

Matthew 28:16-20**6-11-17*****A World-Size Role for Global Christians*****I. Slide1 Announce:**

- A. Slide2-7 Larry: VBS. Couples Pizza. Middle Schl Camp. Peru. Haiti Women. Audio.
- B. Slide8 Baptism today. Bring Snacks/finger foods.

II. Slide9 Intro: *A World-Size Role for Global Christians*

- A. Christ's almost final words. *Take serious*. Marching orders.
 1. God **doesn't** give direction for our lives for our consideration. God gives direction assuming **participation, action, or obedience**.
 2. He **did not** share with us the Great Consideration, **nor** the Great Contemplation. He gave us The Great Commandment & The Great Commission.
- B. So what is our Mandate? *To cross a cultural barriers, to the un-churched, to present the gospel & make disciples & express the genuine love of Christ.*
 1. Not all are called to be **sent**, **but** all are called to be **apart** of *the discipling of the nations*.
 2. *God has a world-sized role for every Christian in His global purpose.* Perspectives

III. Slide10a THE WORLD SIZE ROLE (16-20)

- A. **THE MOUNTAIN** (16)
- B. Jesus always keeps His appointments.
- C. Slide10b **THE MIX** (17)
- D. **Some doubted** - The Greek verb used here implies *hesitation* or *indecision*, **rather than unbelief**. The disciples are struggling to comprehend what they are witnessing.
 1. Gave the great commission to doubters. **Maybe they doubted God can use them?** (it doesn't say) **Maybe you've doubt that God can use you?**
- E. Slide10c **THE MANDATE** (18-20)
- F. (msg) *God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have*

commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.

1. In His Mandate He points to 3 Things: *His Authority. His Assignment. His Assurance.*

G. Slide11a JESUS' AUTHORITY

1. Matthew has emphasized this theme throughout his whole Gospel.

a) Jesus has repeatedly demonstrated His *authority over all things*:

Over the human body (disease, sickness, & healings). *Over* demons & Satan.

Over the natural elements (such as wind and water). *Over* the Sabbath.

He showed His authority in His teachings. In His *forgiveness of sin.*

And now He shows His authority even over *death* itself.

H. Slide11b JESUS' ASSIGNMENT

1. **Go** - the present participle makes it *going*.

a) It assumes you *are* going - *make disciples...while you are going*.

b) *Not all will be saved, but all deserve a chance to hear the Gospel.*

2. Our commission is not simply to **win souls**, it is to *make disciples*. Which includes *winning them, bringing them into a Christian fellowship, & building them up in the faith.*

a) They were to *reproduce themselves* by *going, baptizing, and teaching*.

3. **Baptizing** - a **public** signal of identification with Jesus and His kingdom.

I. Slide11c JESUS' ASSURANCE

1. **Trinity** - the formula is mysterious & even paradoxical, **but** it is in no way contradictory.

a) **Slide11d Definition:** There is 1 God & He subsists in 3 distinct persons (1 in essence/being, 3 in Persons).

(1) The Trinity **doesn't** refer to **parts** of God or even to His **roles**.

(2) The doctrine of the Trinity **doesn't** fully explain the mysterious character of God. **Rather** it **sets boundaries** outside of which we **must not** step.

(3) It defines **limits** within our finite reflection.

b) **Prove it:** By showing 3 specific truths. [1] There is 1 God. [2] Father, Son, & Spirit are truly *distinct* persons. [3] Each has the essential attribute of Deity.

- c) **Slide11e Modalism** <-- **Trinitarianism** --> **Tritheism** [modalism: I'm a father/son/husband]
- d) **Note:** they are each *called God* in Scripture. All 3 are involved in the **resurrection**. All 3 are involved in our **sanctification**. All 3 are involved in the **baptism formula** here (note *name*, not *names*).
2. **Lo, I am w/you always** - We are able, only because He **enables**.
 3. Paul fulfilled the great commission in Acts 18.
 - a) He **went** to Corinth (1). He **baptized** them (8). He **taught** them (11). He knew Jesus was **with** him (10).

IV. Slide12a **THE WORLD SIZE ROLE FOR CM**

- A. **A process is underway:** Matthew Ellison, is a friend/missions coach/President of **16:15** from Albq, NM.
1. **We are looking backwards** - *Honoring our journey* in missions thus far. Celebrating what God has done as we look in the rearview mirror.
 2. **Slide12b We are looking ahead** - as we continue our journey, we anticipate *the best is yet to come*.
 3. **Slide12c We are looking around** - as we are *retooling, refocusing, & strengthening* our vision. We are looking around at **each of you**, recognizing that **each of us** have a **unique gifting** and **role to play** in this.
 4. **Slide12d We are looking up** - Attempt great things **for** God; Expect great things **from** God.
- B. If you want a taste of 1 of our Mission values. **Strategic Priorities: Focusing our efforts & resources for deep & lasting impact.** [shotgun to rifle] [1" deep & mile wide or 1' wide & a mile deep]
- C. **Slide13a The Oreo** has become the best-selling cookie in the US since its intro in 1912.
1. Not sure where they got the name. **One theory** was from the Gk word **Oreo**, means *beautiful, nice or well done*. **Others believe** that the cookie was named **Oreo** because it was short and easy to pronounce.
 2. **It is made up of 2 chocolate wafers with a sweet creme filling.**
 3. **Slide13b** One of its taglines is that it is **Wonderfilled**.

4. This will sum up **our outline** this morning: *a sweet creme filling* that maybe you've never tasted before in Scripture. *Sandwiched between 2 promise wafers.*

D. *Slide13c* First, The Creme Filling

E. *Make disciples of all the nations* - we've domesticated the gospel to...*make disciples.*

1. *Slide13d* We've missed...*panta ta ethne* / πάντα τὰ ἔθνη / *of all the nations.*
2. **Nations** - don't think of *geo-political countries or nation-states* like China, Syria, Iraq, Myanmar.
 - a) *Slide14* Think of *ethnic linguistic groupings*: Language groups, people groups, **ethnic clusters**. [eg. (map) Kurdish people group: 30-45 million, w/no sov nation]
 - b) *Slide15* They have a distinct language & culture, **that** makes **the gospel difficult to spread naturally** from one to the other.

F. *Illustration: Pancakes & Waffles.*

1. *Slide16* **Pancake**: If you start slowly pouring **the syrup** (the gospel) in the middle of **the pancake** (the world) eventually/hopefully it will saturate the whole pancake
 - a) If the goal of the great commission was just to *win as many people to Christ as possible*...this will be a fitting analogy.
 - b) **But** when we understand **the marching orders** are to *all the nations*, a more fitting illustration is a **waffle**.
2. *Slide17a* **Waffle**: Start slowly pouring **the syrup** (the gospel) in the middle of **the waffle** (the world) where every square represents each people group. *What about the outer squares?* They may not receive the syrup. **And** don't you like the crispy edges the best (maybe God does too!).

G. *Slide17b* There are **11,751** different people groups in the world today. **11,751** squares in our waffle.

1. *Slide17c* **7,044** still unreached. **Jesus is still unknown, unacknowledged, & unadored.**
2. **Unreached** - **not like** your *unbelieving neighbor next door*. As they have **you/** access. **Unreached**, is someone with **no** access to the gospel. They couldn't hear it if they wanted to.

H. Does 7,044 sound too large to you? It's doable.

1. Slide17d There are 4.5 million *evangelical christian congregations* in our world. (conserv #)
2. This means there are 640 churches for every 1 unreached people group.
3. Slide17e 640 to 1 ratio. *Yes, its difficult. Yes, some are in areas under regimes that are hostile to Christians. Yes, it will be costly.*
4. **But what if** even a small % of the 4.5 million of churches blessed 1 or 2 groups...*to labor & pray & give & go until* there is a growing reproducing church among that group.

I. **Ok, so what is our commission/mandate?** to make disciples of *all the nations, panta ta ethne*. It's not about reaching more people, **but more peoples** (tribes, tongues, & nations).

J. Slide18a Now **How will we do it?** With the 2 sandwich wafer promises: *More Power/More Presence*

K. **The promise of More Power (The Motive)**. Our mandate is based on it's authority.

1. The word *therefore* points back to the previous thought.
2. We're able to make disciples of all the nations, because of the power we go forward in. Our mandate is based on the greatness of Jesus Christ. **Do you believe Jesus is great?**
3. So we do not go because *people have needs* (they do & they're tremendous). **But** we go fundamentally because there is no one, *absolutely no one*, as great as **King Jesus**. **We go because He is worth declaring, worth proclaiming, worth obeying.** We go because Christ is great.

L. Slide18b **The promise of More Presence (The Muscle)**. *Lo, I am with you always.*

1. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
2. ***We don't go for God...we go with Him.***
 - a) One missionary said, *We went because we loved a people group. We stay because we love the Lord.*

M. Slide19a Oh, and by the way...**it IS going to happen.** Rev.7:9,10 *After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and*

held palm branches in their hands. 10 And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!"

1. **Slide19b** Join Him in His family business :)