"The Lord's Great Commission"

Matthew 28:16-20

4-3-2024

INTRODUCTION: Verses 16-17, *verse 19a

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

*** Be a Disciple-Maker!**

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

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

A. Discipling involves <u>going</u>

B. Discipling involves <u>baptizing</u>

C. Discipling involves <u>teaching</u>

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

CONCLUSION: We must give Him our AVAILABILITY!

"The Lord's Great Commission"

Matthew 28:16-20

4-3-2024

INTRODUCTION: Verses 16-17, *verse 19a

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

***Be a Disciple-Maker!**

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

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

A. Discipling involves _____

B. Discipling involves _____

C. Discipling involves _____

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

CONCLUSION: We must give Him our AVAILABILITY!

"The Lord's Great Commission"

Matthew 28:16-20

4-3-2024

INTRODUCTION: Verses 16-17, *verse 19a

When someone is dying or leaving us, his or her last words are extremely important.

Last words are important words. All four Gospels end with a command to evangelize and disciple the world (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47-48; Jn. 21:15-17).

V. 16

"Eleven" - With unbelieving Judas having committed suicide, the eleven remaining disciples fulfilled Christ's prediction (mt. 26:32) and obeyed both the angels' (Mt. 28:7) and Christ's command (Mt. 28:10) to go up north into the region of Galilee for "fourth quarter" training.

"Into Galilee" - It was up in this northern region of Palestine that Christ for nearly 40 days taught His disciples many things *"pertaining to the Kingdom of God"* (Acts 1:3).

V. 17

"They worshipped Him" - They fell down prostrate in front of Jesus Christ and gave Him the honor, respect, and adoration He so rightly deserves. Because He is God, He must be worshipped! (Mt. 4:10)

"Some doubted" - It was so incredible that Christ had conquered death that some of the disciples found it difficult to believe their own eyes and ears. That is, until Christ *"opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures"* (Lk. 24:45). Lk. 24:46-47 - *"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer,a nd to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

"Some doubted" - Not only were the 11 present, but *"more than 500 brethren at one time"* (I Cor. 15:6) were with Jesus at this point. I believe the doubters were among them.

V. 19

For the disciples to make disciples is to reproduce themselves. To pass on the revelation, principles, and precepts that Christ gave to them.

"Teach all nations" - lit. <u>make disciples</u> of all nations. The verb *"teach"* is the same root as the word *"disciples"* (v. 16).

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.")*

"In most churches, the congregation pays the pastor to preach, win the lost, and build up the saved--while the church members [stand on the sidelines and] function as cheerleaders (if they are enthusiastic) or spectators (if they lack all zeal)." (Wiersbe, p. 107).

How much faster churches would grow and how much stronger would believers be if each Christian was discipling another believer.

Which step are you on?

1. Saved

    2. Saved and growing

        3. Saved and growing and helping others become saved and growing

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

***Be a Disciple-Maker!**

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

During His earthly ministry, Christ proved His authority over sickness and disease (Mt. 4:23; 9:35), over demons (4:24, 8:32, 12:22), over sin (9:6), and over death (Mk. 5:41-42; Jn. 11:43-44) (MacArthur, p. 339).

V. 18

"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).

"Power" - *exousia* - the absolute, unrestricted right to rule.

Jesus rules Heaven and earth! What He says goes. What He wants done gets done.

"By Him all things consist" (Col. 2:17).

By claiming to own all the authority of Heaven and earth, Jesus is either liar, lunatic, or LORD!

"Therefore" - In light of the fact that Christ has all the authority to command Heaven's angelic occupants and earth's mortals, Christ gives a command with total clout behind it.

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)

Some people try to excuse themselves from following this Great Commission by calling it "the Disciples' commission" and saying that this imperative was only for the disciples to carry out.

This position is not correct for several obvious reasons:

1) It would be impossible for only 11 men to disciple *"all nations"*

2) The command is valid for as long as Christ presence is promised: *"even until the end of the world [age]"* (The eleven did not even see the end of the first century!)

3) Elsewhere, Scripture applies the responsibility of evangelism and discipleship to all believers

   a) The Early Church obeyed this Commission (Acts 8:4)

   b) We are all called *"ambassadors for Christ"* (II Cor. 5:20) II Cor. 5:18 - *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,a nd hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."*

The Early Church carried out this Great Commission:

They *"went"* (Acts 8:4)
They *"baptized"* (Acts 2:41, 8:38, 10:45)
They *"taught"* (Acts 18:26)

Discipleship involves 3 key elements:

1) Going
2) Baptizing
3) Teaching

A disciple is "one who has <u>believed</u> on Jesus Christ and expressed this faith by being <u>baptized</u>. he remains in the <u>fellowship</u> of the believers that he might be taught the truths of the faith (Acts 2:41-47)." (Wiersbe, p. 107).

A. Discipling involves <u>going</u>

"Go ye" - As you go. . . make disciples. The *"go"* is not commanded but assumed. You can't disciple someone unless you get up and <u>go do it</u>!

Discipleship is to be woven into our "going" through life. As we "go" through life, we are to fulfill the responsibility of discipling others to maturity in Christ.

"Go ye. . . all nations" - Christ intends that there <u>not</u> be a country, a state, a tribe, etc., that is neglected or by-passed. All nations need the Gospel, need discipleship.

In Jesus' previous commission, which applied specifically to His first-century disciples, He sent His disciples only to the Jews (Mt. 10:5-6). From now on their mission would involve the Gentiles and be worldwide.

Going to people of all nations requires:

1. A <u>willingness to cross</u> language and cultural <u>barriers</u>

2. An <u>unprejudiced heart</u> toward others of diverse ethnic backgrounds and skin color

B. Discipling involves <u>baptizing</u>

"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.

(For a Jew, baptism in the name of the Father and Spirit was no big deal, but in the name of "Jesus" was the biggest test. Hence, the emphasis in the New Testament is baptism in the name of Jesus - Acts 2:38, 8:12).

Baptism is a picture of one's union with Christ and a proclamation of one's devotion to Christ.

C. Discipling involves teaching

"Teaching" - to impart Biblical instruction

This teaching is not designed to inform a mind or fill up a notebook but to transform a life" (Doug Finkbeiner)

This teaching is to be formal (Eph. 4:12) and informal (cp. Dtt. 6:7). It should be visual (modeling) and verbal (instructing)/

"Disciple" - IMPORT NOTES FROM DISCIPLESHIP LESSON

"All things . . . I have commanded you" -

*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 <u>ABILITY</u> to Disciple Others (v. 20b)

***"Lo"* -** Listen, see or look!

An attention grabbing little word to point to a great truth.

It is a fact that Jesus gives us His:

1. <u>Personal</u> presence (*"with you")*
2. <u>Perpetual</u> 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
(Christ empowers us, sharpens our mind, etc. when we are busy about His commission)

How would Jesus remain with us? Answer: In the person of the Holy Spirit; He is with us by His Spirit (Acts 1:4, Jn. 14:26)

The Holy Spirit is our power (Acts 1:8).

The end of the age marks the time when the Lord Jesus shall return from Heaven (The age of the Gentiles will come to an end and the Day of the Lord will begin)

CONCLUSION: We must give Him our AVAILABILITY!

This "passing on" of what Christ gave us is the ultimate duty of a disciple of Christ (II Tim. 2:2).

--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; you are not right with God if you are not involved in the spiritual growth of someone else)

Are you willing to be a disciple maker?

--right now?

--Are you willing to be a missionary for Jesus Christ?

"Some years ago, a missionary went to a primitive, pagan society. She became especially burdened for a young wife and eventually was used to win the woman to Christ. Almost as soon as she was saved the woman told the missionary with great sorrow, "I wish you could have come sooner, so my little boy could have been saved." When the missionary asked why it was too late, the mother replied, "Because just a few weeks before you came to us, I offered him as a sacrifice to the gods of our tribe." (MacArthur, p. 347).