

## When Jesus Shows Up... We Are Sent

### INTRO

I remember hearing the story of a man who got caught in a dangerous ocean current.

At first, he thought he could handle it.

He was not panicking.

He was not screaming for help.

In fact, from a distance, everything looked fine.

But little by little, the current kept pulling him farther from shore.

And the terrifying thing about rip currents is this:

Most people do not realize how much danger they are in until they are too far out to get back on their own.

People on the beach could see what he could not.

He was drifting.

Struggling.

Drowning.

And eventually a lifeguard saw him, dove into the water, fought through the current, grabbed hold of him, and pulled him safely back to shore.

But what stayed with me about that story was not just the rescue.

It was what happened afterward.

Years later, that same man became a lifeguard himself.

Because once someone has pulled you out of death... it changes how you see people still drowning.

Once you have been rescued, you cannot look at people the same way anymore.

And I think that captures something powerful about the Christian life.

Jesus did not rescue us merely so we could stay comfortable on the shore.

He rescued us so we could join Him in the rescue mission.

And that is exactly where the disciples find themselves in Matthew 28.

They have seen the cross.

They have seen the empty tomb.

They have encountered the risen Jesus.

And now Jesus gathers them on a mountain in Galilee for one final encounter before He ascends.

And what He says next changes everything.

Because resurrection was never meant to stop with them.

It was always meant to move through them.

And the same is true for us.

Every encounter with the risen King carries a kingdom assignment.

Jesus does not merely save us from something.

He sends us into something.

And before the disciples ever stepped into that mission, Jesus promised they would not go alone.

Because only days after this commission, the Holy Spirit would fall at Pentecost and transform fearful disciples into bold witnesses.

The Great Commission and Pentecost belong together.

Jesus sends the Church... and then Jesus empowers the Church.

And one of the great dangers of the modern Church is that we can become people who admire Jesus... but never join Him in His mission.

We can gather in rooms, sing songs, study Scripture, celebrate resurrection, and still forget that Jesus intends for His people to go.

And what Jesus says on this mountain is not merely information for believers—it is marching orders for the Church.

**BIG IDEA:** Every encounter with the risen King carries a kingdom assignment.

Go with me to Gospel of **Matthew 28:16–20**

*<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

## **INTO THE TEXT**

Matthew tells us the disciples gather on a mountain in Galilee.

That matters. Because throughout Matthew's Gospel, mountains are places of revelation, authority, and divine encounter.

The Sermon on the Mount. The Transfiguration. And now the Great Commission.

This is a kingdom moment. The risen King is announcing His reign and sending His people into the world.

And soon, the Spirit of God would descend upon these same disciples at Pentecost.

Because the mission Jesus commands in Matthew 28 becomes the mission empowered in Acts 2.

But Matthew also tells us something deeply honest.

"When they saw Him, they worshiped Him... but some doubted."

That may be one of the most comforting verses in the Bible.

The risen Jesus is standing physically before them... and Matthew still says some doubted.

The word carries the idea of hesitation, wavering, uncertainty.

Not rebellion.

Not hardened unbelief.

But trembling uncertainty.

And I think that matters for us because some believers assume that if they still wrestle internally, God cannot use them powerfully.

But Jesus does not withdraw the mission because of their weakness.

He still sends them.

Because the Great Commission was never built on the perfection of the disciples.

It was built on the authority of Jesus.

Worship and doubt can exist in the same room.

And Jesus still draws near.

## **THE KING HAS ALL AUTHORITY**

Jesus steps toward His disciples and says:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.”

This is not merely encouragement.

This is enthronement language.

Jesus is echoing Book of Daniel 7, where the Son of Man receives everlasting dominion, glory, and a kingdom that will never end.

The crucified Christ is now the reigning King.

Rome is not ultimate.  
Caesar is not ultimate.  
Death is not ultimate.

Jesus is King.

The resurrection is not merely proof that Jesus is alive.

It is the announcement that Jesus reigns.

And this mattered deeply in the first century.

Jesus is sending these disciples into a world dominated by Rome. A world where Caesar claimed authority. A world where emperors claimed divinity. A world where Christians would eventually face persecution, imprisonment, and martyrdom.

And yet Jesus stands before ordinary disciples and declares:

“All authority belongs to Me.”

Which means the mission of the Church does not rise or fall on human strength.

It rises and falls on the authority of Christ.

Mission begins with the authority of Jesus.

The Church does not go into the world hoping Jesus wins.

We go because He already reigns.

And some people need to hear this:

You do not carry the mission of Jesus in your own authority.

You carry it in His. Because when Jesus shows up... the King sends His people.

## **THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” And here is something important from the original language.

The central command in this passage is not actually “go.” The main command is: “Make disciples.”

As you go... wherever you go... make disciples.

Which means mission is not reserved for pastors, missionaries, or church staff. Mission happens in ordinary life.

At dinner tables.

At schools.

At workplaces.

At coffee shops.

At soccer practices.

Most discipleship does not happen on stages.

It happens across tables.

You do not need a platform to live sent.

And Jesus does not merely say, “Make converts.”

He says:

“Make disciples.”

People transformed by grace who now help others follow Jesus.

And do not miss the scope:

“All nations.”

The Gospel was never intended for one ethnicity, one culture, or one geographic location.

This fulfills the promise God gave Abraham in Book of Genesis 12—that through his offspring all nations would be blessed.

The mission of God has always been global.

And then Jesus says:

“Baptizing them...”

Baptism is not spiritual decoration.

It is public allegiance.

In the early Church, baptism could cost someone family, business, status, even their life.

To step into the waters of baptism was to publicly declare:

“Jesus is Lord now.”

Burial.

Resurrection.

New identity.

The old life goes under.

The new life comes up.

And then Jesus says:

“Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Notice Jesus does not merely say:

“Teach them information.”

He says:

“Teach them obedience.”

Because Christianity is not merely intellectual agreement.

It is transformed living.

Grace does not merely forgive people.

Grace forms people.

Jesus is not merely gathering forgiven people.

He is forming holy people.

People whose lives increasingly reflect the character of Christ.

Saved people become sent people.

Receivers of grace become carriers of grace.

Some believers are spiritually overfed... and missionally under-engaged.

Always receiving.

Rarely pouring out.

But healthy disciples do not merely consume the Gospel.

They carry it.

The Gospel never stops with us.

## **TRANSITION TO ACTS 1**

Now before the disciples actually step into this mission, Jesus says something critical. Because the Great Commission was never meant to be carried in human strength alone.

Listen to what Jesus says next in **Acts 1:6–8**

*<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

## **THE SPIRIT GIVES THE POWER**

The Church does not accomplish the mission through human strength. We need the Spirit. Because you cannot fulfill a supernatural mission with natural strength.

The word Jesus uses for power is *dynamis*—supernatural enabling power. And the word for witness is *martys*, the word that eventually becomes “martyr.”

Which means Jesus is calling His people to courageous, Spirit-filled witness no matter the cost.

And then Pentecost arrives. What Jesus promised in Acts 1 suddenly erupts into reality. Fearful disciples are about to become Spirit-filled witnesses.

Listen to this moment in **Acts 2:1-6**

***When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.<sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.***

Everything changes here.

The Spirit of God falls at Pentecost.

Tongues of fire appear.

The sound of rushing wind fills the house.

And ordinary disciples are suddenly filled with extraordinary power.

And do not miss the transformation.

The same disciples who once hid behind locked doors in fear now step boldly into the streets proclaiming Jesus publicly.

Peter—the man who once denied Jesus around a fire—now stands before thousands filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

What changed?

Pentecost.

Pentecost turned spectators into witnesses.

The Spirit of God transformed frightened followers into fearless witnesses.

Pentecost was not merely an emotional experience.

It was divine empowerment for mission.

The Spirit did not come merely so believers could feel something.

The Spirit came so the Church could become something:

Bold.

Holy.

Witnesses.

And notice what happens next in Acts 2.

People from many nations hear the Gospel proclaimed in their own languages.

Do not miss the beauty of that.

The first public moment of the Spirit-filled Church is multilingual.

Because the Gospel was always meant for every tribe, every tongue, every people, and every nation.

The kingdom of Jesus crosses every cultural boundary.

And notice the movement: Jerusalem. Judea. Samaria. Ends of the earth.

The Gospel keeps moving outward. Which means the Church cannot remain inward-focused.

Every encounter with Jesus pushes us outward toward mission. And this is what changes in the disciples. Followers become disciple-makers.

The Church stops becoming merely a gathering to attend and becomes a people sent into the world. Because Christianity was never meant to stay inside church walls.

You are sent into your workplace. Your neighborhood. Your school. Your family. Your city.

Mission is not reserved for missionaries overseas. Every believer is sent. And the same Spirit that empowered the early Church still empowers the Church today.

## **YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO STAY SEATED**

Some of us have reduced Christianity to attendance instead of mission.

But Jesus did not save you merely so you could sit in church.

He saved you so you could join Him in His work.

You are sent. Not someday. Not when you feel fully ready. Now. Into conversations. Into workplaces. Into neighborhoods.

And some people keep waiting for a platform while ignoring the people already around them.

But your mission field may already be sitting across the dinner table from you.

Jesus reaches people. Jesus teaches people. Jesus mends people. And then Jesus sends people.

The Gospel never stops with us. The question is not whether you are sent. The question is whether you are willing.

## **LORD, SEND ME**

I believe there are people in this room who love Jesus sincerely... but somewhere along the way became spiritually passive.

Watching instead of participating.

Consuming instead of engaging.

But today Jesus is calling His Church outward again.

Some of you need fresh boldness.

Some of you need fresh compassion for lost people.

Some of you need to stop seeing your workplace as merely a job and start seeing it as mission ground.

Some of you need to stop waiting for perfect confidence before obeying Jesus.

And some of you need the courage to finally say:

“Lord, send me.”

Not just overseas. Not just someday. But into your everyday life.

Into your home. Into your conversations. Into your city.

And maybe your prayer today is not only: “Lord, send me.”

Maybe your prayer is: “Holy Spirit, fill me.”

Fill me with boldness. Fill me with compassion. Fill me with courage. Fill me with power to live as a witness for Jesus.

Because the Gospel never stops with us.

So if you are willing to say: "Jesus, my life belongs to Your mission..."

Or: "Holy Spirit, fill me afresh..."

Lift your hand.

Because the same Jesus who sent the disciples is still sending His Church today.

### **The Disciples thought Resurrection was the Conclusion.**

But resurrection was the launch of the mission.

And Pentecost was the ignition of the Church.

Jesus did not rise so His followers could stay comfortable.

He rose so the Gospel could move through Spirit-filled people to the ends of the earth.

And the same Spirit poured out in Acts 2 still empowers the Church today.

Pentecost turned spectators into witnesses.

The risen King still sends ordinary people to carry an extraordinary Gospel.

When Jesus shows up... people are never merely comforted.

They are commissioned.

And when the Spirit fills the Church... the Gospel moves outward with power.

Because every encounter with the risen King carries a kingdom assignment.

The Gospel never stops with us.

### **BLESSING / BENEDICTION**

May the risen King fill you with courage, compassion, and Spirit-empowered boldness. May the Holy Spirit fill you afresh for witness, holiness, and mission. May you know that you are not merely saved from sin... but sent into the world. May the authority of Christ steady you, the Spirit of God empower you, and the presence of Jesus sustain you. May your home become a place of discipleship. May your workplace become a place of witness. May your everyday life become a place where the kingdom of God is seen. And may your life become a faithful witness to the reign of King Jesus wherever He sends you. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit—amen.