

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 started a two part series on the Great Commission. This is important because these are the last Words of Jesus. 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!

These are Jesus' last Words to us before His ascension. Last words are important. John MacArthur: [Matt. 28:16-20 is] the climax & major focal point not only of this gospel but of the entire New Testament. It is not an exaggeration to say that, in its broadest sense, it is the focal point of all Scripture, Old Testament as well as New.

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.
- Jesus is the true & better Abraham, the true & better Moses, & the true & better Israel!

2. Jesus' Disciples Worship Him

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

Only God is to be worshiped; Jesus is worshiped; Jesus is God!

It is false to claim that Jesus never receives the kind of worship called "λατρεύω" in Scripture. Jesus receives this kind of worship (λατρεύω) at least twice explicitly:

a. Dan. 7:13-14: behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, & He came to the Ancient of Days & was presented before Him. & to Him was given dominion & glory & a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, & languages should serve [λατρεύουσα] Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion . . .
- Jesus is the one like a son of man Who is worshiped!

b. Rev. 22:3: No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God & of the Lamb will be in it, & His servants will worship [λατρεύουσιν] Him.
- Both God & the Lamb are worshiped! Simon Kistemaker: "God & the Lamb occupy one throne, while the citizens of the holy city in the capacity of priests will serve [λατρεύω] them."

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

- 2) This shows us the weakness of Jesus' disciples
- 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: God's people fight doubts until Jesus returns!
- Mk. 9:24: I believe; help my unbelief!
- 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."

- 1) It's an authority that Jesus has been given based on the covenant of redemption between the Father & the Son.
- 2) Jesus came in weakness, but now He reigns in power.
- 3) **D. A. Carson:** the spheres in which he now exercises absolute authority are enlarged to include all heaven & earth – the universe.

John Piper: If there is anything admirable, if there is anything worthy of praise in all the universe, it is summed up in Jesus Christ. He is always infinitely admirable in everything and over everything supreme.

- He is sovereign and supreme over all plants and animals;
- He is supreme over all weather; all chemical processes and all the amazing grace of antibiotics;
- He is supreme over all countries and governments and armies;
- He is supreme over all nuclear threats; He is supreme over politics;
- He is supreme over all education and universities, no matter what they teach;
- And He is supreme over all scholarship and science and research;
- He is supreme over all business and finance and industry and manufacturing and transportation;
- And He is supreme over the internet and all informational systems.
- As Abraham Kuyper famously said, "there is not one square inch on planet earth over which the risen Christ does not say Mine!"

Have you submitted to the authority of King Jesus? If you are unbelievers, you have not. **GOSPEL!**

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 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: This is the main imperative/command. 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. We must go: Some say that since the verb "go" is not in the imperative form, it's not a command & has no imperatival force. So "As you go, in your daily life, make disciples." "Right where you are, make disciples." We should do this, but there's more! We must also go! "Go" does have imperatival force as well!

D. A. Carson: 1) When a participle [like go here] functions as a circumstantial participle dependent on an imperative, it frequently gains some imperatival force. [Then he gives 5 examples: **Matt. 2:13:** After they were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "**Get up!** Take the child & His mother, flee to Egypt, & stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to destroy Him."] Only the context can decide the question; 2) While it remains true to say that the main imperatival force rests with "make disciples," not with "go," in a context that demands that this ministry extend to "all nations," it is difficult to believe that "go" has no imperatival force; 3) the Great Commission is given in many places where going is essential: **Lk. 24:45-49:** he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, & said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer & on the third day rise from the dead, & that repentance & forgiveness of sins **should be proclaimed in his name to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. & behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- **Jn. 20:21:** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**"
- **Acts 1:8:** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, & **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**"
- **Matt. 24:14:** this gospel of the kingdom **will be proclaimed throughout the whole world** as a testimony to all

nations, & then the end will come.

e. We must baptize: Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality! We as the church – leaders!

- 1) Baptism Reminds Us That Jesus Was Baptized For Us
- 2) Baptism Is Done To Be Obedient To Jesus Christ
- 3) Baptism Displays Our Union With Christ
- 4) Baptism Displays Our Death To Sin
- 5) Baptism Displays Our Glorious, New, Everlasting Life In Christ
- 6) Baptism Displays Our Confession Of Faith In Christ
- 7) Baptism Displays Our Cleansing From Sin
- 8) Baptism Displays The Holy Spirit Being Poured Out On Us
- 9) Baptism Reminds Us Of Our Adoption Into God's Loving Family As His Beloved Children Forever
- 10) Baptism Reminds Us That We Belong To God
- 11) Baptism Represents Our Formal Entrance Into The Church – The Body Of Christ

f. We must baptize them in the name of the triune God: Name is singular (one God!) & three Persons! Trinity!

1) The Trinity is mentioned together throughout the Old & New Testaments: Isa. 63:8-10, 16: For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." & he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, & the angel of his presence saved them; in his love & in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.¹⁰ But they rebelled & grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, & himself fought against them . . .¹⁶ For you are our Father . . . you, O LORD, are our Father - **Paul: 2 Cor. 13:14:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ & the love of God & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- **Eph. 4:4-6:** There is one body & one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God & Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- **1 Pet. 1:2:** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ

- **Jude 1:20-21:** But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

- **Rev. 1:4-6:** Grace to you & peace from him who is & who was & who is to come, & from the seven spirits who are before his throne, & from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, & the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us & has freed us from our sins by his blood & made us a kingdom, priests to his God & Father

2) What about “Jesus only” baptism?: Oneness Pentecostals & Church of Christ followers teach that when baptism is given, it should be done in the literal name of Jesus. Oneness groups deny the Trinity: they are modalists: God appeared as three different modes (manifests himself as Father, Son, & Holy Spirit). They point to:

- **Acts 2:38:** Peter said to them, “Repent & be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins . . .”

- **Acts 8:16:** they [the Samaritans] had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- **Acts 10:48:** he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 19:5:** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Author: Interestingly, it appears that the early church consistently baptized in the name of the Trinity, rather than simply in the name of Jesus. The Didache, an extremely early document, says to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. [Justin Martyr, Irenaeus], Tertullian, & Cyprian . . . support & attest to this practice . . . On the other hand, I'm not aware of anyone in the early church who only baptized in the name of Jesus . . . Why, then, would Acts mention Jesus' name specifically? Well, Acts mentions another type of baptism – the baptism of John (1:5, 1:22, 10:37, 11:16, 18:25, 19:3). So when Acts mentions baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ, it is most likely pointing at the big difference between John's baptism & the apostles' baptism . . . they probably hadn't yet heard of Jesus, much less committed themselves to him. So to differentiate the two baptisms, the writer of Acts

[Luke] would want to specify that the Christian baptism was in the name of Jesus. Since Acts is primarily a history, & not a handbook on church life, it makes sense that the writer wouldn't have seen the need to mention the exact baptism statement.

To baptize in Jesus' name means to baptize in the authority of Jesus or according to the teaching & will of Jesus. & Jesus commanded us to baptize in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit.

- **Acts 4:7:** By what power or by what name did you do this? [The healing of a crippled man]

- **Matt. 18:20:** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

g. Teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded: Whatever Jesus has said (& all), we teach them to obey!

h. We must do this: Some wrongly teach that only the leaders of the church should do evangelism. They say every Christian evangelism is unbiblical. But true disciples of Jesus seek to make disciples of Jesus! Do you desire this?

Yes, this command of Jesus is given to His disciples, but notice Jesus says "I am with you always, to the end of the age." What is going to endure to the end of the age that Jesus established? His church! - **Matt. 16:18:** "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."; Who is His church? Yes, Pastors/elders (who baptize), but you are His church! We all are His church! We all are all called to go & share the Gospel & make disciples!

1) In one sense, it's not a command, it's just something we can't help doing! "Go tell people you got that full right scholarship to college!" "Go tell people your getting married!" "Go tell people you won the national championship!" "Go tell people your pregnant!" We just can't stop telling people about Jesus because of our love for Him & our excitement about Him & what He's done for us!

2) We are commanded to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The most loving thing you can do for someone is to tell them the Gospel & help them learn to obey all that Jesus has commanded! **This is loving God too!**

3) Tim Beougher (Must Every Christian Evangelize?): D. A. Carson notes that the Great Commission does not record Jesus saying to the apostles, "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, except for this commandment to make disciples. Keep their hands off that one, since it belongs only to you, my dear apostles."

- **Matt. 5:14-16:** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- **1 Pet. 2:9:** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- **1 Pet. 3:15:** in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Tim Beougher: 1) The example of "ordinary believers" in the early church . . . consider the example of "ordinary believers" in the early church. As we follow the storyline of the early church it is obvious that the apostles sought to evangelize & disciple others. But we see ordinary believers sharing the gospel as well. Following the stoning of Stephen we read in Acts 8:1, "& there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, & they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea & Samaria, except the apostles." & what did those ordinary believers do? Acts 8:4 tells us: "Now those who were scattered went about preaching (euangelizomenoi) the word." They went about sharing the gospel with others. Noted historian Kenneth Scott Latourette makes this observation about the spread of the gospel: "The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or a major part of their occupation, but men & women who earned their livelihood in some purely secular manner & spoke of their faith to those whom they met in this natural fashion." [When Jesus heals; Samaritan Woman at the well; Women at the empty tomb]

- 2) The stewardship the gospel imposes on us . . . consider the stewardship the gospel imposes on us. Jesus reminds us, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48). We have been

given no greater gift than the gospel, & we have no greater stewardship than to share that message of good news with others. Paul expresses it well in 2 Cor. 5:14: “for the love of Christ controls us.”

i. The need: Radius International: Focus on unreached language groups. When the President, Brooks Buser, went: 5 choices of unreached language groups, he said recently: 3 are still on the list.

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

6. Jesus Will Be With His Disciples Always

Matt. 28:20: & behold, I am with you **always [all the days]**, to the end of the age. [They will all die for Him]

a. The beginning & the end of the Gospel of Matthew: God with us! **Matt. 1:23:** Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

b. Jesus is God: 1) Isaac: Gen. 26:24: Fear not, for I am with you; **2) Jacob: Gen. 28:15:** Behold, I am with you; **3) Ps. 46:10-11:** Be still, & know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

c. Jesus' will get His way: Jesus will have the nations for His inheritance! **Rev. 5:9:** they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll & to open its seals, for you were slain, & by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe & language and people and nation”

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!

7. A Summary Of The Book Of Matthew

We started the Gospel according to Matthew on April 19th, 2020. About 5 & a half years ago. We finish today.

- 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.

"That's My King!" Who Has Highest Authority Position; After Dying For Sin Remission;
And Calls Us To The Great Commission!

My King's utterly supreme with all the power
He rules every moment and every hour
All God's enemies He will devour
And on us forever blessings shower
For on that cross He took death sour
Which made Him in the garden cower
Then rose again in glorious power
With authority over all He'll forever tower! That's my King!

Therefore we carry out His great commission
This should be our holy ambition
To make disciples in full submission
To the Lord of glory – our great Physician

And obey His every command and admonition
For our salvation He met every condition
Quenched the wrath of God in humble contrition
Then rose from the grave without opposition
Now from all death He grants abolition
To all who trust Him of their own volition
He'll grant joy and pleasures without intermission! That's my King! Do you know Him?!

This Gospel must go forth to every nation
Some have no access to His revelation
Apart from Christ there's only damnation
We must go tell in every location
Since He's so worthy for all of creation
To bow down to Him in utter prostration
And give Him all glory without cessation
He'll fill us with joy for eternal duration
He's our only firm foundation
So listen up – His congregation
Are you burdened for the lost and every nation?
Your King deserves all their adoration
So go forth for Him and preach salvation
And love the lost without limitation! That's my King!

Jesus is with you to the very end
He stands alone in Himself as the greatest friend
On Him forever you can always depend
Against all evil He will defend
He'll be with you to help wherever He'll send
And through the pain He'll help you transcend
Praise Him for how He did condescend
He came all evil to suspend
And life forever to extend! That's my King! I wonder if you know Him today?!

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!
That's my King! That's my King!