

# Matthew 28:18-20

## Missional Living

Image Church // Members of the Kingdom

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### Intro

Alright, well, we're continuing in our series called **Members of the Kingdom**, where we're walking through the core values of our church... As we look at what it means to be **Members of the Kingdom**...

Keeping us centered around our God-given purpose statement for what we exist... **To make disciples who love God, love each other, and live on mission.**

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

**Let me ask you this:** *what's critical in your life, like what do you have to do in order to make it each week?*

- Coffee... you can't function without it... *You what that is an idol! Just kidding*
- Brush your teeth?
  - Some of you it's not, we know!
- Shower...
  - I shower at a minimum of 2 times a day...
  - Some of you think that's crazy, it's ok, I never smell bad... *Can the same be said of you?!?*
- Personally, for me, it's hand sanitizer- I'm a germaphobe...

Seriously though, there's really only 3 critical things to life...

- Food, water, sleep...
- Critical for survival...

Here's the problem though, what we do is we take things like coffee and other amenities and we think they're critical when in reality, they're not...

I think the same thing is true in the Christian life...

**This week we're looking at missional living...** For many of you, when you hear this, you think about:

- International missions, *evangelism*... *Uh Oh! I used that word!*
- Doing projects in the city?
- Some of you might be tempted to check out on a message like this... Man, I get it!
  - But do you???

I think for many of us, we have a very limited view of missional living... Missional living is not just a thing, it is the thing that the church is called to... It's critical to what it means to be a church...

**Honestly**, here's what I think the reality is, I think for many of you, you feel like it's a burden, or we feel unqualified... You feel like it's too big of a call, or you feel like you don't really know what it looks like...

- Missional living just feels like a big ambiguous thing that is talked about a lot but rarely explained...

**Example:** it's like if your friend invited you to a Braves and said, *meet me at the Game, your seat is right next to mine*, but they don't tell you where your seat is... *Well, you know where the stadium is... Walk into a sea of people with no idea where to go...*

This is what missional living can feel like for us... *We have a general idea that gets us in the ballpark, but we don't have the details we need to find our seat!*

**Matthew 28:18-20 [Build with me as I go]**

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

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

Here's the thing I want you to see... Before Jesus calls us to anything, He declares something about Himself... That he has all authority in heaven and on earth...

- **IOW:** Jesus is the ruler of all.<sup>1</sup>

**Ephesians 1:20–23** He [God] exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—<sup>21</sup> far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come.<sup>22</sup> And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The **authority of Jesus** comes through what He's accomplished in His life, death, and resurrection...<sup>2</sup>

- Where He strips Satan of his power through victory over sin and death, freeing us from our sentence of condemnation and bringing us into right standing before God!
- There was no one that could stand against Him. There was nothing that could stop Him, **not even death itself!**
- Jesus is the ruler overall!

You want to talk about someone and something to rally around, you want motivation, this is it!!

- Unlike every other religion that says work your way to God, Jesus shows us that God came down to us to do what we could never do for ourselves!

And it's this power and authority that sets up what Jesus is about to say next...

**Verse 19** He says: **Go, therefore, and make disciples...**

Now, you know we always stop at **therefores** because they always shape the context...

Well, this is a big **therefore**, because what it shows us is that Jesus' call to **go** and make disciples is grounded in His authority, **not our ability!**

It's because of HIS AUTHORITY over everything that we can have the confidence and courage **to go and make disciples!**

For many of us, we struggle with the confidence and courage in this call to **go and make disciples** because we feel like it's all on us...

- It feels like this daunting abstract task that's overwhelming...
- We have no boldness...
- We don't feel good enough or qualified enough...

\*Listen, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called...

- **Most every major player in the Bible was unexpected and ill equip...**
- Moses said to God that he wasn't eloquent, his mouth and tongue were sluggish...
- Joseph was the weird little brother...
- David was the runt of his family...
- Peter... *Do I need to go into detail!*
- Matthew was a tax collector who did number not words...
- Paul, quite possibly had a speech impediment, at the very least he claimed his physical presence was weak and he was not good at public speaking (2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6)
- Not to mention so many with sin issues and others who were lowly that God chose to use in big ways...
- I could go on and on...

God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called... And He does that by giving us Himself!

<sup>1</sup> W. D. Davies and Dale C. Allison Jr., *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel according to Saint Matthew*, vol. 3, International Critical Commentary, 682.

<sup>2</sup> Romans 14:9 Christ died and returned to life for this: that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living.

**Colossians 2:10** and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

It's not about your ability, it's about the power of God **in you** that's been released to you through Christ!

And watch how this plays out when it comes to disciple-making. Let me give you an example from **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.**

What we see here is the **power** and **authority of Jesus** that's at work through Paul... Jesus saves Paul, Jesus sends Paul, Jesus works through Paul...

- **Result:** *disciples are made, people receiving forgiveness of their sins through faith in Jesus...*

What I want you to see is that it's that same **power** and **authority** that's at work in us and through us that enables us to make disciples!

- Nowhere does God talk about a skill set. Everywhere He talks about faithfulness to lean into His power!

What we see with Paul in **Acts** is Matt. 28:18-20 in action!

Look at what Jesus says next in **verse 18**... *He's going to show us who we're called to go and make disciples of...*

**18 All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,**

God's mission is a world mission...

- Meaning His plan for reaching the world is Jesus to you and Jesus through you to the ends of the earth...
- This isn't the call for some but all...
- Either **goer, giver**... All of us are **prayer** and **supporters**...
- This is why we partner nationally and internationally...
- Some of you need to pray about going...

*And as a part of that here's what else we're called to do:*

**baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** Baptizing new believers, by immersion, because this is what the word **baptize** means... *to sink or submerge*...

**Why do we do this?**

**1 Peter 3:20-22** ... God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few—that is, eight people—were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

So we baptize as a public declaration of an inward reality...

- Notice the order baptism is after conversion...
- This puts the gospel on display, it's a celebration and a commitment...

**Verse 20:** *Most overlooked verse in the great commission esp. For the Baptists...*

**20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.**

Ok, now let's get really practical... What does all of this actually look like, to make disciples and to teach them? How does it all fit together?

**Here it is:** **[All on one slide]** *Going to walk through them but want to lay it out first...*

**Disciple-making = Evangelism + Discipleship**

- Evangelism = Sharing the gospel message
- Discipleship = Teaching people what it looks like to follow Jesus <sup>3</sup>

**Now, let's unpack it...**

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<sup>3</sup> Replicate

## Evangelism

### *Scary word, not sure what it means, how it works?!?*

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

**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...*

### **Practically what does this look like?**

#### **2 ways:**

1. On-the-spot evangelism...

- Always be on the lookout for this...

**2. 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...** This is why one of our core values is **missional living...** And 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 both/and... But there's got to come a time when you actually present the gospel...

- For some of you, you have that person and it's time!!

### **Here's the thing, 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: Deal with each...***

- I don't know how to get to the gospel...
- 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...

**Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18...** Gospel ***is the power of God!***

- At the end of the day, you just need to get out & do it and trust God!

### ***The second part of this, disciple-making is evangelism + Discipleship***

#### **Discipleship**

This is **verse 20** **teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.**

**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!

**Now here's the thing,** and I think this is where so many Christians are... *You can't give what you don't have...*

Some of you have never been discipled, so you don't know how to disciple someone else...

- And if you're here and you asking what does all this look like... My hope for you is that you would experience discipleship for the first time...

And I know there's a group of you that are like *Not me-I'm good!*

- What you need to understand is that we never stop growing as disciples...
- And as we continue on this journey, we learn more and more what it means to be a disciple so that we can bring others along...
- Some of you are complacent in the Christian life and it leaks out in your discipleship...
- Others of you just need to learn more about the Word of God...

**Jen Wilken says:** *You cannot love what you do not know...*

- This is why Jesus commanded us to "teach them to observe everything he commanded"
- We teach because we want people to love God more through knowing more about Him

**Core Class plug...**

- This is the role of the church to equip you for the work of the ministry **Eph. 4:12**...
- Class is before the gathering (8:50am - 9:45am), intersection not addition, the dates are on the registration page (imageatl.com/institute).
- ***This is a class that covers the storyline of the bible and then biblical doctrine, and spiritual disciplines.***
- There is a small fee to cover the books that is discounted up until August 6, you get 4 books that will be used in the class for each topic.
- Not for some but for all!
  - Go through it, teach it...

*And then we get to the last part I want you to see here... **verse 20:**  
**And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.***

***Jesus starts with "my authority" and ends with "my power" and ends with I am with you... You are not alone...***

How is this possible? ***Through the Holy Spirit!***

***God's plan is this,*** to save you through Jesus and then give you the Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and then send you to take the message and ministry of Jesus to the ends of the earth!

Would this be who we are... I was convicted as I was writing this, convicted on the gap in confidence and courage that I can so often have...

- Power of the Spirit and the Word!

## **Conclusion [VAMP]**

So here's how we want to close this morning in light of our text...

### **Options on Screen**

- *I am surrendering my life to Christ this morning for the first time...*
  - *Short appeal...*
- *I need to be baptized...*
  - *Short appeal...*
- **TEXT SAVED** *the number on the screen*

*I want to sign up for the core class **QR CODE for registering for the class.***

**PRAY**

**Outtake:** This is the whole verse for reference...

**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.