

Text: Matthew 28.16-20  
St Stephen's

Nov 3/4 2006  
Sat/Sun

## God's Mission – Our Mission

Touch base with our vision today...

Here's how we say it, "God Changed Lives". Before we get into that, let me start w. a couple of Q's...

### Open Questions:

- **What is the greatest problem in the world today?**

(Various answers...)

Q. How do you solve these kinds of problems?

- **What is the greatest problem in the church today?**

(Various answers...)

Q. How do you solve these kinds of problems?

Here is Jesus' Solution to problems like these:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matt 28:18-20 (ESV)

We call this the "Great Commission", and it is a big answer...

Look at the scope of these 40+ words: Five 'All's'

*Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of [all of God] the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

### The Heart of the Commission

There is One Main Verb, 3 Supporting Verbs

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of [all of God] the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

**"Make Disciples"** is the main verb in the original language. The other 3 verbs are supporting, explaining, detailing how to do it. In a nutshell Jesus' solution is this: **Disciples of Jesus Making Disciples of Jesus**. This is **Jesus' answer** to the world's problems, to your problems. It is all here, and it is **the single purpose of this church**.

## Let's Unpack it.

- **You Become a Disciple**

*Now the eleven **disciples** went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.*

Matt 28:16 (ESV)

The commission to make disciples is only given to disciples. Because it takes a disciple to make a disciple. You can't give away what you don't have. You can't lead where you won't go...

### **What Is a Disciple?**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Matt 11:28-30

**A disciple is someone who wants to be like Jesus, who is learning from Jesus how to live his life. That's all. That's a lot.**

*It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.*

Matt 10:25

**Everyone wants to be like someone.** Don't you remember that? (How I wanted to be like John Lennon in my teenage years) Do you know what happens when you want to be like someone? You start to dress like them, act like them, you want to stay close to them, think like them. You take 'life-lessons' from them. They become your 'teacher'. Everyone **chooses a teacher in life.** You do. You have. Everyone does.

It was a long trail that brought me to the point where I decided there was **no greater privilege** in life than to become like Jesus, to have him as my teacher. To ask him to teach me how to live my life, and put into practice what he taught me.

If you want Jesus to be your teacher, you **must intend** to do this, and **ask him.**

**He will meet you and teach you and make available to you everything you need.** He actually will provide everything and everyone you need. And then you simply begin to practice what He teaches you.

Once it is settled, and as soon as it is settled, you are in on this disciple-making mission. You are on the team. You may be young, but you are in. You may be just starting to learn, but you are in. You may even **have some doubts**, but you are in!

*And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.*

Matt 28:17 (ESV)

Isn't that interesting. Sounds just like church! Many worship and some doubt. Just note that sometimes disciples doubt. And the great commission is **given to them all.** Even to the doubters. Jesus puts them all on his team, as long as they are willing to learn from him, follow him, and trust him – that is what will resolve their doubts!

Let's unpack it some more...

*Jesus came and said to them, "**Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of [all of God] the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

- **Everywhere You "Go"**

You don't have to go too far to find people. Or he may send you a long way... But everywhere - School. Work. Neighborhood. Everywhere you go you reach out to people with the life of Jesus and love of Jesus, and you invite them into this way of life, this relationship with Jesus where we are learning from him how to live.

- **You "Immerse People" in God, all of God**

The verb baptize is not just talking about getting people wet, it is talking about immersing them in God, in all of God – you lead people into the heart of the great rivers of grace and love and healing that flow from God...

Example of the pond we had on our farm, how my brothers and I loved to swim in it, but our friends were often cautions. So Dad had some sand dumped on a bank – people would venture down and get close... "Just try it" we would say. "It's warm!" They would stick their toes in... Soon, they would be splashing away, some of them even venturing up into a nearby willow tree to swing out over the pond and drop into the depths...

It is like that with God... Make a sandy beach for folks so they can get close... "Just try it..." "Jump in, you will love it..." Soon they are swimming in his rivers of grace and love...

- You Help People **learn from Him how to live**. Live our whole life as He would live it.

A difficult committee mtg "Teach me..."

A family dispute

Going to school

"Show me how..."

Build a business  
 Raise kids  
 Living through some political dispute "Teach me..."  
 Loving a difficult person

Daunting Task?

### **Mission Support, Mission Supply**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..."* Matt 28:18 (NIV)

*"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*  
 Mt 28:20 (NIV)

You can **count on Jesus for everything** in the completion of this mission.

He promises, he gives **his power and his presence** to make disciples for him all over this earth. **He gives** everything we need for the completion of this mission. You do not have to do this alone. Not now, Not ever.

*"I have been given say over everything in heaven and earth, so go and make apprentices to me of people of every kind. Submerge them in the reality of the Trinitarian God, and show them how to do everything I have told you to do. Now look, I am with you every minute, until the job is completely done."*

Matthew 28.18-20 paraphrase

**That is our mission.** That is our business no matter what our business. We are disciples of Jesus making disciples of Jesus.

That is all. That will be enough.

Are you on board with that? Have you settled it that he will be your teacher, that more than anything you want to be like him, live like him, join him on his disciple making mission. Or is some other agenda in the way? That happens. Maybe today you could renew your trust in him.