

FOLLOWING THE KING: *DISCIPLING THE NATIONS*

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV) - 8 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

THE MOUNTAIN WHERE HISTORY TURNED

No one expected the world to change on a mountain in Galilee. Not Rome...Not the priests...Not the demons... Not the angels... Not even the eleven trembling disciples standing at Jesus’ feet.

But Matthew 28 is more than a resurrection chapter. It is a **transfer of government**. A **shift of ages**. A **cosmic coronation ceremony**.

It is the moment Daniel saw centuries earlier: **Daniel 7:14 (NKJV) - “To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.”**

On the mountain, Jesus does not sound like a Rabbi finishing a Bible study. He sounds like a King ascending the throne of the universe. And in that moment - with nail prints still fresh - He does something no king in history had ever done:

- He hands His authority to His followers.
- He says to a handful of frightened Galileans - men who fled in Gethsemane, men who doubted, men who had failed:

“All authority has been given to Me...now you go disciple the nations.”

Think about the shock of that. The resurrected King doesn't say: “Survive.” “Hide.” “Protect yourselves.” “Hold the fort until I return.” He says: **“Disciple the nations.”**

That sentence detonated like a bomb in the spiritual realm.

- Hell tried to crucify Him. He rose anyway.
- Hell tried to silence Him. He spoke anyway.
- Hell tried to stop Him. He commissioned anyway.

And the Commission He gave was not a small one. It was not a private one. It was not a “get a few decisions” one.

It was a **nation-shaping, culture-shifting, world-reordering** command from a crowned King.

To understand the mandate, we must understand the grammar - because grammar is theology when God speaks.

THE KING'S VERB: ONE IMPERATIVE THAT COMMANDS THE WORLD

In Matthew 28:19 there is **only one verb in the imperative mood** - the only part of the Great Commission Jesus issues as a direct command. It is the word: **mathēteúsate** - **“MAKE DISCIPLES.”**

- Not “go.”
- Not “teach.”
- Not “baptize.”

Those are participles —going, baptizing, teaching— supporting actions that explain how to make disciples. The one divine command is singular: “Make disciples.” This gives us our first theologically loaded revelation:

The Great Commission is not four commands — it is one mission. The Church doesn't have a list — it has a mandate.

What Jesus commanded was not a moment of evangelism. It was **a lifetime of formation.**

- Jesus did not say: “Go get decisions.” He said: **“Go make disciples.”**

And that means something even bigger than most believers realize: A disciple is not someone who attends. A disciple is someone who becomes.

Hebraically, a disciple is an imitator. A carrier of the rabbi's yoke. A living embodiment of the teacher.

- So, Jesus is not asking for believers. He is commanding **duplicates** - people who look like Him, live like Him, love like Him, obey like Him, and carry His kingdom into every sphere.

The Kingdom does not expand through decisions — it expands through disciples.

You can believe in Jesus and still not follow Jesus. The world is not transformed by what the Church says, but by who the Church becomes.

So, Jesus commands us to make disciples — but of *whom*? Whom does the King target? Here comes the theological bombshell...

THE KING'S SCOPE: DISCIPLE "ALL NATIONS" — NOT JUST INDIVIDUALS

“Make disciples of **all nations**...”

- The Greek word is **ethne** - the same word the Septuagint uses for the Hebrew **goyim** - the families, tribes, peoples, and cultures of the world.
- This is not geographic - This is **civilizational**.
- **Nations = Culture + Religion + Morality + Identity**
- In the Old Testament, the “nations” are always described by:
 - their gods (Deut. 12:30)
 - their customs (Lev. 18:3)
 - their worldview (Ps. 2:1)
 - their ethics (Mic. 4:2)
 - their law structures (Deut. 4:5–8)
- **A nation was a way of life, not a border.**
- Jesus did not command “disciple people in the nations.”
- He commanded: “Disciple the nations themselves.”

Nations in Scripture are not political borders. Nations are:

- Cultures
- Systems
- Values
- Ethics
- Institutions
- Worldview
- Collective identity

Jesus is not sending the Church to **visit nations**. He is sending the Church to **shape them**.

Biblical Background - This is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise: **Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)** *“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

And Isaiah’s Servant prophecy: **Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)** *“I will give You as a light to the Gentiles... to the ends of the earth.”*

Jesus is telling the Church: “What God began in Abraham, I now assign to you. Go finish the mission.” This is not a small calling. This is cosmic in scope.

Jesus didn’t die to build a religious club - He died to form a kingdom that shapes nations.

- **The gospel is not an escape plan — it is a takeover plan.**

The early church fathers - Tertullian, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus - did not see evangelism as “saving individuals” only. They saw it as **converting entire cultural worlds.**

Tertullian said: “We have filled every place among you - cities, islands, fortresses, towns, marketplaces, tribunals, councils, military camps, the palace, the senate, the forum.”

- He didn’t say “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria...” He said **systems, spheres, arenas of culture.** They didn’t disciple “territories.” They disciplined **civilizations.**

They knew...If the Church does not disciple the nations, the nations will disciple the Church.

The King gives one command - and now He gives three movements to accomplish it. These are not random. They are the architecture of nation-transformation.

THE KING’S METHOD: GO BAPTIZE TEACH

GO - The Missional Movement “Go therefore...”

- In the Greek this participle carries thrust:
“As you go... as you move... as you step into the world
- make disciples.”
- The Church was never meant to be stationary. Never meant to be safe. Never meant to be silent.

The King didn't say build a fortress - He said build a Kingdom.

BAPTIZING - The Identity Transfer

- “Baptizing them in the name...” In Hebrew thought, a “name” is identity, authority, vocation, destiny.
- To be baptized **into the name** is to:
 - renounce old gods
 - renounce old identity
 - renounce old allegiance
 - publicly join a new Kingdom
 - Jesus says: “Immerse the nations into the identity of Father, Son, Spirit.”

This is not ritual - This is identity reformation.

TEACHING - The Lifestyle Transformation

“...teaching them to observe all things I commanded...”

- Teaching them what He said is not enough. **Teaching them to obey what He said** is discipleship.
- This is not: “Teach them theology.” It is: “Teach them obedience.”
- This is covenanting language - just like Moses receiving Torah on Sinai.
- Now Jesus - the greater Moses - stands on a mountain in Galilee and gives the **Greater Torah**: “Teach them everything I commanded.”

A nation is disciplined when obedience becomes culture.

Teaching without transformation is religious entertainment.

The King doesn't want admirers — He wants imitators.

And now the King seals His command with the greatest promise ever spoken.

THE KING'S PRESENCE: THE POWER BEHIND THE MANDATE

- Jesus ends with the words that began the Gospel: **Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)** “*And lo, I am with you always...*”

- Matthew began with: “**Emmanuel - God with us.**”
- Matthew ends with: “**I am with you always.**”

This is covenant language. This is divine presence.
This is the power that makes discipleship possible.

Jesus is saying: “You are not discipling nations alone. My authority backs you. My presence empowers you. My Spirit guides you. My glory surrounds you.”

The Great Commission is not carried out by human strength but by divine presence.

We disciple because He is with us. We go because He goes with us. The King who commands is the King who accompanies.

THIS SERIES ENDS — THE MISSION BEGINS

This entire series has been **Following the King...**

- through His calling
- through His teaching
- through His miracles
- through His parables
- through His passion
- through His surrender
- through His resurrection

But now we follow Him into: His mission. His mandate
His, movement , His Kingdom

**He rose - therefore disciple. He reigns - therefore go.
He is with you - therefore advance.**

**This is not the end of Matthew. This is the beginning of
your assignment.**

Final Revival Declaration: Lift your head, Church.
The King is not calling you to **survive the nations.**
He is calling you to **disciple them.**