

## The Next 40 Days – Week 6 – Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

**Matthew 28:16-20:** *The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, 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> teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

INTRO to series “The Next 40 Days” – After He walked out of the grave on that first Easter Sunday, Jesus spent the next 40 days teaching and preparing His followers for what was coming next. As each day passed, the power of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church drew nearer. Though many were struggling with fear, failure, and doubts, Jesus cut through their confusion as light breaks into darkness. Jesus also gave some of His most important teaching during this time, including the “great commissions”—and then He ascended to heaven.

INTRO to **Matthew 28:16-20:** The disciples are now in Galilee, as we saw last week, as Jesus had instructed them. There in that place, where most of the disciples were first called to follow Him, He gave them what we often call “The Great Commission.”

### **I. Jesus welcomed His disciples as they were, but He did not leave them the same. (vs. 16-17)**

-The disciples who arrived worshiped Jesus when they saw Him, but Matthew said that “some of them still had doubts.”

-Jesus not only welcomed the disciples to come to Him as they were – but He gave them all the Great Commission...even to the doubters.

-Disciples often live our lives between worship and doubt...and that is where we continually trust God for the gift of faith. Those who live between faith and doubt and are willing to obey God even in doubt, are the ones God uses to accomplish His greatest mission purposes!

### **II. Jesus assured His disciples of His divine authority over all that exists. (vs. 18)**

-Jesus drew His disciples in near to Him first, and then He addressed any doubts, anxieties, or concerns by proclaiming His absolute, divine authority over heaven and earth.

-In 1<sup>st</sup> Century, the word for “authority” (*exousia*) was often used for kings, governments, fathers of estates, high courts, military leaders, conquering rulers, gods, etc.

-As Jesus had taught and other Scriptures declare about Christ – His authority and Kingdom are of a much higher dimension and realm than any human authority (see **Matthew 16:18-20** and **Colossians 1:15-20** below).

-Through Christ's authority, He sends all His disciples out with a heart to share His Good News everywhere—across the street and around the world.

### **III. Jesus commissioned His disciples to be *sent* people saying, “You also go and make disciples of all nations...”**

-Through Christ's authority – all disciples are called to go and to share the Good News with other so that they, too, might be called to be Christ's disciples.

-The 1<sup>st</sup> Century process of discipleship—was akin to an apprenticeship – literally following a Rabbi and learning to speak, act, and live as he does.

-The grammar of this verse is important and further develops the apprenticeship idea. Most of the verbs are continuous action words—“going, baptizing, and teaching.” The only actual command is “make disciples.”

-Baptism is the first outward sign of the internal transformation – a public profession of faith as an act of obedience to Christ.

-The word for “observe” is literally translated “to walk” in the commandments.

-Those who are baptized as disciples are sent out not only with the Good News about Jesus, but also to teach others the truths of His Word...As Jesus said, Teaching includes every command in God's Word.

-So, we could translate **vs. 19-20a** as: “As you're going, make disciples of all nations, while baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to walk in all the ways I have commanded you!”

-All the nations have been the plan from the beginning – In Genesis (see **12:1-5** below); in Deuteronomy; in Psalms; in Isaiah and most of the Prophets.

\*The Great Commission comes with a great promise – **vs. 20b**: “Remember...I am with you, to very end of this age.” Jesus' promise is not only to be with us to the end of this age, but truly to with us always. All who are in Christ will spend eternity with Christ!

#### **Other Scriptures Referenced:**

**Matthew 16:18-20:** *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the*

kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”<sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Colossians 1:15-20:** *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.<sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

**Daniel 7:13-14:** *[The Ancient of Days] was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

**Genesis 12:1-5:** *The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.*

*2 “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;*

*I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.*

*3 I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”*

*4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.*

### **Other Quotes/Resources:**

-Orthodoxy: “believing the right things”

-Orthopraxy: “practicing the right things”