

# Matthew 28:18-20

## Our Mission

Image Church // Fall Vision 2022

---

### Intro

Image Family, I hope you're doing well!

- Thanks for all of the love, service, and prayers...
  - Explain...
  - Been a long hard week and a half...
  - Suffering is hard
  - Continue to ask for your prayers...

I know that I'm not alone in hardships over the past week and a half there are many others of you... Specific situations that I know about that have been going on... Others of you I don't even know about...

It's important that we gather to pray in the midst of seasons like this...

- **Abide... Aug. 25th**
  - Interactive prayer and worship night
  - If you call Image home you need to be there- it is vital for our spiritual health and well-being that we have concentrated times like this...

Alright, well I believe that Lord has a very clear message for our church this morning... Right about 2 weeks ago the Lord laid today's text and message on my heart...

- As an anchor for who we are and what we want to be about as a church more than ever in the days ahead...

**And it is mission critical...**

**Here's the thing about mission-critical...**

- You have to have it for the mission to move forward...
- There is something you don't have to have- those things are not mission-critical...
  - If an astronaut forgets their comb it's going to be OK...
  - Even if they forget some bigger things like a toothbrush or deodorant- I think these are big things- they're going to be ok...
  - But say they don't have gas in the rocketship, that won't work- that's mission-critical...

**The same is true when it comes to the church...**

- I can preach without a microphone...
- We don't have to have chairs (we've done that)
- We don't have to have AC/heat (we've done that)
- There are a lot of **amenities** that we can do without, there are even a lot of **ministries** that we could do without though it's great if we have them we don't have to have them...

*There are really only a few things that are mission-critical for the church and this morning we're going to talk about one of them...*

If you have your Bibles go ahead and grab them and turn to **Matthew 28...**

**Setting...** *Jesus Life- gospel... end of Jesus' time on earth...*

### Matthew 28:18-20 [Keep whole verse one screen]

**18** All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. **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 everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Let's walk through this...

**18 All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.**

*Before Jesus tells us to do anything, He declares something about Himself... And this is key because if this were not true then we have no case...*

It's because all authority is His, that he has the right to call us to what He's about to say next which is to **go and make disciples...**

For some of you, the reason why you fail to make disciples is because you fail to submit to the Lordship of Christ... Which is a problem...

If Jesus is your savior, then He is also your Lord... **It's not one without the other...**

When you **surrender** to Jesus as your Savior and Lord, it means that you completely **submit** to Him, and that your **allegiance** is with Him... That you are loyal to Him as the true King of your life, **and that you promote Him as King...**

All authority belongs to Jesus, whether or not you believe it or not, **but if you say that you believe it then you do what He tells you to do...**

Honestly, this is the only reasonable response after all that He's done for you...

- Lack of obedience... Lack of a view of grace...
- Flesh out...

His authority over all things is a good thing because it means that he can grant you freedom from the thing that's killing you, which is your sin...

So, all authority is his... Then he says in **Verse 19**

**19 Go, therefore,**

This is important... This, **therefore**, is beautiful...

And every time we see a **therefore** we have to ask what is it **there for?**

It shows us that because we're operating underneath the total authority of Jesus, we have the **right, the ability, and the power** to do what he's calling us to do which is to, which is make disciples...

**Example: Acts 26:17-18** Jesus says to Paul:

**I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'**

It's because Paul is operating under the authority of Jesus that He's able to do this- it's Jesus authority that grants this ability... The same is true of us...

There is an incredible **confidence that comes from operating under the authority of Jesus!!**

**Example:** If the CEO of the company you work for came up and said take the day off... You would be like that's incredible! And you would do it with total confidence because under his authority you've been given the right, the ability, and the power to cut out for the day...

- You're not worried about what people think or how crazy it may be for you to get the day off...
- You don't care if you're playing golf on that day at 11 am when everyone is looking at you thinking who is this bum with no job playing golf at 11

The same is true when it comes to the call that Jesus is giving us... There should be confidence in the reality that this isn't your idea, you're not operating under your own assumptions of ideas- you're operating under His authority...

*Ok, let's jump back in...*

**18 All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples** [This is where most ppl. Stop- with little clarity as to what this means, we'll get there but I want you to see all that making disciples entails before we get practical]

**of all nations,** [plug for multi-ethnic church and world mission]  
**baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** [plug for baptism- say what it is] ... And there's more:  
**20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.**

Ok, so what do we do with all this? How do we think about it and how do we practically apply it?

*Here it is:*

**[All on one slide]**

**Disciple making = Evangelism + Discipleship**

**Evangelism = sharing the gospel message**

**Discipleship = Teaching people what it looks like to follow Jesus<sup>1</sup>**

*Let's unpack these:*

**Evangelism**

*Flesh this out:*

- No one comes to the Father unless the Spirit draws...
- God uses the Spirit in you to draw them...

**2 Cor. 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

*No one comes to Christ outside of the mouth of a messenger...*

---

<sup>1</sup> Replicate

**Practically what does this look like?**

**2 ways:**

One-the-spot evangelism...

- Always be on the lookout for this...

**The primary way-** is through the relationships God's put around you...

I need you to understand that if you are a Christian, you're a **missionary...** One of our core values is **missional living**- this is why sharing the gospel is at the tip of that mission...

This call to share the gospel is not a call for a select few... It's the call for all followers of Jesus...

- Isn't it a gift??
  - Yes but so are generosity and hospitality...
  - Just because they're a gift doesn't mean you don't do them... Just means that it comes a little easier for some people...

**Evangelism:** Sharing the gospel message...

A few ways this happens:

- **Verbally** and **experientially**
  - What you say and how you live it out...
  - This means that your life should look different...
  - There is a drip that happens early on...

**Example::** Making my daughter a Tar Heel fan...

There is a both/and... But there's got to come a time where you actually present the gospel...

**To share the gospel you have to know the gospel...**

For many, they don't know the gospel well...

Write it out... rehearse it... Listen to it... I say it every week...

To not know the gospel and be able to explain it is like not knowing your own name... It's serious... This is our lifeblood this is our hope...

- We suffer from paralysis of analysis... Don't overcomplicate it...

Here it is you ready... **GOSPEL**

Big fear/hindrance:

- I don't know what to say....
- I'm afraid I'm going to mess it up...
- I don't want to mess up a friendship...

## Discipleship

**Discipleship** is teaching someone what it looks like to follow Jesus...

- This means that **you** as a Christian need to know what it looks like to follow Jesus!
- **Christianity is about more than just conversion!** Which is why Christianity isn't mass-produced, it's something that's deeply personal...

It's why we can never stop growing as disciples in what it means to follow Jesus, because the expectation is that we're able to bring others along with us...

**\*\*\*Note:** Pay attention and be alert in prayer: Sometimes as you walk through this process of showing someone what it looks like to it begins to become clear that they're not a Christian, that they haven't surrendered...

- I am convinced there needs to be a revival of the "saved" and this is one of the ways it happens...
- You connect with someone- you ask about their spiritual background- which is not weird...
- They say they are a Christian...
- You ask if they're connected to a church home (key question by the way) they say no... **disconnect...**

***Spend some time here...***

Some of you into our church family and so many times those are the people that get saved... Several here this morning and this is their story...

Now, before you feel incredibly overwhelmed by this, understand that ***discipleship is yes, an individual responsibility, but it's also a shared task...***

This is why the **local church** is so important, and why it's vital that you invite new disciples, new Jesus followers into the church...

***Discipleship primarily happens through relationships within the local church...*** Jesus modeled this for us... Then we see it lived out in the NT Church...

This is why we have **Community Groups** and why they are so important... Because this is where life together happens...

**Example:** *Jesus- apprentice model*

*Last part of verse 20:*

**And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**

*Jesus book ends it- starts with my authority and ends with my power...*

**You are not alone**

**This was God's plan from the beginning He will see it through**

## Conclusion [VAMP]

Our call is to make disciples... This is what we want to be about... we want to be sharing Jesus and we want to be bringing people into discipleship through this local church...

***How we want to help with this:***

Next week we're kicking off a series where we're going to be walking through the book of Colossians...

- Colossians will serve as an opportunity to teach the ways of Jesus...

Consider how many disciples have you made??

**Use the card:**

Salvation- a next step

Baptism- a next step

Repentance for not making disciples...

Evangelism- a next step

Discipleship- a next step