

Matthew 28.16-20 - Sermon Notes

MARCHING ORDERS

- have you ever stopped to consider what the mission of the church is
- the church in America has been greatly influenced by the marketing techniques of Madison Avenue and Wall Street
- we spend a great deal of time coming up with catchy mission statements and reasons why people should come to "our" church
 - it's hard to keep up with the names of churches today. Like mission statements, they change all the time in hope of attracting people and not branding themselves themselves with a label that would identify who they are and what they believe
- even as individual believers we wrestle what the will and plan of God is for our lives
- the sad reality is that we spend so much time thinking about those kind of things that we actually forget that we have already been given our marching orders - that there is something that we all have been commanded to do
- as we finish our year-long journey through the Gospel of Matthew, we come to the last thing that Jesus says to His disciples as they meet one last time before Jesus ascends into heaven

1. (16-18) ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO JESUS

- the disciples headed to the area of Galilee where Jesus had promised to meet with them in [Matthew 26.32](#) - "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."
- this was not the first time that they had seen Jesus after His resurrection
 - John records several appearances before this
- Jesus met them at a mountain (we're not sure exactly where)
- many commentaries believe that this is where Jesus appeared to the 500 at one time that Paul mentions in [1 Corinthians 15:6](#) - After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.
- they worshiped, but some doubted
- the natural response to meeting the risen Savior is worship
- it is interesting that as we gather together today in our churches around the world, the same thing is true - some worship, some doubt

- the first thing that Jesus says to them is that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him
 - everything that follows is based on the absolute authority of Jesus
- notice how the word "all" is used and how it ties everything together - *all* authority, *all* nations, *all* things, *all* the days."
- what comes to your mind when you think of absolute power
- some of the reminders from Matthew as we have studied this Gospel for the last year
 1. In the Lord's prayer we say, "For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen."
 2. Jesus spoke of His power to forgive sins.
 3. We read where He gave His disciples power against unclean spirits.
 4. We read that the angels authorities and powers of were made subject unto Him.
 5. He has authority and power over all the powers of darkness. All of those forces that are opposed to your walk with Him.
- Jesus has the authority to do whatever He wants to do. He doesn't have to check with a higher authority for permission to do something.
- David Guzik says - "This commission that follows is given in light of the authority of Jesus. This indicates that this is an authoritative command, not a suggestion. It is the same idea as if an officer reminded a private of his rank before he gave the order. Because He has this authority, He can send whomever He wills to do whatever He pleases."

2. (19-20a) THE GREAT COMMISSION

- because Jesus has all authority, He tells His disciples to "Go"
 - Jon Courson gives a great insight into this word
 - "In this verse, the word "go" is a participle and literally means "as you are going." In other words, "As you are going to the grocery store, as you are going to school, as you are going to Mexico—wherever you're going—share the gospel." In this light, the Great Commission takes on a much broader perspective. We're to be sharing and teaching wherever we're going, whatever we're doing."
 - David Guzik in quoting C. H. Spurgeon

- Jesus said, "Go" to some very imperfect disciples. "Who is to go out of that first band of disciples? It is Peter, the rash and the headstrong. It is John, who sometimes wishes to call fire from heaven to destroy men. It is Philip, with whom the Savior has been so long, and yet he has not known him. It is Thomas, who must put his finger into the print of the nails, or he will not believe him. Yet the Master says to them, 'Go ye; all power is given unto me, therefore go ye. You are as good for my purpose as anybody else would be. There is no power in you, I know, but then all power is in me, therefore go ye.'"

- what follows is what is commonly called the Great Commission

- the command is to go and make disciples

- not converts, but disciples
- it is interesting that the word "make" is used here. it speaks of the process of pouring into one who has come to faith in Jesus

- notice the process

- Go and make disciples of all nations
 - we are not to pick and choose who we would like to share the Gospel with
 - Remember that God so loved the world, and that it is not His will that any should perish
 - we have even been given the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this task
 - [Acts 1.8](#) - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
 - here we see the mystery of the Trinity - a singular noun (the name) of the Three Persons of the Godhead
 - it is disciples that should be baptized
- Teaching them to observe all things that Jesus has commanded
 - the idea here is passing on to the new believers how to live like a believer
 - This was even the essence of what God commanded the Jews in what is known as the Shema

- [Deuteronomy 6:1-9](#) - "Now this [is] the commandment, [and these are] the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe [them] in the land which you are crossing over to possess, "that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe [it], that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you--'a land flowing with milk and honey.' "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD [is] one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

3. (20b) THE PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE

- we have been given our marching orders by the King who has all authority in heaven and earth, but we are not sent out alone to fend for ourselves
- it is the promise of His presence that has given saints the boldness and confidence to spread the Gospel throughout the world
- what an amazing and comforting verse this has been to every generation
- two questions that I would like to ask you this morning
 - Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
 - If you have, what are you doing with your marching orders?
 - there will be a day when we have to report to the one who has given us our orders
 - I close with a great reminder from A. W. Tozer
 - It was the belief in the accountability of man to his maker that made America a great nation. Among those earlier leaders was Daniel Webster whose blazing eyes and fiery oratory often held the Senate spellbound. In those days the Congress was composed of strong, noble statesmen who carried the weight of the nation in their hearts and minds.

- Someone asked: "Mr. Webster, what do you consider the most serious thought that has ever entered your mind?"
- "The most solemn thought that has ever entered my mind is my accountability to my maker," he replied.
- Men like that cannot be corrupted and bought. They do not have to worry if someone listens to their telephone calls. What they were in character and in deportment resulted from their belief that they would finally be accountable to God.

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