; In the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights; Then He preaches the greatest sermon ever preached: The Sermon On The Mount – Like Moses on Mount Sinai – Jesus is the true & better Moses:

- **Matt. 5:1-3:** Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, & when he sat down, his disciples came to him. & he opened his mouth & taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus is God's perfect Son in Whom God is well pleased! Yet, He was cut off & exiled for sinners! **GOSPEL!**

Nick Batzig: Jesus, the Son of Abraham, is therefore the true Israel. He goes down into Egypt, comes up from Egypt, passes through the waters (see 1 Cor. 10:1-2 for a reference to the crossing of the sea as baptism), goes into the wilderness, goes up on the mountain to deliver the law, miraculously multiplies bread from heaven, parallels the life of David & his mighty men when he walks through the grain fields on the Sabbath with His disciples, parallels the life of Solomon with His wisdom & His entry into Jerusalem on a lowly animal, parallels the ministry of the prophets by pronouncing 'woes' on the rulers of Israel, & is finally cut off (i.e. exiled) from the land of the living, at the cross, on account of disobedience—i.e. He is made a curse because of the disobedience of His people.

2. Jesus' Disciples Worship Him

Matt. 28:17: & when they saw him they worshiped him

a. Only God is to be worshiped: Jesus' disciples are monotheistic Jews. They know very well that it is blasphemy to worship any other god than the one true God. There is only one God!

- **Exod. 20:2-3:** I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

- **Exod. 22:20:** Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the LORD alone, shall be devoted to destruction.

- **Isa. 44:6:** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel & his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first & I am the last; besides me there is no god."

- **Matt. 4:10:** Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" [Deut. 6:13]

b. Jesus is God: We have seen this all over Matthew's Gospel! It's not just in John! It's all over the Bible!

Matt. 1: **Matt. 1:23:** they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Matt. 2: **Matt. 2:2:** we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

Matt. 3: **Matt. 3:3:** For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Matt. 4: Jesus is tempted concerning His identity as the Son of God: He is the Son of God! God's Son is God!

Matt. 5: Jesus speaks with the authority of God: **Matt. 5:21-22:** You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; & whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment . . .

Ligon Duncan: the early church was so emphatically convinced of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, that it was three centuries, friends, before a heretic within the bounds of the church got up the nerve to deny the deity of Christ. There were heretics that denied the humanity of Christ in the first three centuries, but nobody had the gumption to deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. And when he did, Arius was so thoroughly rebutted by the church that it took fifteen hundred years for another heretic to get up the nerve to deny the deity of Christ within the church. Modern liberal academics do it all the time, but it just shows that they have not enough sense to recognize what's happened in the history of the church.

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3. Some Of Jesus' Disciples Doubted

Matt. 28:17: & when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted [hesitated; wavered].

Ligon Duncan: 1) This testifies to the fact that Matthew is writing down facts! This is true! Some doubted!

2) This shows us the weakness of Jesus' disciples. They are not going to carry this great commission out in their own strength: **Jn. 15:5:** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

3) This shows us the disciples still need Pentecost! They need the Holy Spirit of God to be poured out on them!

4) This shows us that doubt is nothing new! We will be fighting doubts until Jesus returns!

Mk. 9:24: I believe; help my unbelief!

- **Ligon Duncan:** it reminds us my friends, that the commission which Jesus gives in this passage cannot be done in human strength. It must be done wholly & only in the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ. You see the last two actions of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ that Matthew pictures for you in his gospel, are worship & doubt. & that speaks volumes to our generation. You know, we may think that we're the first generation to struggle with doubt. & Matthew is simply saying, look, I'm 2,000 years ahead of you. All those thoughts & issues that you think that you're the first generation to ever struggle with, we were fifty generations ahead of you. & we know how to banish that doubt. So if you come here today as a doubting or as a skeptical person, Matthew's waiting for you. & if you come as a Christian struggling with issues of doubt, Matthew is saying, I know what it's like to watch a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ struggle. It's not a pretty thing, but I understand it and I know how to deal with it, & I know how to cure it.

5) This shows us the mercy-heart of Christ! He bears with his weak, doubting disciples! He loves them! He helps!

4. Jesus Has Been Given All Authority In Heaven And On Earth

Matt. 28:18: & Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me."

Jesus has been given all authority in heaven & on earth! He has it all!

Ligon Duncan: Now isn't that a strange statement. Now if Jesus claims to be equal with the Father, if Jesus claims to be divine, if Jesus claims to be the Second Person of the Trinity, what do you mean all authority has been given to you. Surely, you already have it. What does this mean? . . . Before the foundation of the world, the Father in the covenant of redemption had promised the Son, that in fulfilling Your obligations as the Mediator of the Covenant & rescuing & redeeming My people, I will place everything under Your feet. It's what Psalm 2 is all about. & Jesus is saying, I have delivered. I've earned it, & it's Mine on the basis of the Father's promise to Me before the foundation of the world.

Rom. 1:3-4: who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ & was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

- **John Piper:** The key phrase here is "with power." . . . this phrase modifies "Son of God." The point is not that Christ was not the Son of God before the resurrection. The point is that at the resurrection, Christ moved from being Son of God in lowliness & human limitation & weakness to being Son of God with power. The key phrase is with power. This is what Jesus meant after the resurrection when he said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18). It's what Paul meant in 1 Cor. 15:25-26 when he said of the risen Christ, "He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death." In other words, Jesus is the Messianic king. He is reigning now over the world. He is putting all his enemies under his feet. There will come a day when he breaks forth out of his invisible rule with visible glory & establishes his kingdom openly & gloriously on the earth. That is what Paul means by "Son of God in power." He is ruling now. He is working his purposes out through his Spirit & his church. & the day will come when Christ will defeat every enemy, & every knee will bow & confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:11). That will be the consummation of the gospel of God. To which we say, "Amen, come Lord Jesus."

D. A. Carson: It is not that anything he teaches or does during the days of his flesh is less authoritative than what he now says & does. Even during his ministry, his words, like God's cannot pass away (24:35); and he, like God forgives sins (9:6). It is not Jesus' authority per se that becomes more absolute. Rather, the spheres in which he now exercises absolute authority are enlarged to include all heaven & earth – the universe. This authority has been "given" him by the Father . . . This well-defined exercise of authority is given as the climactic vindication of his humiliation (cf. Philip. 2:5-11), & it marks a turning point in redemptive history, for Messiah's "kingdom" (the exercise of his divine & saving authority) has dawned in new power.

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5. Jesus Commands His Disciples To Go And Make Disciples

Matt. 28:19-20: Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

We are going to come back to vs. 19-20. We don't want to miss the forest for the trees or the trees for the forest!

a. D. A. Carson: "All" dominates: All authority; all nations; all Jesus commands; He'll be with you all your days!

b. Make disciples: Make followers of Jesus – people who trust & obey Jesus!

c. Of all nations: Not merely every political nation, but every people group who have a common language & culture

d. Baptize them in the name of the triune God: Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality!

e. Teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded: Whatever Jesus has said, we teach them to obey!

f. We must do this: Radius International: focus on unreached language groups. When the President, Brooks Buser went: 5 choices of unreached language groups, 3 are still on the list.

Missions Leader: Out of the 7 billion people in the world, 2 billion have never even heard the name of Jesus. Only 5% of the people that get Biblical training plan on going into missions. Of those 5%, only 9.6% go to the unreached people groups and they receive only 1% of the church's money.

We must go, give, pray, raise up our children to go, or be disobedient. May we make disciples where we are!

6. Jesus Will Be With His Disciples Always

Matt. 28:20: & behold, I am with you **always**, to the end of the age.

Matt. 1:23: Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

7. A Summary Of The Book Of Matthew

- Jesus Christ is God with us & King of kings, He has fulfilled all God's promises to Abraham & David, He has been given all authority in heaven & on earth, & He came to save His people from their sins by dying on that cross & rising again from the dead so that His disciples might be empowered to obey all that He has commanded & go & make disciples of all nations who will bow to His kingship, enjoy His presence, & trust & obey Him.
- Jesus, our ever present God, is the King Who died & rose again so that the blessings of Abraham & the everlasting Davidic kingdom will spread to the whole world through His faithful disciples.

Douglas Sean O'Donnell: Jesus has all authority so that all nations might obey all that he has commanded.

Nicholas Piotrowski ("The Gospel According to Matthew: Kingdom & Temple through Sacrifice & Resurrection"): Matthew's overall message is that the Lord has finally fulfilled his promises to Abraham & David by inaugurating an eternal kingdom & constructing his end-times temple, only through Jesus' death & resurrection.

Matt. 1:1: The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

- **Gen. 12:1-3:** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country & your kindred & your father's house to the land that I will show you. & I will make of you a great nation, & I will bless you & make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, & him who dishonors you I will curse, & in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- These are the Lord's first words to Abraham. Notice three elements here:

- Abraham is promised a land (Gen. 12:1).

- Abraham is promised a great nation (Gen. 12:2).

- Abraham will both be blessed, and be a blessing to the whole world (Gen. 12:2-3).

- **2 Sam. 7:12-14:** When your days are fulfilled & you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, & I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, & I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, & he shall be to me a son.

- Here we see some very similar promises that we saw with Abraham, only more particular. David's son will:

- Build the temple of the Lord (2 Sam. 7:13).

- Receive a kingdom that never ends (2 Sam. 7:13).

[So in summary]: The “son” of David and Abraham will:

- Bless all the peoples of the earth.
- Reign over an eternal kingdom.
- Establish a kingdom through substitutionary sacrifice & resurrection.
- Build the temple of the Lord.

Conclusion: One particular boast the Lord makes in the Old Testament is that he is able to save, for he exercises sovereign control over all time & space; the false gods of the nations can do nothing of the sort (e.g. Isa. 46:1–11). The Gospel according to Matthew is a powerful literary demonstration of this truth! The promises of God through Abraham & David had hit the hard barrier of exile. It has become the dam through which God’s purposes of redemption could not flow. & so remained the situation for hundreds of years. But now, with the birth of Jesus Christ, the end of the exile has come. As Abraham’s & David’s son, Jesus is the long awaited heir to all the promises of God. In the Gospel according to Matthew we see, therefore, how the kingdom promised to David has finally dawned. & we see in Jesus’s resurrection how such a kingdom can be eternal. Indeed, Jesus’s authority extends over all space – “all authority & heaven & earth has been given to me” – & because he lives forever, his kingdom therefore has no end – “I am with you always” (Matt. 28:18, 20). Moreover, Jesus does not say that he has authority to rule his kingdom only in the land, but as expected from Genesis 12:3, that kingdom stretches as a blessing to all peoples. & because the Great Commission involves bringing those peoples into the fold of his followers – the church – missions is therefore the means through which Jesus is constructing the great son-of-David-built temple, the international dwelling place of God. All of this is accomplished only through his sacrifice & resurrection. Thus, the great expectations through David’s & Abraham’s son have exploded onto the stage of history: a blessing for the people all over the world, an eternal kingdom, a temple for God’s dwelling, all through sacrifice & resurrection. More concisely, the Lord has finally fulfilled his promises to Abraham & David by inaugurating an eternal kingdom & constructing his end-times temple through Jesus’s death & resurrection. Because he is raised, he can raise the temple in himself.

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Christ Jesus Commands You The Great Commission
He’s God, All Authority, And Highest Position
So Worship Him Now In Humble Contrition
He Calls You To Go Make Disciples Your Mission
Baptize In The Name Of God With Submission
To The Triune God Who Alone Grants Remission
Of All Your Sins Through Christ Your Physician
Who Died On That Cross Bearing All God’s Transmission
Of Anger On Him But Then Rose With Ambition
To Save All The World – Every Nation Addition
So Teach All Christ’s Words And Make No Omission
That All Will Obey His Every Condition
Bow To King Jesus Without Opposition
He’ll Be With You Always Giving Power Ignition
Ensuring His Church Completes The Great Commission
For He Is Your Treasure And Holy Ambition!