

You should already be at Matthew Chapter 28, but I have a question. What is the main purpose of the Church? Or for that matter! What is the main purpose of a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ? Some may say it is for fellowship. Some may say it is for us to give praises and sing songs to the Lord.

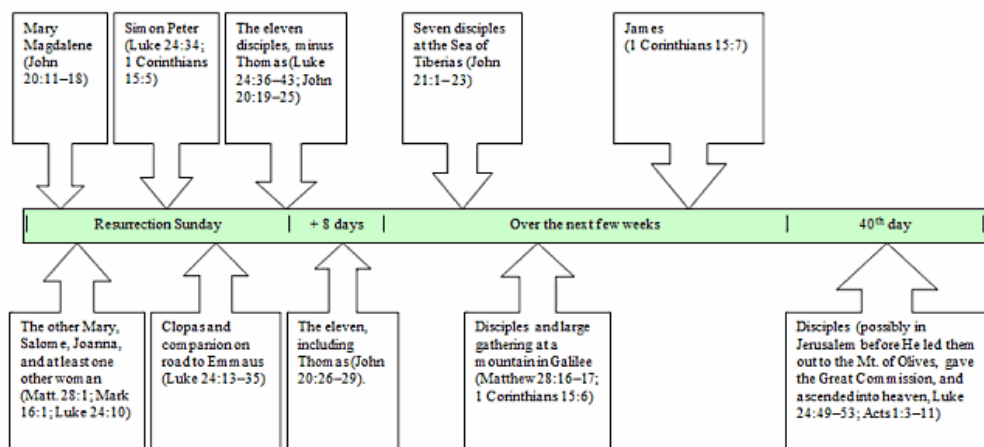
Some may say it is, as we are doing right now, learning and being taught the Word of God. All that is true in its place and setting. But the main purpose of the what Scripture calls, the body of Christ, is exactly what we are going to see in these 5 verses tonight. We could preach a sermon on each of these verses, so for the next 5 hours we will exegete and break down these verses.

16Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus directed them. 17And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them, to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.

There it is. The main purpose of the Church is be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to go and make disciples. Yes, Jesus tells us that he came to seek and to save which is lost. Yes, he died on the cross and was resurrected. But he didn’t do that to just go back to heaven and leave us on our own. Jesus is passing onto us to what he came to do. That is a great privilege and there comes with that great responsibility.

In the Old Testament, there are over 300 prophecies that detailed how you could recognize the coming promised Messiah. Jesus being that Messiah fulfilled each of those prophecies from the Old Testament and his own prophecies detailing his arrest, subsequent trials, his beatings and his death on the Cross. And, “Oh yes!” Lest we forget his resurrection from the dead showing once again who he is the Savior of the world. We are going to talk a little about that here in a few moments. After Jesus’ resurrection he started revealing himself to some of his followers.

Timeline of the Post-Resurrection Appearances



This chart details the fact that Jesus revealed himself to Mary Magdalene and the other women at the tomb. That same day he revealed himself to Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus. That night he appears to ten of the disciples and those that were with them in the upper room. Remember, Thomas was not with them at this time and Judas had killed himself.

Eight days later he does appear to the disciples again in the upper room with Thomas there and he shows Thomas his hands, his feet and his pierced side where Thomas could put his hand into that scar. He appears to Peter, James, John, Nathanael, Thomas and two others by the sea of Galilee and this is where this event happens.

This tells us that the eleven apostles and probably several more made that 70-mile trek from Jerusalem up to Galilee.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus directed them.

Why did they go to Galilee? We read in two places in Matthew's Gospel of where Jesus told his disciples, as well as Mary Magdalene, and the women that he would meet them in Galilee. In Matthew 26 verses 31 and 32, after Jesus instituted the Lord's supper and they were on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus told the Apostles that they would fall away because of him that night. But he would be raised, and he would come to them in Galilee. An angel at the tomb and Jesus himself told Mary Magdalene and the other women to tell the disciples that he was alive and would see them soon in Galilee.

But again, "Why did Jesus pick Galilee?" We can't be dogmatic about this, but I think Jesus wanted to go home! Jesus' home base was out of Capernaum. Jesus did about 80% of his ministry in those areas. Jesus called those first disciples while they were tending their nets on the shores of the sea of Galilee. Remember? He said follow me and I will make you, What? Fishers of Men! Here we are full circle from that day 3 years ago. There is Jesus on this mountain. One they may have spent time with Jesus in the past.

17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

I want us to get a picture of this. They worshiped him, but some doubted. Turn to 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Because who is the they and who are the some? I would propose to you, as some, if not most scholars will share, that this is the time, that on this mountain in Galilee is where Jesus appeared to the more than 500 as mentioned in these verses by the Apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 – Let's read.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also believed: that Christ died for our sins in accordance to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

So, as we look at this I don't believe that it is any of the 11 that doubted. They had already touched him and ate with him. We are beyond Passover now. Other people may have traveled with them. Others in that region may have talked with the disciples and asked why they were there. It was definitely more than just the 11 that were there.

But some worshiped. The Greek word here is “pros-ku-neo”, which means to kneel or to lay prostrate on the ground. Those up close knew there was no doubt it was Jesus and that the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords was standing before them. You get 500 people on a hillside not everyone is going to be able to see.

Could this be true? Is this truly Jesus alive again? As I thought about this I was thinking about our worship. You realize as a true follower of Jesus Christ. Worship is not something we do but it is who we are. And our worship to be completely and totally focused on the Lord Jesus Christ. If we bring ourselves into it at all it is called idolatry.

But I was also thinking about those that doubted. With their physical eyes on that hill side they probably could not make Jesus out and there was doubt. See, Satan will blind us or blur our vision spiritually and we don't see the absolute truth of who Jesus is and what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus.

And we doubt. Is the Bible completely true? Is Jesus the only way? See there are really only two worldviews, or we could even say two religions. Jesus has all authority or Man has all authority. On this hillside he gives an answer to those doubts. ***Look at verse 18:***

Matthew 28:18

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

Jesus starts walking down that mountain and he comes into focus to all those that are there, and he let's them know that, “All authority in heaven and on earth is his!” Jesus' authority encompasses all things. This is best described in Colossians Chapter 1 beginning with verse 13.

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Jesus has authority over all creation because he is creator and he sustains his creation even in its broken state because of sin. In Chapter 11 of Matthew, when John the Baptist sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one that was coming? If he was the Messiah?

What did Jesus tell them to go back and tell John? The blind received their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised, and the poor have good news preached to them. Blessed are those that are not offended by me.

Jesus showed he had authority in all those situations and even showed he has the authority to forgive sins and it is only through Jesus that we can even have forgiveness of sin. What did Jesus say his primary mission was? Jesus said, I came to seek and to save that which is lost! Now Jesus commands his disciples to do the same. Look at verses 19 and 20.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them, to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.

We see in this verse a transition with the word therefore. It is because Jesus has all authority in those areas we just spoke of that we now take that fact to a lost and dying world. We are to “GO!” Look at what Jesus

is saying again. It is the main goal of any true believer and the Church to go and make disciples. Now look at this! It doesn't say go and make converts.

It says go and make disciples. We are to Go, we are to baptize, and we are to teach. But what is a disciple? Within that phrase of making disciples, in the Greek, it is two-fold. The word is "matheteuo" and it means:

1. To be a disciple
2. To make a disciple

So, to be able to make a disciple of Jesus Christ, you must be a disciple of Jesus Christ. What did Jesus say about being a disciple of his? Well in Matthew Chapter 16 beginning with verse 24 Jesus said:

Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

What do we read here? There is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Just as there was a cost for Jesus to leave heaven and come to this earth to die for our sins. Jesus with eyes wide open took on his mission so that we may have an opportunity of salvation. Remember this is what it cost Jesus.



The cost for us is to deny our sin and to be obedient in all things Jesus has commanded us to do. In that, Jesus becomes Lord of our life. We use to ask this question in our New Membership meeting.

What is your position on the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Can a person take Jesus as Savior without taking him as Lord?

The answer is No! That is what some people want to make Jesus. Savior but not Lord. Because if he is just Savior then we twist Scripture to fit our lifestyles. But Scripture does not know that Jesus. Jesus is Lord and to be a disciple or to be able to make disciples, we are to be obedient in all aspects of what the Bible says. What is the first step of that obedience? Look at verse 19 again.

Matthew 28:19

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.

Baptism! We know of Jesus' obedience in that he was baptized by John the Baptist before he started his earthly ministry. It is also the best way we show our union with Jesus in our repentance and it is the best way to show that we are dying to our sin and being raised to a new life in Jesus Christ. Romans 6:4 describes that correlation.

I do have to touch on this. I don't have time to go deep. Scripturally we do not see where Baptism is part of salvation. It is the outward expression of our salvation. It is being obedient, and it is a step of faith to show our identity in Christ. Jesus said in Mark 16:15 and 16 these words:

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

You see it is the belief in Jesus Christ and the first step of obedience is the Baptism. So, with our first step of obedience through Baptism we are now ready to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are ready now to Go! But as we go, "What are we to be doing?" Look at verse 20.

Matthew 28:20

20 teaching them, to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.

This is where the rubber meets the road in being a disciple and making disciples. Remember we are basing all of this on the fact that Jesus has all authority. Jesus Christ is, The Way, The Truth and The Life. And in the fact that Jesus has all authority, then the Bible is our authority because Jesus is the very Word of God that became flesh, John Chapter 1 verse 14.

So, what did Jesus command!

1. Salvation: I mentioned it a few minutes ago. **John 14:6**, I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me? **If you do not believe that and are not teaching that you are not a disciple of Jesus and you can not make a disciple of Jesus. That encompasses everything.** Whatever your talent, whatever your profession it is to be used to make Jesus known.
2. Marriage: **Matthew 19:4-5**, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? What we have read through Matthew whenever Jesus talked about marriage he spoke of the man and woman being virgins. He also talked about a ceremony so the vows the couple were making towards each other were made in front of witnesses.
3. Speaking of purity: **Matthew 5:27 and 28**: You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

4. Our resources - **Matthew 6:19-21**, Do not lay up for treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and thieves break in and steal, but lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

5. Let's look at the Beatitudes from Matthew Chapter 5. A disciple of Jesus will be:
 - a) Verse 3: Poor (Humble) in spirit. In humility we will acknowledge our sin. We will repent of our sin.
 - b) Verse 4: Mourn (This is in relation to our sin). We will hate our sin!
 - c) Verse 5: Meek (This is like humility, but meekness is more of a focus on God's holiness and this brings us to a point of not being prideful)
 - d) Verse 6: Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness. Jesus commands us to seek righteousness.

6. Yes. We are to love! Happy Valentine's Day, by the way! We are to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves. But the greatest love we can show to God and to anybody is observe all that Jesus has commanded.

So, are we disciples of Jesus? What I just talked about are not suggestions and neither is what Jesus commanded in Chapter 28 verse 16-20. It is the Great Commission and we are to go and make disciples. I like the fact it says to all nations. But I also like what Jesus said at the end of verse 20.

Matthew 28:20

²⁰Teaching them, to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.

Behold, I am with you always to the end of the age. Here is the King of the universe saying he will be with you. The first step is that some of you may need to repent of your sins today and make it public you are ready to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Some of you may need to repent tonight of how you have twisted Scripture to fit your lifestyle. Some of you may say, I get so fearful to share the Gospel. I don't know what to say, I am not sure I can ask a question that I may be asked.

What did Jesus say at the end of verse 20, I will be with you always, to the end!

Church this is our main purpose. It is time to make a new commitment to living holy before our Lord and the world, so it can be said of us that we are disciples of Jesus and through that we can make disciples of Jesus Christ.