

Matthew 28:17-20

¹⁷ ‘And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. 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.” ’

Introduction

- Turn in your copy of the Scriptures to Matthew 28
 - READ Matthew 28:17-20
 - Hear now...
 - Please be seated
- Good morning
 - Pastor Kyle Danielson
 - It's a privilege to be one of your missionaries
 - As the Dir. Of Member Care TET I train and pastor missionaries to plant churches among the unreached
 - Changed title to save pastors...
 - I'm going to weave some illustrations of missions in this
 - To my Monday morning peeps – we'll get there, I miss you!
- I chose Matthew 28 because for TET, this is the basis for church planting
 - In fact, this is what should we leave in the wake of church planting no matter where.
- Here's what I see: Jesus makes disciples right to the end
 - You need the right Jesus – King Jesus
 - Command – make disciples-“*no matter what*”
 - Promise – I'm always with you-you won't do it alone
- PRAY

Message

- Jesus makes disciples right to the end
 - He could have just left
 - Hey, you all figure this out
 - But He doesn't
- It isn't just you need a king, You need the right King

- The correct Jesus
 - King Jesus
 - Not one of many kings
 - Not just a personal savior
 - **THE** King
 - When someone gives commands it matter who gives them
- Starts: **ALL** authority – where?
 - In heaven and on earth encompasses what?
 - The universe
 - “The universe is under My control. I’ve got this.”
 - (Hebrews 1:3a) *“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.”*
 - This isn’t deism
 - What happens as He unfolds this for them is...
- Affirms the strong and encourages the weak
 - We have some worshipping and doubting
 - He’s affirming the worshipers and encouraging the doubters
 - Jesus could have said, “Ok, everyone who’s with Me go and make disciples. The rest of you, I hope for the best.”
 - All authority induces worship and removes doubt
 - This morning, is there something that hinders/dampens your worship?
 - Is there an area of life you’re not sure Jesus has control over? That it will really work out for good?
 - Promises are not platitudes – we may use them as such
 - **ALL** authority is meant to remove doubt
 - Let’s look at what Jesus has already done, what the disciples (and if we’re honest, us) have to work with
 - (Luke 8:32) *“Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they (demons) **begged** Him to **let them enter these. So He **gave them permission.**”***
 - How many demons? Legion – many...
 - (Matthew 8:27) ‘*And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea **obey** Him?” ’*
 - What sort – The King

- This is crucial to understand the spiritual warfare of church planting and how to deal with it
 - What does this mean about trials?
 - King Jesus rules over these
 - (Luke 22:31-32) ³¹ ‘ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have **you**, that he might sift **you** like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for **you** that your faith may not fail. And when **you** have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ’
 - Satan demands permission
 - For all
 - Jesus gives Peter
 - Just like Job. God said, “Hey, you seen Job...”
 - God may allow sifting. King Jesus rules over it.
 - That’s how He empowers them, and us for ministry. So when He says, “Therefore” we know exactly Who gives the command
 - It’s King Jesus – Therefore...
- Command – make disciples
 - The active verb is “make disciples” not “go”
 - Go is the passive
 - Calling is not a feeling
 - We are called to the gospel not a place
 - Paul went where the door was open
 - This is so we don’t say, “I’m not called to make disciples in the Coulee Region.”
 - Yes you are.
 - A close door most likely is, “not yet”
 - Kicking a door open will do damage in a community
 - On average, it takes TET 10-15 years to open tightly closed doors
 - TET recruitment philosophy: “If you’re not doing it here and now, you won’t do it there and then.”
 - 2-4 month process of applying – as missionaries
 - Numerous interviews with church leaders
 - Family
 - Kyle & Shelly (helicopter parenting in RGV)

- All of that vetting process is determining if they can make disciples – we can't have people taking in more ministry than they give. Not in church planting
- All nations = Implicit – evangelism
 - All nations – ethnē
 - Ethnic – tribe, tongue and language, not country
 - Evangelism is the basis of church planting
 - Evangelism adds to the church not shift assets of the institution
 - Church planter have to care deeply about lost people
 - Jesus is modeling caring about people
- Baptizing them in the name of...
 - We need the Trinity
 - It's impossible to make true disciples without God
 - Sure, maybe a form of godliness, but that's all you have
 - A group of religious people isn't a church
 - Colossians 2:23 – no value
 - It has to be Spirit driven relationship
- By the Spirit we teach them all that King Jesus commanded
 - Those truths (which become assurances) about King Jesus lead us to Gospel centered obedience
 - Teach them
 - Here's something important to understand in “teaching **ALL**”
 - Whatever, no matter what
 - All is followed by whatsoever – ὅσα
 - “a relative pronoun set in an active context. What this means is that the art of making disciples is to teach people to obey all of Jesus' teaching, every aspect of it, whatsoever it says. In other words, Jesus' commands are not to be negotiated.” – Dr. Steve Leston
 - It means Jesus wanted the hard things to be taught as well as the benefits
 - (Matthew 10:22) ‘ *“and you will be hated by all for My name's sake.”* ’
 - (Matthew 10:39) ‘ *“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”* ’

- (Matthew 7:22-23) ²² ‘ “*On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?’*” ²³ *And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’* ” ’
- (Matthew 16:24) ‘ “*If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.*” ’
- Following King Jesus is costly. But worth it!
- This is why the gospel is:
 - Repent, believe in King Jesus
 - What’s important
 - Not pray a prayer
 - Ask Jesus into your heart – life will be better
 - Eternal life, yes
 - This life, no
 - Family in most cultures will disown you if you follow King Jesus
 - Repent and believe – change
 - (John 6:29) “*Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.’*”
 - We don’t want people walking away with works. We want them looking back over 50 years saying, “What I believed has proven true.” Not, “I must be a Christian because I did everything the church told me.”
- This is a tall order
 - Why?
 - A King requires commitment and allegiance
 - We are not called to give people an optional Jesus
 - “What you want at the end put in at the beginning” JD P
 - “What you win them with is what you win them to” GS
- Then Jesus continues to disciple His followers
 - He does this by following the command with a promise.
 - He bookends the command. Hope and promise

- Promise – I will always be with you. No matter what.
 - Behold – this is important enough to say, “behold.”
 - Calls attention to what follows
 - This is important
 - Always, 24/7/365
 - Nutshell:
 - I am The Great King, sovereign over all the universe
 - Make disciples that reflect this – which will be crazy hard
 - But don’t worry, you’ll never be alone
 - (Psalm 121:4) “*Behold, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*” [NASB]
 - You can put your head on the pillow tonight and sleep soundly because King Jesus is upholding the universe
 - I’ve had dozens of conversations since I’ve been back. They all have one similarity – uncertainty
 - Uncertainty in family, career, and church
 - The King has all these things in His hands
 - You may get sifted, but not by accident or omission

Wrap Up – Define Disciple

- Jesus spent a lot of time telling us Who we’re following. Now, what kind of people follow Him?
- What are mature disciples?
- What does He mean when He says, “make disciples.”?
 - Sometimes our definitions develop over time and lose biblical underpinnings
 - Sold-out Christians? Prayer warriors? Gates of hell storming soldiers?
 - (John 13:35) ‘ “*By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*” ’
 - (1 Corinthians 13:13) “*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*”
 - Let’s be careful when we use extra-biblical terms (not found in Scripture) that imply some have more game than others, or, more value
 - I’m going caution us to avoid creating classes of Christians
 - Who gets to define these terms?
 - Think of someone visiting who used to be a Hindu.

- caste system
 - church planters work very hard to press forward the truth that the dividing wall is broken down
 - Mature disciples aren't looking for labels or arrival points
- Transformed people who love in such a way, and walk through trials, that it confirms the message of the gospel, with the goal of seeing people worship King Jesus
- Mature disciples
 - Freely Hospitable
 - Deeply Connected
 - Willingly Transparent and intimate
 - Joyfully Serving
 - Eager to seek reconciliation
 - Care that the weak are upheld
 - Concerned about their position in relation to Scripture
 - They may be weak in systematic theology but not biblical theology
 - Obey because they can, not because they have to
 - Not a bible study to convince of simple truths (not saying easy!) But never obeying
- Those who value King Jesus deeply
 - Value His church
 - Value making much of Him to others
 - Sound familiar? Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.
- Why?
 - We have the great King with all authority
 - Who cares
 - With us always
 - Obedience of faith (believing promises) flows into obedience of works
 - What work to start with?
 - (John 13:35) ‘ “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” ’

- Let's pray