

Discussion Questions



Overview

This sermon challenges us to take the Great Commission seriously — not as a rhetorical question, but as a real command backed by real authority. Using Matthew 28:17-20 as its foundation, the message draws out three anchoring truths: Jesus has all authority, he commands us to go, and he promises to be with us always. This guide is designed to help your group move from hearing these truths to living them out.

Key Takeaways

- Matthew 28:17 reminds us that both worshipers and doubters were present when Jesus gave the Great Commission — and he addressed both. Doubt does not disqualify us from his mission or his promises.
- When Jesus says he has "all authority," the word means exactly what it says — absolute, universal, and without exception. Our weaknesses, failures, and limitations fall under that authority.
- The word "therefore" in verse 19 ties the command directly to his authority. Obedience to the Great Commission is not optional, and it is not contingent on ideal circumstances.
- The Great Commission is not limited to mission trips or evangelism programs. It includes praying for a prodigal child, persisting in a difficult friendship, and going to people who have hurt us.
- Jesus promises to be with us "the whole of every day" — not only in ministry highlights, but in ordinary, draining, and discouraging moments as well.
- His presence means completeness, privilege, protection, power, and peace.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. The sermon opened by referencing a question: "Would the community notice if the church closed down?" How does that question land with you personally? How do you think your surrounding community would answer it?
2. Pastor Ike noted that when this question was asked in the past, people would shift in their seats, feel a flicker of guilt, and then go back to doing the same things. Why do you think it is so easy to hear a challenging question and not change anything as a result?

Diving In

3. Matthew 28:17 notes that when the disciples saw Jesus, some worshiped and some doubted — and Jesus spoke to all of them. Where would you honestly place yourself right now — closer to worship or closer to doubt? How does it affect you to know that Jesus commissions both groups equally?
4. Pastor Ike said, "He does not commission the perfect. He commissions the present." What does that statement mean to you? Is there an area of your life where you have been waiting to feel more qualified or more ready before stepping out in obedience?
5. The word "therefore" in verse 19 connects Jesus' authority to his command. How does knowing that the command to go is grounded in his all authority — rather than in our own strength or readiness — change how you think about obeying it?
6. The sermon described the Great Commission as "the daily work of connecting Christ to everyday places." What does that look like practically in your life right now — at work, at home, in your neighborhood, or in a difficult relationship?
7. Pastor Ike shared that he and his wife have prayed for people for over 20 years whose hearts remain closed to Jesus, and have walked with couples who still got divorced despite years of investment. Have you ever experienced that kind of discouragement in your own life of faith? How did you respond?
8. The sermon described Jesus' presence as meaning completeness, privilege, protection, power, and peace. Which of these five aspects of his presence do you most need to receive right now, and why?

Going Deeper

9. Pastor Ike referenced Ananias in Acts 9, who was likely on Saul's arrest list and yet obeyed God's call to go and pray for him. Is there a person in your life — someone difficult, someone who has hurt you, or someone who seems hostile to the gospel — whom God may be calling you to approach? What is holding you back?
10. The sermon closed with this statement: "We have been invited to join in what he is already doing — not to carry it alone, not to make it succeed on our own efforts." How does this reframe the pressure you may feel around evangelism, ministry, or spiritual responsibility in your family or community?

Practical Applications

- **Identify one person.** This week, think of one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Write their name down. Commit to praying for them daily and look for one natural opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with them.
- **Redefine your "go."** The Great Commission does not always look like a mission trip. Reflect on where God has already placed you — your workplace, your street, your family — and ask him to show you how to be on mission right where you are.
- **Sit with the promise.** Each morning this week, before your day begins, read Matthew 28:20 and remind yourself that Jesus is with you for the whole of that day — not just the spiritual moments, but all of it. Let that truth shape how you approach ordinary moments.
- **Share your discouragement.** If you are in a season of spiritual fatigue, share it with someone in your group this week. Pastor Ike named pastors, parents, missionaries, and church leaders who carry quiet exhaustion. You do not have to carry it alone — and neither does anyone in your group.
- **Revisit the question.** As a group, honestly discuss what it would take for your community to notice if your church were no longer there. Let that conversation move from guilt to vision, and identify one concrete way your group can make an impact in the coming month.

Closing Prayer Prompt

Close your time together by inviting group members to pray specifically for the one person they identified during the practical application. If members feel comfortable, have them share that person's first name so the group can agree together in prayer. Conclude by reading Matthew 28:20 aloud together as a declaration of the promise Jesus has made to each person in the room.