



Week 8: Matthew 28:18-20

HIS CALL

While the Lord has given us many things to steward well and wisely, perhaps the greatest of these gifts comes to us through the passage known as “The Great Commission.” Long recognized by the church, this charge from Jesus concludes Matthew’s gospel with a meeting of his disciples after the resurrection. Emphasizing the importance of making disciples and the methods involved, Jesus promises to be with his followers until the end of time. Despite being separated by nearly 2000 years, we might be tempted to think this passage doesn’t apply to us today, but in fact Jesus expects us all to steward this call wisely also.

THE SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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² Underneath the term, make disciples, the Greek language conveys a strong command. In fact this term is one of two central commands of these verses. The other commandment comes to us later in verse 20 with the word, behold. Despite appearances, Go, baptizing, and teaching are all participles which modify the command to make disciples. Although they draw from the force of the imperative, the command to make disciples is central.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 8

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Who was the most difficult employer you ever worked for? What made this job particularly challenging?
2. What comes into your mind when you hear the word, "missionary"?

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3. What is the immediate context prior to these words of Jesus? Do you think that has any bearing on the words that Jesus says here?
4. The principle commandment to "make disciples" is described with three sub-commands. List those specifics by completing the following:

We make disciples by...

5. Do you think there is a difference between being a Christian and being a disciple?
6. Read Daniel 7:13-14, where this moment was prophesied in the Old Testament. What authority has been given to Jesus? Who was it given by? Explain the phrase "in heaven and on earth."
7. What are we told to instruct new disciples in, and what do you think that means? Consider that a friend of yours is a new believer. He or she says to you, "I guess this passage doesn't apply to me yet because I don't know all that Jesus taught." How would you respond to that?

8. Does this command speak more to singular moments in time, or an ongoing process? Related to this, what does the pastor and author, A.W. Tozer mean when he says that in coming to Christ, it is "not an end but an inception"? Does this differ from the way you have previously considered evangelism?

9. There are two commands in the passage above. The first is "make disciples," and the second is implied by the word "Behold." Do you feel like these two commands relate to one another?

10. How can you be more intentional about using your gifts, resources, and desires for the Great Commission? How can you embrace where God has placed you and how He has equipped you at this time for the Great Commission?

11. What measure of comfort do you think verse 20 brought to the disciples? How can it be of similar comfort to us today?