

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (FOR MARCH 14, 2021)

For Community Groups or Personal Study

In the opening months of 2021 we have been asking the question, “what does God desire for us as His church here at Grace?” This is a question we have asked in past years and will continue asking in the future. We do not want to drift and fade. We want to focus and flourish. Throughout January we heard a clear call from Jesus (John 17) to be His “United Church.” We live out that unity both inside and outside the walls here at Grace. Internally it led us to make a significant change. Gracia de Cristo and Grace of Christ moved beyond simply sharing space to formally become One church. This required, and will continue to require, intentionality, humility, courage, and grace. We worship together and we serve together! Outside our walls we are reaching out to build bridges, and deepen friendships, with other Christian churches. In February we explored God’s call to be His “Gathered Church.” What does His church look like when it gathers together? We gather to pray, to sing praises to God, to listen to God’s word (the Bible), to grow as disciples (followers) of Jesus. The Gathered Church does not end with the Benediction on Sunday morning. That’s only the beginning.

This morning Alex will help us understand our call to be Jesus’ “Scattered Church.” With Jesus’ final words in the book of Matthew He commanded His friends to GO ... to “Scatter” ... in order to make disciples of ALL nations. This command was not only for His original group of eleven friends ... it is for us too, His friends today here at Grace of Christ. His command is clear. His command is generous. His command is worth dedicating our lives to. How do we make disciples? Thankfully, we are not sent out to make disciples on our own, under our own power, with our own words, devising our own strategy. The one who commands that we GO ... GOES WITH US. He promised, “I am with you always!” He will provide what we need as we go and “make disciples.” Humble disciples ... making disciples.

### **2021.CHURCH: THE SCATTERED CHURCH**

**SERMON PASSAGE:** MATTHEW 28:16-20

<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.’”

## **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

The Bible passage for this morning is referred to as the “Great Commission.” At the very end of Matthew’s account of Jesus ... after recording His miraculous birth “Emmanuel: ‘God with us’” ... after accounts of His teachings and healings ... after He redefined what it meant to be at peace with God ... after He exposed the error of religious power, “the first will be last and the last first” ... after He was condemned, arrested, murdered, by those threatened by His love and grace ... after the unexpected joy experienced by His friends when they saw Him alive again ... Jesus sent His eleven disciples on a mission. He commissioned them to scatter and make more disciples, in every nation. He commissioned them, us, to share with others His incredible, overwhelming, unbending Love. The eleven obeyed. In every nation people heard about Jesus, responded to His mercy and love, and began following Him. Our commission is the same ... Go, Make disciples!

1. What was the response of the eleven disciples when they saw Jesus? V.17
2. What kind of authority was given to Jesus? How much authority does Jesus have? Who gave Jesus this authority?
3. What promise does God give us in this passage? Why is this promise important? V.20

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. What were His eleven disciples commanded to do? What are we commanded to do?
5. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? V.20
6. What is significant about the phrase, “baptizing them in the name (singular) of Father, Son and Holy Spirit”?

## **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

7. How does Jesus’ promise “I am with you always” impact how you live your life? Do you believe this promise? Discuss
8. In what ways are you currently a disciple of Jesus?
9. Are you “going and making disciples”? Explain

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a minute or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don’t know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. In your prayer ask God to help you follow Jesus and be His disciple. Ask Him to give you the courage to “go” and “make disciples.”

May our genuine love and care for others lead them to Jesus, and ultimately to become His disciples too. He will help you (us).