

Matthew 28:18-20 – Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept Him

- Mission Impossible Ethan Hunt, “your mission should you choose to accept it”.
- If you’ve chosen to accept Jesus, you’ve been given a mission

Context. Jesus had been crucified and was now raised from the dead. After making appearances to the disciples and others over the course of 40 days, Jesus instructed them to come to Galilee, where they would receive their marching orders.

Mt 28:18–20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

I. Our Master – “All Authority” (WHY)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

A. He makes the decisions. He gives the commands. It’s to Him that we are accountable.

- a. His authority is over every individual (Phil. 2:9-11)
- b. His authority is over every realm (government and spiritual powers) (Eph. 1:20-21)
- c. His authority is over the church (Col. 1:18)
 - i. Jesus Christ has always been, and will continue to be the head of His church, including the body of believers here at NBLC.
 - 1 Co 1:12–13 What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” 13 Is Christ divided?
 - This has always been a church body where you can say, “I follow Christ.”

19 Go therefore

- A. **“Therefore”** ties this command directly to the authority of Jesus. **It’s on the basis of His all-encompassing authority that He makes this command and that we ought to obey it.**

II. Our Mission – “Make Disciples” (WHAT)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

- A. The Greek sentence structure makes it clear that the imperative verb, or the **command**, of this sentence is to **make disciples**. The mission of Jesus for His church is to **make disciples**.
- B. **But what is a disciple? When Jesus called the first disciples He said: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19**
 - a. **A disciple follows Jesus. “Follow Me”**
 - i. They’ve confessed Him as their Lord, denied themselves, picked up their cross, and decided to follow Him wherever He may lead.
 - b. **A disciple is being changed by Jesus. “I will make you”**
 - i. They haven’t arrived yet. They’re in process. And they are submitting to the Lord as He is shaping them into what He wants them to be (an image of Himself). This is **sanctification**.
 - c. **A disciple is committed to the mission of Jesus. “Fishers of men”**
 - i. “I will show you how to fish for people.” (NLT)
 - ii. Jesus’ mission is **people**. He wants to save and transform people and His disciples are committed to this mission.
 - d. Not only has Jesus called us **to be** these people – He has called us **to make** these people.

19 make disciples of all nations...

- C. The scope of the mission is **global** all nations (**ethnos**). It’s not limited to one locality, box, or people group.

- a. 7.76 Billion People – 3.23 Billion Unreached (41.7%) (Joshua Project – Unreached of the Day)
- D. This is a massive undertaking – **how can we accomplish this?**

III. Our Means – “Go, Baptize, Teach” (HOW)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations

- A. The imperative command to make disciples is accompanied by three participles – describing how we will accomplish this task.
- a. **Go – Initiative**
 - i. We don’t wait for them to **come to us**. Rather, we **go to them**. In other words, as followers of Christ, **we are the ones who take the initiative. We do this because Christ Himself is the one who took the initiative on our behalf.**
 - Romans 5:6 (NLT) “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.”
 - Christ was the initiator of our salvation. He came to earth.
 - ii. The word Go (poreuō) can be translated “**pursue**”.
 - When I wanted to date my wife, I pursued her hardcore – I took every chance I got to get in the room with her.
 - a. I signed up for a mission trip she was leading
 - iii. **Pursue** people for Christ.
 - Invite them to your house
 - Invite them to your church
 - Invite them to a game or an activity
 - Go into their world, and invite them into your world
 - iv. Don’t be limited to one locality. **Pursue the nations.**
 - **Go** by entering the places where the gospel needs preached.
 - **Go** by serving on a gospel-centered, short-term mission trips.
 - Some are even called to **go** and **live** on the mission field.

- **Send** by supporting and caring for those that have gone.
- **Send** by praying for the work of God among the nations and the missionaries in the field.
- **Send** by giving of your finances to further the kingdom of God globally.
- NBLC supports several missionaries, both stateside and abroad.

19 baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

b. **Baptize** – *Transformation*

- i. There was a poet named Nicander who lived 200 B.C. They found in his writings a recipe for **making pickles**. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (baptô) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizô) in the vinegar solution.
 - A **baptism** is an **immersion**, that results in the **transformation** of the object being immersed.
 - The nature of the transformation depends upon what the object is being immersed into. Immerse a cucumber into vinegar it will become a pickle. It won't be a pickle if you immerse it in motor oil.
 - An object becomes so saturated with that which is being immersed in that it literally **takes on a new nature**.
- ii. **What is a disciple being immersed into?** The name of the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**. A disciple is made when a person becomes so fully immersed into (the word "in" could be translated "into") the triune God (Father, Son, Spirit – name is singular) that they receive a new nature
 - 2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- iii. The Scripture tells us that when a **person hears the gospel and puts their faith into Christ**, the Holy Spirit baptizes them into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

- Water baptism then, is an outward symbol, of this inner working of the Holy Spirit. It is a public declaration that a person has chosen to identify themselves with the Lord Jesus.
- iv. In short, baptism speaks of the commitment and transformation of a person's life to Christ.

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

c. **Teaching – Maturity**

- i. A new disciple cannot be left to fend for themselves – rather they need teachers to show them how to **live like Jesus**.
- ii. This is important because **those that love Jesus obey His commandments** (John 14:15)
- iii. “Teach them to observe all that I commanded **you**.”
 - In other words, making disciples requires us to **teach others the things that we do ourselves**.
 - “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” 1 Co 11:1
 - It would do no good to convert someone, only to leave them to figure things out on their own – they need to be taught.
- iv. **You don't have to be a Bible scholar to teach someone how to love and follow Christ.**

IV. His Might – “I am with you always” (WHO)

20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- A. **I am with you always**. It's the presence of Christ that enables the fulfillment of His mission through the Church.
 - a. Matthew opens with the promise of Immanuel - God with us.
 - b. Matthew closes with the promise of His continued presence.
 - i. It's who He is – He is with you and will help you accomplish your task.
- B. **It's by the power of the Holy Spirit that we accomplish this mission:**

- a. Ac 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- b. **Apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).**
- c. **Through Him we can do all things (Phil. 4:13).**