



## Go, Therefore, Make Disciples

February 25, 2024

### **Holy Text:**

**Matthew 28:16–20 ESV**<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### **Thoughts on the Text**

#### **Be mindful of the assumptions we bring to the text**

1. Assumptions based on theological doctrines
2. Assumptions due to Life's hardships

#### **See the great commission as an extension of the greatest commandment**

**Matthew 22:36–38 ESV**<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The world needs to hear this message **FROM US**.

### **The Text**

**Matthew 28:16–17 ESV**<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him **they worshiped him, but some doubted.**

- An interesting note is that the Lord didn't call the disciples to meet him in Jerusalem, which was the Jewish world's Religious, Political, and Economic hub. Instead, the Lord calls them to Galilee. The place where he first chose them and began his ministry, saying, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” It seems that our Lord wanted his disciples in a place of comfort as he prepared to turn their worlds once again upside down.
- (v.17) I love that the word of God does not omit details like this. The word doubt here means a feeling of uncertainty or unsure about something.
- Christ is not afraid of our doubts or our struggles with what his word says. Jesus doesn't scold or rebuke the disciples for having doubts. There will be times of uncertainty in our lives.

**1 Corinthians 15:20–22 ESV** <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

- It's not that your doubts are ignored or your concerns don't matter to the Lord. But the one superseding factor that reigns above every doubt is that Christ lives.

### **All authority belongs to Jesus**

**Matthew 28:18 ESV**<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- The Lord has been vindicated of the heretical accusations and attacks from the religious leaders. God the Father has co-signed every statement made by Jesus Christ:  
**John 14:6 ESV** <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.  
**John 5:39 ESV** <sup>39</sup> You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,  
**John 8:58 ESV** <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”  
**Matthew 26:64 ESV**<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
- The religious leaders said these claims were blasphemous; the religious leaders picked up stones to stone our Lord. The religious leaders said Christ did miracles by the power of demons, But God said “This is my son who I have chosen. Listen to him.”

### **Go, Therefore**

**Matthew 28:19 ESV** <sup>19</sup> 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,

### **Jesus is the justification for our going**

**2 Peter 1:3–4 ESV** <sup>3</sup> **His divine power has granted to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him who called us** to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which **he has granted to us his precious and very great promises**, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- The finished work of Jesus is the foundation we stand on. His church is built on who He is, the Christ, son of the living God. The finished work of our Lord is also the justification for our going.
- Because Christ lived the life we could not live. And paid the price we could not pay; you who believe in him are no longer who or what you used to be. You have been transformed into a new creation. His divine power has granted us all things through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- **So Christ alone is our foundation, and Christ alone is our justification.**
- › *Since all authority on earth is lodged in Christ's hands, he can also clothe any and all of his servants with a sacred might by which their hands will be sufficient for them in their high calling. Without bringing them forth into the front ranks, he can make them occupy their appointed stations until he comes, having a divine power that will make them useful.*<sup>1</sup>
- The Lord has instilled in us the ability to carry the mission he called us to. You don't need a particular status to preach the gospel. You don't have to make a certain amount of money to preach the Gospel. You don't have to have many degrees or letters behind your name to preach the gospel. All one needs is the Blood of the Lord Jesus. The blood that gives us strength from day to day. The blood that will never lose its power. And you are fit for service to the King.

### **The Great Commission is a charge for every believer**

**Ephesians 4:11–13 ESV** <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

- The ministry of the saints is to continue the work of Christ

**2 Corinthians 5:18–20 ESV** <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Paul lays out a pattern of reconciliation and how the Father commissioned the Son to reconcile the world and then gave that same ministry to Christ's disciples. Paul calls us ambassadors for Christ. Whose mission is to implore on behalf of Christ.

#### **Ambassador**

- › *A minister of the highest rank employed by one prince or state...to manage the public concerns of his own prince or state, and representing the power and dignity of his sovereign.*<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon. (2017). *The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes*. Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Websters 1828: *An American Dictionary of the English Language*

### **Coming is easy; going is hard**

- It's easy to come to church. The church is comfortable. We all love the Lord here. Even if there are differences and disagreements among us, they pale compared to our common faith in Jesus Christ.
- Going is hard. The Great Commission is hard. It's hard to go out there where the world hates you. But hear the words of the Lord

**Matthew 10:28 ESV** <sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**John 16:33 ESV** <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

- The difficulty of a task doesn't negate the necessity of getting it done. And it's for this purpose that we are called to preach the Gospel. Because it is in that verbal preaching that faith comes.

### **Faith comes by hearing**

**Romans 10:13–17 ESV** <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- Believers' willingness to proclaim the Lord verbally is crucial for salvation. We have no power or authority to save, as salvation is of the Lord. All authority belongs to Christ alone.

**Ephesians 2:8–9 ESV** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**1 Corinthians 3:6–7 ESV** <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

- Our task is to Preach the Gospel. Preach salvation is by no other name but Jesus Christ. Preach His death, Burial, and Resurrection, for we are the mechanism chosen by God to deliver his message to the nations.

And the hearing of this message produces Faith!

## **Make Disciples of all nations**

1. The Lord's call to make disciples is relational.
2. Making disciples requires knowledge of the scriptures.
3. Discipling Children is a part of the Great Commission.<sup>3</sup>
4. Making Disciples requires Being committed to the full council of God

## **I am with you**

**Matthew 28:20 ESV** <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- The resurrection of the Lord is the authority in which we go. The Spirit of the Lord is our provision while we go. The promise of the Lord is our comfort as we go

## **Final thoughts.**

1. Make sure you have the right relationship with the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray that the Lord will give you opportunities to preach the Gospel verbally.
3. See the preaching of the Gospel as essential and as crucial as living Holy
4. Take advantage of the resources here at the church.
5. Finally, The Lord is going somewhere with this thing. He has not given this command, hoping it will accomplish his purpose. Instead, he has given it, knowing it will achieve his purpose. And by his decree and for his purposes, he has chosen to include us in his plan for salvation. And that which the Lord has spoken will come to pass.

**Revelation 7:9–12 ESV** <sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Let us pray.

---

<sup>3</sup> The church has resources to help you with this <https://www.d6reformation.org/>