

AUGUST 9 SERMON ON THE BAY Go! And Make Disciples - Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 28:19-20 "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

Last Sunday We Looked at Gods Plan for His Church...Simply, We are to be a Spirit Filled Church that, In His Power, Focuses on Gods Plan to Reach the Lost!

The words of Matthew 28:19-20 are Not just a Suggestion or a Guideline; they are a Command from Jesus to His followers. **The Heartbeat of Christianity, is a Call to Go! But it's Not Just About Going—It's About What We Do As We Go.**

Have you ever had a Moment where You were Given an Important Task? A Mission so Meaningful that You Knew it Could Change Everything? **Well...That's what Jesus Gave His Disciples—and US—in Matthew 28—The Great Commission.**

I Want Us to Explore the Three Key Parts of this Command:

1. Go! And Make Disciples.
2. Go! And Baptize.
3. Go! And Teach Obedience.

1. Go! And Make Disciples...Jesus begins with, "Therefore, Go and Make Disciples of All the Nations..."

Greek word for "GO" **por-yoo-THEN-tes** is Better Translated **"As You Are Going."**

- It Implies that Making Disciples Is **Not Just A Single Event...** Rather Making Disciples Is To Be A Part Of Our Everyday Lives.
- **Wherever We Go...Whatever We Do...We are Called to Make Disciples.**

To "Make Disciples" means to Lead people into a Life-Changing Relationship with Jesus. **Equipping Them To Become Dedicated Followers of Christ.**

In Acts 1:8: Jesus lays Out the Scope of Our Mission that He Empowered Us to Do: 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."

- **Jerusalem: This is Where You/We live...** We are to Start where We are—With Our Family, Friends, Co-Workers, Neighbors and Community.
- **Judea and Samaria:** This Includes, Reaching out to the surrounding culture and Crossing cultural, racial, or social barriers to reach people who are different. **Going beyond our comfort zone to reach others who may be different from Us.**
- **Ends of the Earth:** We are Responsible for Reaching All Peoples With The Gospel...Sharing Christ with Everyone...Everywhere. **Global Mission!**

The word “Witnesses” here in Greek means “Someone who Testifies to the Truth”, Even at Great Personal Cost.

- **POINT:** Sharing the Gospel May Not Always Be Easy...**BUT, It is Always Worth It.**

The Question We Need to Ask: **Who In MY “Jerusalem” Needs to Hear about Jesus?**

- **KEY:** Ask God to Help Us to Be Intentional about Sharing Our Faith at All Times!

Consider A Lighthouse... It Doesn't Go Anywhere, But its Light Reaches Far and Wide, Guiding Ships Safely to Shore....**Likewise...As We Go through Each Day, Our Lives Should Shine the Light of Christ, Drawing People to Him.**

Charles Spurgeon said, “Every Christian Is Either A Missionary Or An Impostor.”

- **His Point...If We Are A Christian...We Will Be Focused on Sharing the Gospel!**

2. Christ said, Go And Teach Them: Jesus says, “Teach these New Disciples to Obey All the Commands He have Given Them.”

KEY>> Discipleship Doesn't Stop at Conversion. It's a Lifelong Journey of Learning, Growing, and Obeying.

- Teaching Obedience is to Help others Understand & Apply God's Word in their lives.

This Requires Knowing God's Word: 2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be Thoroughly Equipped for Every Good Work”

The phrase “God-Breathed.” Is saying that *Scripture is Not just human words about Go... It Is God's Word To Us.*

2 Questions We Need To Answer>> 1) Am I Committed to Learning & Obeying God's Word? 2) Am I Helping Others Do the Same? **True Discipleship Must Be Intentional.**

Think of a Coach Training an Athlete. The Goal is Not to just Teach the Rules of the game But to Develop the Skills and Discipline Needed for Success.

- In the same way, Teaching others to Obey Christ involves Walking Alongside them, Encouraging them, and Modelling Obedience So They Become Mature!
- **“Spiritual Maturity Glorifies God and Builds His Kingdom.”**

3 Go! And Baptize “**This Is What We Are Doing Today**” Jesus says, *Baptism Is the First Thing a New Christian Needs to do as an Act of Obedience to the Lord.*

- In Acts 8 After Philip led the Eunuch to be Saved...Immediately He Was Baptized.

Baptism is an **“Outward Declaration of an Inward Transformation”**. It Symbolizes the Believer's Identification with Christ in His Death, Burial, and Resurrection.

POINT: Baptism has Nothing to do With Salvation...It Is a Response of Obedience!

The Greek word for “baptize” (baptizo) means to Immerse. This signifies a Complete Identification with Christ—Not just a Superficial Change, But a Total Surrender.

- It Symbolizes...*Dying to Self and Rising a New Creature in Christ!*

If You’ve been Baptized, it Represents Outwardly—the New Life You Have in Christ. Baptism is an Act of Obedience to What Christ Commanded so we would Publicly Declare Our Faith.

When you’re Baptized, You’re saying, *“I Belong to Jesus.” “I Am Declaring to the World that Jesus is My Lord and Savior, And I Will Surrender and Follow Him Always!”*

Jesus Concludes This Verse With A Promise to Sustain Us When He says, *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:20 represents one of the most profound promises in the New Testament, serving as a “Divine Bookend to the Entire Gospel of Matthew”.

- This closing statement transforms the monumental task of the Great Commission from an intimidating human obligation into a Co-operative Divine Mission.
- The final phrase of Matthew directly Connects to the Beginning of the Gospel.

In Matthew 1:23, Jesus is introduced through Prophecy as Emmanuel, which means “God With Us”. By concluding His earthly ministry with the promise, “I am with you always” Jesus affirms that His very identity and mission have been fulfilled.

POINT: *Jesus does Not Leave His Followers as Orphans...Instead, He Establishes His Permanent Presence Among Them Through the Holy Spirit who is Given to Every Believer at the Moment of Salvation!*

- This Promise Cannot be Separated from the Verse that Precedes it. In Matt 28:18, Jesus states, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”*.
- The Assurance of His Presence is Powerful Because the One Who is Walking with Believers Holds Absolute Sovereignty.
- *No matter where God calls you to go or what He calls you to do, You Are Never Alone. His Presence Is Your Strength and Comfort.*

LIFEPOINT: *His Presence Provides the Supernatural Strength, Protection & Wisdom Required to Overcome Every Obstacle & Complete Christ’s Mission to Make Disciples of All Nations.*

Today We Have the Joy of Baptizing These Who are Obediently Following Jesus’s Command as They Take this Next Step in Their Journey of Faith.

PRAYER FOR THOSE BEING BAPTIZED: Mason Clem; Logan Face; Haven Rieck; Aly Boven; Nariah Finch; Nehemiah Finch; Elijah Finch and Ayden Cherup