

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

Section 1: 28:16-17 – Worship

¹⁶The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted.

προσεκύνησαν - Worship – paying homage to one with superior rank.

When we worship our heavenly Father, we are acknowledging that He is superior to ourselves. That is why we are commanded to have no other objects of worship, because God alone is superior. Nothing or no one is higher than God in rank.

ἐδίστασαν – doubted – some were wavering in their faith.

Doubt is a stubborn foe. Mostly because doubt can manifest itself in many different ways and can often go unnoticed. For example: (1) Anytime we trust man's word over God's Word = we are doubting God's Word. (2) Anytime we make a life decision without prayer and Bible study = we are doubting God's wisdom believing our wisdom to be greater. (3) Anytime we add or take away from God's Word = we are doubting that God's Word is sufficient.

While some of the disciples struggled with doubt...they did not let that stop them from worshipping. Feelings and emotions can be extremely deceitful and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9).

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How does your life show that you believe God is superior to your own personal desires?
- ❖ How can doubt be dangerous?

Section 2: 28:18 – All Authority

¹⁸Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

πᾶσα ἐξουσία – All Authority

Jesus has, does and will always have all authority. Man has zero. Angels have zero. Satan has zero. Demons have zero. Jesus has ALL authority in heaven and on earth.

What does it mean for Jesus to have all authority? It means that whatever Jesus says...goes. When He gives a command...there is no loophole. This statement is vital to the great commission. Why? Because the great commission is a command. We will see that in the next section.

Discussion Question

- ❖ How should Jesus having ALL authority impact your life?

Section 3: 28:19 - Go

¹⁹Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Πορευθέντες - Go – assuming you're already going. "As you are already going."

Jesus is assuming you will be living a day-to-day life. Which is exactly what everyone does. Everyone has a daily life. So, as you go about your day...make disciples.

Μαθητεύσατε – you all must disciple - Make disciples – it’s a command.

This is where Jesus refers verse 18, “all authority”. Jesus commands us to make disciples. Thus, making disciples is not optional and it’s not limited to just pastors or missionaries. Each individual believer is commanded to make disciples.

Βαπτίζοντες - Baptizing – sign of faith - Baptize means submerge.

Baptism is a way to show everyone you believe the gospel. Baptism as a sign plays no role in your salvation. It is simply an act of obedience once you become a believer.

τοῦ Πατρὸς, τοῦ Υἱοῦ, τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος – The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

During baptism you are acknowledging that the Trinity works in unison to bring you salvation.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Do you have a plan to make disciples as you live your day-to-day life?
- ❖ Have you been baptized, after you’ve believed the gospel, to show that you believe the gospel?
- ❖ Why is it important to recognize God as three distinct persons: the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit?

Section 4: 28:20 – Teaching with Presence

²⁰teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Διδάσκοντες – “As you are teaching them” everything I have commanded you.

It is assumed that when making disciples you are teaching them all the commands of Christ. Therefore, making disciples isn’t just sharing the gospel and “getting people saved”. Making disciples is coming along side one another in a journey to glorify God with your daily life. To make this more possible Jesus graciously established the church. The means in which God has chosen to work through His people as a collective is the church. Therefore, disciple making is directly connected to the life of the church.

Πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας – Always is literally – “all the days”.

Whether we feel it or not...Jesus is literally with us every single moment of every single day. Jesus was with Paul when he was ship wrecked, imprisoned, beaten, stoned and left for dead. Jesus being with us doesn’t eliminate hardship from our lives, Jesus being with us means we will have the grace to endure trials and temptations of various kinds (James 1:2-4).

Συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος – end of the days – “completion of the universe (or all things contained in time)”.

Jesus promises to be with us EVERY day until that moment of completion. At that moment our salvation will be fully realized. For believers we have been saved (justified), we are being saved (sanctification) and we will be saved (glorification). At the moment when all of creation stands before the throne...Jesus will be with us. This is the moment in which we will need Him the most. Nothing will be hidden from the Father as He judges. And at this moment our salvation will be fully realized and experienced.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How are you teaching others the truths found in Scripture?
- ❖ Why is it important for you to be teaching others the truths found in Scripture?
- ❖ How does it impact our hope knowing that Jesus will be with us every moment of every day?