"BE A DISCIPLE-MAKER"

Matthew 28:16-20

INTRODUCTION:

Last words are important words

A "disciple" is a disciplined one, one who is trained int he disciplines of His Master.
The obvious prerequisite of discipling someone is evangelizing them.
--They must hear the Gospel, and you and I are expected to give it (Mk. 16:15 - *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.")*

If you are a born-again Christian, the Lord Jesus Christ has a commission for you!

***Be a Disciple-Maker this year!**

I. Jesus Christ Gives Us the AUTHORITY to Disciple Others (v. 18-19a)

"All power [authority] is given unto me" - After Jesus paid redemption's price and rose from the dead, He was given from the Father the same "power" (authority) He had and shared with the Father prior to His coming into the world (cp. Jn. 17:5, 24; Phil. 2:6).

I do not disciple others based on my authority, a church's authority, some other man's authority. . . but on the authority of Jesus Christ, my Command-in-Chief who sent me!

II. Jesus Christ Gives Us the ACTIVITY to Disciple Others (v. 19-20a)

It would be impossible for only 11 men to disciple "all nations" This command appies to all believers.

A. Discipling involves going

"Go ye" - As you go. . . make disciples. The "go" is not commanded but assumed. You can't disciple someone unless you get up and go do it! Discipleship is to be woven into our "going" through life.

B. Discipling involves baptizing

"Baptizing them" = immersing them in water (Acts 8:38-39).

The same word "baptize" was the Green word the rich man in Luke 16:24 used when He requested Lazarus to "*dip" (baptse)* his finger in water.

"Baptizing them" - the "them" refers to ones discipled. The day an infant is intelligent enough to be discipled is the day infants can be baptized.

Infant baptism is a violation of the Great Commission!
Only those who have repented (Mt. 3:2-6; Acts 2:38), believed (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 8:37) and received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:47) can be baptized.

"In the name (singular) ***of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" -*** This verse is proof for the unity of the Trinity ("name" - singular) and the equality of the Trinity (it would be blasphemous to put Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit on par with the Father if indeed they were not co-equal with the Father).

By baptism, a convert identifies with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C. Discipling involves teaching

*The whole counsel of God must be taught (like Paul did - Acts 20:27)
*Complete obedience is expected of disciples of Christ.

III. Jesus Christ Gives Us the ABILITY to Disciple Others (v. 20b)

1. Personal presence (*"with you")*
2. Perpetual presence (*"always")*

It is unheard of for a commander or king to give a subordinate a command and then go accompany that person on the assigned task. Yet this is what Christ our exalted King does!

Discipling others is the only specific New Testament command which is accompanied with a promise of Christ's presence!

Why does Jesus promise His presence?
--to relieve fears (EX: Acts 18:9-10)
--to provide enablement

CONCLUSION: We must give Him our AVAILABILITY!

--Discipleship begins at home!
Parents are expected to disciple their children; saved husbands their wives

--Discipleship then extends to relatives, neighbors, co-workers, people whose path crosses yours.

What is called by many the "great Commission" has become by much of the pressing church the "Great Omission"

For a Christian to not disciple someone else is to . . .

--Live an unfulfilled life (incomplete; you are not fulfilling a major purpose for which you were saved; we must have an inlet and outlet, be a lake not a stagnant pond).

--Live in sin (the sin of omission;