

# **“The Great Commission”**

## **Matthew 28:16-20**

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**Teaching Aim:** To examine the importance of *“The Great Commission”* and see how it applies in our day today. To recognize the significance of Christ’s command to *“make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”* To realize every Christian is called to *“teach”* other people the truth of the gospel message in some capacity!

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

#### **Part I: Meeting with His disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-17)**

1. What message did the resurrected Lord give to the women as He met them along the way as they were running? (See **Matt. 28:8-10**)? According to **verse 16**, where did the eleven disciples meet Jesus? Do we know which mountain this meeting took place on? (See Commentaries)
  
2. How did the followers of Jesus react when He suddenly appeared to them on the mountain (**vs. 17**)? Since this appearance occurred after **John 20:26-29**, do you think Matthew was referring to *“the eleven”* when he said, *“some doubted?”* In light of **1 Cor. 15:3-6**, who may have doubted?

#### **Part II: Jesus gives “the Great Commission” to His disciples (Matt. 28:18-20)**

1. Is there any indication in **Matt. 28:18-20** that Jesus rebuked His disciples when they worshiped Him? What can we learn about the identity of Jesus from His acceptance of their worship? (See **Rev. 22:8-9**)
  
2. What major revelation did Jesus share with His disciples in **verse 18**? Who gave this authority to Jesus? (See **John 5:19; 12:49**) What does having this authority tell us about Jesus?
  
3. The word *“apostle”* means *“one who is sent”*. Which of the *“Apostles”* in the Bible is the greatest? (See **John 20:21; Heb. 3:1**) Who was this Apostle sent by?

4. The Greek word for “go” is in “*the present participle*” (**vs. 19**). This gives the clear assumption that the believer is already on the move; in other words, Jesus is saying “*as you are going*” be sure to do this! What three things did Jesus instruct His disciples to do as they journeyed through life (**vv. 18-20**)? If the Lord calls you to do something in ministry, are you willing to do it?
  
5. As Jesus ministered on earth with His disciples, their main focus was on the Jewish people. (See **Matt. 15:21-28**) How did the disciple’s mission change following the resurrection? (See **Acts 1:8**) What did Jesus command His disciples (and in extension, the Church) to do in **verse 19**? What is the significance of Christian baptism? How is it different from Jewish proselyte baptism?
  
6. What do we mean when we say someone is “*a disciple*” of Jesus Christ (**vs. 19**)? What must happen in order for someone to become a disciple of Christ? (See **John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:14-17**) Is the job of reaching others for Jesus and discipling them the responsibility of just the clergy or is it the role of the whole Church? When is ministry the most effective?
  
7. Have you ever been discipled by someone? If so, how did they disciple you? Have you ever discipled anyone? What are some of the better ways to disciple someone today? Just about everyone is further along in their Christian walk than someone else. Who do you know that you could disciple? Are you currently discipling your children or grandchildren? Why or why not?
  
8. What should come next after people come to faith in Jesus Christ (**vs. 19b**)? Why do you think so many “*Christians*” don’t want to be baptized today? Have you followed the Lord in water baptism yet? If not, what is stopping you?

9. What is the meaning of the Greek word “*baptize?*” (Hint: Look it up online) Why should every Christian desire to be baptized shortly after conversion? (See **Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:37-39; Rom. 6:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:21**) What does Christian baptism symbolize?
10. When **verse 19** says, “*baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*”, the Greek word for “*name*” is singular. Why is this significant? How would you define the doctrine of the Trinity? Does Jesus affirm the doctrine of the Trinity in **verse 19**? How?
11. According to **verse 20**, what is the fourth thing disciples of Jesus are commanded to do in “*The Great Commission?*” Does the command to teach mean that every Christian should be in the pulpit preaching? Does it mean that every Christian should be teaching in some way? How can even young Christians effectively teach their children and grandchildren about Jesus and what is written in the Bible? Have you ever tried teaching friends and extended family members?
12. What promise did Jesus make in **verse 20b** to all believers who will faithfully follow Him? How long does Jesus promise to stand by their side?

### **Part III: What am I doing to fulfill the Great Commission?**

1. Do you have a heart for reaching the lost in our community for Christ? What do you see as some of the greatest areas of need in our community? What are some things that you can do to more effectively reach our community for Christ? Are you willing to step out and try?
2. If you were to come up with a church strategy for discipleship, what would it be? What is your personal strategy for discipling people who are younger in the faith than you are? Are you willing to disciple someone?

3. Can only ordained clergy baptize people or can any true believer in good standing with the Lord baptize? What is the purpose in having witnesses present when individuals are baptized? What is the responsibility of the witnesses?
  
4. Is there a specific formula that must be followed in baptism or does Scripture teach multiple ways to baptize? (See **Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38**)
  
5. Every Christian is commanded to teach, have you ever thought about teaching in Sunday School (**vs. 20**)? What are some ways that teaching children can help you become a better teacher? Will teaching children give you more confidence when it comes to teaching adults? Which age group has more people coming to faith in Christ than any other?
  
6. "*The Great Commandment*" is not "*the great suggestion*". How are you currently fulfilling the Great Commandment? What are some steps you can take to become more effective at reaching others for Christ and to help them grow in their faith? Why should churches focus much of their energy on teaching children?

#### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- The eleven disciples met with the resurrected Lord on an unnamed mountain in Galilee, but they probably weren't alone; it is possible more than 500 witnesses (See **1 Cor. 15:3-6**) were present at the time.
- **Daniel 7:13-14** portrays the Father giving all authority in heaven and on earth to His Son.
- Jesus' favorite title for Himself was "*Son of Man*"; this is actually a declaration of His deity.
- "*Go*" in the Greek is in the present participle, it assumes you are already moving forward.
- As we "*go*", we are to "*make disciples,*" "*baptizing them*" in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "*teaching them*" to obey all of His commands.
- Jesus gave His disciples "*the Great Commission,*" not "*the great suggestion.*"
- As long as we faithfully minister for Jesus, He promises to be right there with us.