

#1 Matthew 28:16-20 “What in the World Are We Doing Here?”

Mother’s Day: Once a lady went to visit her friend. During the visit the children of the friend entered the room and began to play with each other. As the lady and her friend visited, the lady turned to her friend and said eagerly and yet with evidently no thought of the meaning of her words: “Oh, I’d give my life to have such children.” The mother replied with a subdued earnestness whose quiet told of the *depth* of experience out of which her words came: “That’s exactly what it costs.” ****We can prove it how many of you had gray hair before you had children? **Ladies who are married and want to have children – stand – have mothers pray for them!**

#2 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

“the eleven disciples went away into Galilee” It took a while for them to obey Him – they were paralyzed with fear! **#3 John 20:19 (NLT) That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.**

“When they saw Him, they worshiped Him” This is the reaction of everyone in the Bible when they come into the presence of the Lord. **#4 Exodus 34:8 (NKJV) So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.**

They went down to their knees or face down on the ground in adoration - worship. When you are in the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you recognize how truly human and tainted by sin in the flesh you are. That is because God’s holiness exposes even the faintest hint of sin in our lives.

Isaiah 6:1–5 (NLT) It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ²

Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **#5** ³ They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!” ⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.”

Think about how we posture ourselves in worship and pray. Do we start by a realization and recognition of who we have come face to face with? Are our hearts “bowed” in humble submission to the Creator of the universe, even if our bodies cannot be?

#6 “but some doubted” (“divided in mind”) “to stand in two ways” (*dis*, “double,” *stasis*, “a standing”), implying “uncertainty which way to take,” Vine *Distazō refers more to hesitation than to unbelief.* Craig Bloomberg

Some of the disciples did not realize whose presence they were in, until Jesus came nearer. (Vs. 18) Until we “**see**” the Risen in Savior in our hearts – we will “**hesitate.**” The Spirit of Jesus within us testifies that He is risen indeed, and His presence in us removes all doubt that He is alive and WITH US! **#7 Romans 8:15–16** (NASB95) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, **but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...**

Prayer and worship drive away doubt, because they renew the sense we have that the Lord is with us and in us. So, when in doubt, return to your relationship with Jesus through His Spirit AND HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE HIM IN PRAYER! **#8**

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds* through Christ Jesus.

#9 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**"

#10 "All authority..." ("*The right to rule or govern over, control*") "Not merely power or might (*dunamis*), such as a great conqueror might claim, but 'authority' (*exousia*), as something which is His by right, conferred upon Him by One who has the right to bestow it." Tom Constable

#11 Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV) "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

This is the same "authority" over the spiritual realm and the physical world that Jesus gave the disciples in **#12 Luke 9:1–2** (NASB95) And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. ² And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

And it is the same spiritual authority you and I stand in when we pray – the authority of the Name of Jesus: **#13 Philippians 2:9–10** (NIV84) Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth...** Who prays and speaks "in the Name" of Jesus? We DO!

#14 19 **"Go therefore and make disciples of *all* the nations, baptizing them in (or "into") the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

"Go therefore" [EVANGELISM] It is in this authority – the authority of “The Christ, the Son of the living God” that we have been sent out into all the world, and “The gates of hell will not prevail against” us. (Mt 16:16-18) We pray for men and women imprisoned in sin and death – deceived by the devil. We share the Good News of a Risen Savior with them and we seek to lead them to know the love of God. For those who respond we:

"make disciples of *all* the nations" [DISCIPLESHIP] The Greek verb translated *go* is actually not a command but a present participle (going). The only command in the entire Great Commission is **"make disciples" ("teach all nations")**. So Jesus said, *"While you are going, make disciples of all the nations."* Warren Wiersbe The going to other countries and cultures is definitely for some of us; but many of us are called to be “making disciples” right here, where we live – because we are all “going” in the sense that we work with people, we participate in family gatherings, have friends and rub shoulders with strangers at times.

"baptizing them" This initially refers to water baptism – but it can't stop there, because then we would be powerless. John the Baptist told us: **#15 Matthew 3:11** (NKJV) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Jesus said He would baptize us with the Holy Spirit! **#16 Luke 24:49** (NLT) “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised.

But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

This promise was for believers in all generations: **#17 Acts 2:38–**

39 (NKJV) Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and *you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*.³⁹ For the promise is to you *and to your children*, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

True “baptism” can only happen by the Holy Spirit. Let me explain. The word “baptism” is a Greek word brought directly into the English language. **#18** The word is “baptizo”, **to saturate or make fully wet**, to submerge; and is from a root word “bapto”, to cover wholly with a fluid; **to dip in or under**, to immerse.

In other words “baptism” is used to describe a different form of dipping. Let me remind you about my pickle recipe from ancient Greece that helps us to know what the difference is. The text is from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. **#19** “It is a recipe for making pickles. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the cucumber should first be ‘dipped’ (bapto) into boiling water and then ‘baptised’ (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of “baptizing” the cucumber, produces a permanent change.”

(We dip you – the Spirit saturates you and permanently changes you! Jesus said; “He will be with you and in you...”)

TURN: #20 Acts 19:1–6 (NASB95) It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.² He said to them, **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”** And they *said* to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”³ And he said, “Into what then were you

baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ **And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.**

Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire by the Lord Jesus Christ? We would love to pray for you today to experience His baptism of love and power in your life.

#21 20 "teaching them to observe *all* things that I have commanded you;

"teaching them to observe..." After baptism (*with the Spirit and then with water to make a public statement of following Jesus*) the disciples set out to learn the basics of the faith – starting with the specific commands of Jesus. From the beginning the church has had an accepted body of knowledge or things to learn that the leadership felt was appropriate for the new believer to know.

Interestingly, that hasn’t changed much over the last 2000 years. Early disciples in Rome for instance learned and recited a creed (*like the later Apostle’s or Nicene creeds*) at their public water baptism ceremonies: **#22 The “Old Roman” Creed: “I believe in God the Father Almighty. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary; crucified under Pontius Pilate and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And in the Holy Spirit; the holy Church; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the flesh.”**

The term “disciples” was the most popular name for the early believers. Being a disciple meant more than being a convert or a church member.

Apprentice might be an equivalent term. He learned, not simply by listening, but also by doing. **#23** A disciple, then, is one who has believed on Jesus Christ and expressed this faith by being baptized. He remains in the fellowship of the believers that he might be taught the truths of the faith. He is then able to go out and win others and teach them. This was the pattern of the New Testament church **#24** (2 Timothy 2:2 (NASB95) The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to *faithful* men who will be able to teach others also.). **#25** In many respects, we have departed from this pattern. In most churches, the congregation pays the pastor to preach, win the lost, and build up the saved—while the church members function as cheerleaders (if they are enthusiastic) or spectators. The “converts” are won, baptized, and given the right hand of fellowship, then they join the other spectators.

#26 How much faster our churches would grow, and how much stronger and happier our church members would be, if each one were discipling another believer. The only way a local church can “be fruitful and multiply” (instead of growing by “additions”) is with a systematic discipleship program. This is the responsibility of *every* believer, and not just a small group who have been “called to go.” Warren Wiersbe

How do you get involved? Next week I will go over some specifics of discipleship – but let me say that ***you must be willing to participate.*** There are discipleship class and individual opportunities for both men and women available almost constantly in our fellowship. Each week, all over the city, our home fellowships meet where you can get involved and grow in your faith. ***BUT you have to be willing to show up and grow, in order to get out of the spectator stage!***

#27 and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

I am with you day in day out until the close of the age. Dr. Hendriksen

It is Jesus who leads us in ministry and gives us the power to accomplish what He is directing us to do! **#28 John 14:16–18 (NASB95)** “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you. Jesus is with us in His Spirit!**

Paul lived out this “Great Commission” model in Corinth: **#29 TURN: Acts 18:1–11 (NASB95) After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth.** ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, ³ and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. **4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.** ⁵ But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, **Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.** ⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, **believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.** ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, **“Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you,** and no man will attack you in order to harm

you, for I have many people in this city.”¹¹ And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. **#30**