

## **The Great Commission**

Matthew 18:16-20

*“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.””* **Matthew 28:16-20 NIV**

**Main idea - The Great Commission is to a life of purpose with the God who never leaves.**

### **1 - Jesus' Authority Over Us**

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* **Matthew 28:18 NIV**

The most important question any of us can ever answer, “Who do we believe Jesus was?”

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.”  
**CS Lewis**

CS Lewis claimed that based on Jesus' claims about Himself, Jesus can only be one of three things. It’s referred to as the Trilema - Liar, Lunatic, Lord.

*“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”* **John 11:25-26 ESV**

*“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”* **John 14:3-7 ESV**

*“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

**Revelation 22:13 ESV**

If Jesus knew He wasn’t God and claimed these things that we just read, He was a liar

If Jesus wasn’t God but thought He was He was a lunatic

But these claims weren't claims made by any man. This is not a liar or a lunatic or just a good teacher or your next self help advisor, Jesus is God almighty Himself.

*“Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say that I am?’ And they answered, ‘John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.’ Then he said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ And Peter answered, ‘The Christ of God.’”* **Luke 9:18-20 ESV**

We have a great commissioner of the great commission

## **2 - Jesus' Commission For Us**

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*  
**Matthew 28:19 NIV**

Make disciples (**mathetes**) make learners. A disciple does not merely quote the teacher a disciple strives to become like the teacher. Become who the teacher is

*“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”* **Luke 6:40 ESV**

To be a disciple of Jesus isn't only to know of Him and quote Him, but to strive to be conformed to be like Him

## **Go and Make**

*Jesus' gospel is not just the information that gets us into heaven, but the formation of a community that lives in the reality of the kingdom of God.”* - **Dallas Willard**

## **All Nations**

*“For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”*

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23 ESV**

## **Baptizing**

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14 ESV*

## **Teaching to Obey**

*“Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:34-36 ESV*

### **Point three - Jesus’ presence with us**

*“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20 NIV*

**Our purpose :** *‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31 NIV*

God created us to experience life with Him

*“God did not simply create us to resist sin, but to enjoy Him” - JD Grier, Gaining by Losing*

Jesus could have ended the great commission with anything. Be bold, remember all of this, try hard, be persistent. The last thing He leaves ringing in the disciples’ ears is not a burden, but Himself. The Great Commission ends not only with assignment, but with assurance. Jesus eliminated the pressure, with the reminder of his presence.

How do we make disciples? Practically what is the blueprint? Let us look no further than Jesus. When Jesus tells us to “go and make disciples,” He is not asking us to do anything He hasn’t already done. Before He ever said “go,” He went. The greatest and most humble “go” ever known to man is Jesus entering creation.

*“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself...” Philippians 2:5, 7-8 ESV*

*“by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians : 4:8 ESV*

What a blessing to have a purpose and a mission from God. A life of purpose with the God who never leaves.

**Main idea** - The Great Commission is to a life of purpose with the God who never leaves.

**Sources and Further Reading :**

ESV Study Bible - (Crossway 2008)

Gaining by Losing - (JD Greear 2015)

Mere Christianity - (CS Lewis 1952)

The Bible Exposition Commentary - (Warren Wiersbe 1996)

The Divine Conspiracy - (Dallas Willard 1998)

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