



## Parkway Fellowship

PEAK ENCOUNTERS • THE NAMELESS MOUNTAIN • MATTHEW 28:16-20 • 8/30/2020

### MAIN POINT

Christ commissioned every church and church member with the task of making disciples.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Brainstorm a list of reasons people go to church and functions of the church, both appropriate and off base. Why does going to church have such a broad appeal to people?**

**What is the most important reason for being a part of a church? What would you say is our purpose at Parkway Fellowship?**

**Do you consider yourself a missionary? Why or why not?**

The world needs to know who Jesus really is and what the benefits are of putting faith in Him. Jesus gave us—His church—the responsibility to make those truths known. God could have chosen to work in the world independent of His people, yet He chose to engage us in accomplishing His will. As the church, we represent God to people who need to know and understand Him. The potential impact of obedience to that calling is world-changing. Today's study on Jesus' parting words from a nameless mountain peak will challenge you to allow Him to work through you as you "go and make disciples."

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 28:16-18.

**Why did Jesus lead His command with a statement of His authority?**

**In what is His authority rooted?**

**What do you think it means to have all authority “in heaven and on earth”?**

**How does Jesus’ authority give us confidence on mission? What would we be able to do without His authority?**

**Why is Jesus’ authority essential to the command He makes in verse 19? How does His authority compel us to go?**

Jesus did not begin the Great Commission with a command. He started with the claim that He had all authority, and everything after that claim flows from it. Jesus is the Lord of the universe, and nothing is beyond His sovereign rule and reign. Our mission does not make any sense unless Jesus has all authority. We can be sure that when we go on our mission of making disciples, we do so under the banner and authority of the ruler of the universe. When we invite people to turn from their sin and trust in His name, it is His authority that compels them to respond.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 28:19-20.

**The Great Commission is comprised of one imperative command. What is that one command? Why is it significant that it is a command?**

**Who are the nations Jesus mentioned in the Great Commission? Who should we understand those people to be?**

**Why is baptism included in the Great Commission? What does this communicate about the importance of the church?**

**Pastor Mike said, “If Jesus has only given us one parting command, one that is so important that He gave it on a nameless mountain, a command so important that it has its own name in the Bible, then don’t you think we ought to obey that one command as best as we possibly can? Of course, we should!” How can you be more obedient to Jesus’ command?**

In the language of the New Testament, the Great Commission is one imperative command —“Make disciples”. As we make disciples, we go, baptize, and teach. Our mission is a global mission. The word used for nations does not mean a geopolitical entity, but ethnic groups. People from distinct cultural groups, of which there are many. We baptize disciples to identify the church, and we teach to raise disciples in maturity.

**What comfort do you receive knowing that Jesus is with you as you go on mission?**

**Why is that truth so easy for us to forget? How do we often take the process of making disciples and try to do it in our own strength? Why is it far better to rely on Christ?**

This mission is not based on who we are or what we can do. This mission is based on who Jesus is and what He is able to do in and through our lives. The Great Commission is not only accomplished through Jesus' power but through His abiding presence. When we try and make disciples on our own, we miss the whole point of disciple-making. We can do nothing without Jesus. As we are sent on mission, we rely on His presence.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Adam said, "In response to the Great Commission, Jesus's final words He spoke on the Nameless Mountain, here are some questions we need to be able to answer:**

**What is my purpose in life? Who have I baptized? When did I last share something spiritual?" Which of those three questions challenges you the most? Why?**

**What is one thing you could do better in order to "make disciples?"**

**Who are you influencing right now to become closer to Christ?**

**What makes you nervous and excited about asking the question, "What has God been teaching you lately?"**

## PRAYER

Close in a time of prayer for the burden of responsibility that comes with knowing the Great Commission. Pray that everyone will take this charge seriously and see it as a vital role they have in being Jesus' church and allowing Him to work through them.

## COMMENTARY

| MATTHEW 28:16-20

28:16-17. Some time during the forty days of Jesus' post-resurrection stay on earth (probably soon after they heard the news that Sunday), the eleven disciples and many more of Jesus' followers proceeded to Galilee, where Jesus had instructed them to go (26:32; 28:7, 10). Here Matthew's focus was back on the eleven, the foundation stones of his church. Jesus had apparently specified a particular mountain as their meeting place. At the end of the journey,

presumably on the designated mountain, they saw him. Imagine their joy! It was only natural that they worshiped him. But some doubted (the word doubt means “to duplicate,” “to be of two minds,” or “to waver, hesitate”). All wanted to believe, but their faith was weak. Some experienced the internal tug-of-war between “two minds”—the one wanting to follow their fledgling faith and the other wanting to follow “reason.” Even those presented with clear evidence for the truth can still have doubts. But the word some implied there were others who believed everything they saw. These were the followers of the Messiah-King who would continue on into Acts, willing to take any risk in obedience to their master. This was true faith in action, living on the edge of “risky” obedience.

28:18. Matthew noted that Jesus came near or approached. Here was no case of mistaken identity. The disciples could look Jesus in the eye and see that this One was the same Person whom Pilate had arrested. They could hear the voice clearly and know it was the voice they had listened to for several years. Jesus’ claim made the need for decision even clearer: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” The kingdom Jesus talked about (4:17) had been established. The King had received authority to reign. This kingdom far exceeded the size of the Roman Empire. Only God could make such a declaration. Only One who ruled in heaven as well as on earth could claim such power.

28:19-20. On the basis of His authority, Jesus issued the Great Commission. Disciples had to accept the authority if they were to accept the commission. The commission is intricately formulated in the Greek. Stated somewhat literally as translated from the Greek language, the Great Commission reads as follows: “Therefore, having gone, disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep (or to persistently obey) as much as I commanded you. And look here, I am with you all the days, until the completion (or perfection) of the age.” The introductory “therefore” connects the Great Commission to Jesus’ authority established in verse 18. The phrase “having gone” assumes obedience to the Commission. This phrase is not so much a call to go as it is a command to do certain things on the way. Disciples who recognize Christ’s authority have one major task. The only imperative verb form in these verses formulates that task. Disciples under Christ’s authority disciple the nations. That is, they share the gospel and help believers grow in Christ. Building the church by discipling the nations expands the disciple’s journey. It sends them to the nations. Here is the universal nature of the gospel made explicit and clear. Disciples under Christ’s authority must leave their comfort zones and the people with whom they feel at home. They must expand their horizons to incorporate every nation of people on earth. The church must devise plans and strategies to use the talents, gifts, energies, and resources of every one of its members. Every member must be on the move, discipling the nations.

In addition to going, discipling involves two other actions. The first is baptizing, which is to occur only after a person has acknowledged Jesus, the risen Savior, as his or her personal Savior. Baptism incorporates the new believer officially into the church. Baptism is also one means of making a public confession of faith. Baptism pictures or symbolizes what Jesus did and what the new Christian is doing. Jesus died for our sins. He was buried in the tomb. God raised Him from death to life. Baptism also pictures the believer's having died to sin and being raised to a new life in Christ, a life that is eternal through the ages.

The second action in discipling is teaching. This instruction reaches back to the earthly ministry of Jesus. It takes every parable, every sermon, every word Jesus said and teaches them to the church. It seeks to develop Christlike individuals. The teaching ministry begins with the New Testament accounts of the life and death of Jesus Christ. It expands to the rest of the New Testament and then incorporates the Old Testament as the foundation of who God is and what God planned long before He sent Jesus to fulfill Old Testament prophecies. This entire Word of God is the curriculum each disciple is charged to teach to new believers.