

## **Sermon Title: The Great Commission: Now What?**

**Pastor Buddy Royston**

**Main Theme:** The Great Commission calls every believer to become a true disciple — not just a church attendee — and to step out in love, faith, and boldness so God can use us in the harvest field.

### **Introduction: A Song That Changed Lives**

Pastor Buddy shared how he once taught a church to sing “Victory in Jesus.” It took seven full weeks of practice until the congregation finally “got it right.” Years later, people still call him saying, “That song changed my life.” His reply is always the same: “It changed mine too — just from listening to all of you sing it!” That story sets the tone: when we keep showing up and pressing in, God brings victory — in worship, in our hearts, and in the lives we touch.

### **The Great Commission: Are You a Disciple?**

Jesus’ Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is not just a command to “go to church.” It is a call to **be disciples** who make disciples. Pastor Buddy, after 19 years in ministry, observed that many believers never truly become disciples. Some attend faithfully, but few grasp that God needs us *out in the world*, actively sharing His power and love.

**Key Question:** What does it really mean to be a disciple — and am I one?

### **Point 1: Love Like Jesus — Even Your Enemies**

**(Matthew 5:43-48)** True discipleship begins with radical love. Jesus commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

- Go back to the people who need love most.
- Example: You lend money to a friend and never see it again. That moment is not a loss — it’s a privilege. It reveals your character: Are you a giver or a taker? What matters most to you?
- Jesus calls us to give freely to those who cannot repay us *and* even to those who simply want to take advantage. That kind of love marks us as children of our Father in heaven.

**Clear Summary:** Discipleship is proven by how we treat people who can do nothing for us.

### **Point 2: Pray for Workers — Then Become One**

**(Matthew 9:35-38)** Jesus looked at the crowds and saw them as a harvest field ready but lacking workers. His solution? “Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.”

- Don’t be afraid to speak the name of Jesus. You have no idea what you’re missing until you step out.

- Personal Story: Buddy isn't a great fisherman, but he'll sit on a pier anyway, waiting for God to send someone. One day after 35 minutes with no bites, he packed up and headed to his car — only to find a couple in the parking lot with a broken-down vehicle. He offered them a ride, then prayed for them before they left. They had no choice but to listen — it was *his* car! — but they knew he genuinely cared.
- You may become the very voice God uses in someone's moment of need.

**Powerful Statement from Pastor Buddy:** “I love everybody in here, and you can't stop me — because God is behind me. He is the source of that love.” That alone is a sermon worth remembering.

### **Point 3: Step Out in Faith — God Gives the Authority**

**(Luke 9:1-2)** Jesus gave His disciples authority to drive out demons and cure diseases. The same promise holds today:

- If you are willing to step out, God will bless it.
- Faith is the key — exercise it!
- When you walk with the Lord, He walks with you. He will take you places you never dreamed of, show you things you never thought you'd see, and turn your life into a journey of substance, power, and joy.

### **Closing Challenge**

Victory in Jesus is not just a song — it's a lifestyle. The Great Commission is not optional. God is still looking for workers. Will you be one?

### **Reflection & Application Questions**

(Use these for personal study, small groups, or next week's discussion)

1. When was the last time I loved someone who could never repay me? What did that reveal about my heart?
2. Am I praying for God to send workers into the harvest — or am I waiting for someone else to go?
3. What “pier” has God placed me on right now (work, neighborhood, gym, family)? Am I willing to wait and watch for the person He sends?
4. What fears keep me from speaking the name of Jesus? What one step of faith can I take this week?
5. If my life is a journey, what “places” and “things” has the Lord already shown me because I chose to walk with Him?
6. **Thought-provoking statement to meditate on:** “You don't know what you're missing until you put yourself out there. But when you do, God shows up — sometimes in the parking lot.”

**Final Encouragement** If you're walking with the Lord, He is walking with you. Keep singing "Victory in Jesus" until you get it right — in your heart, in your home, and in the harvest field. The world is waiting for disciples who love like Jesus, pray like Jesus, and step out like Jesus.

Let's go be those disciples.