

October 21

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Bobby had loved the game of golf from an early age. He watched tournaments whenever he got the chance and attended the local matches whenever he could. As he grew, he began reading books on the techniques of golf. He watched video after video of some of the great golfers trying to imitate their swings. Eventually, he knew every facet of the game. The day finally came when we went to the driving range to put into practice all he had learned. He was devastated. He knew what to do, but he was not seeing any positive results. After watching Bobby for a while, the club pro approached him and asked how Bobby was doing. Bobby explained how he had studied and knew the intricacies of golf, but he was not seeing any results. The golf pro told Bobby, “Son, you need someone to teach you HOW to put into practice what you have learned.”

Most of us have heard more than once the Great Commission. “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The beginning of this “making of disciples” centers on teaching them. When I began attending church seriously, I realized I knew very little about the Bible, so I joined Bible study groups, I read my Bible daily, and I met with others to discuss the Word. I was delighted when my knowledge began to grow. However, when we look closely at Jesus’ command, we find that He does not command us to teach others everything He commanded. Instead, we are to make disciples by teaching them HOW to obey His commandments. Forgive if you want to be forgiven. How do we do that when the pain is real? Love your enemies. How do we love someone who hates us? Be a living sacrifice. What does that mean? We teach how to obey not through our words but through our actions. Knowing the Word is important. Knowing HOW to live that word is vital. The only way we can teach others how to obey is by obeying ourselves and opening ourselves to others.