



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The King of Kings' Great Commission

MAY 23-25, 2012

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Matthew 28:16-20

“But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17) And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some were doubtful. 18) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (NASB)

When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, “God blessed them; and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Gen. 1:28). Mankind was given dominion over all the earth until he chose the dominion of Satan by obedience to him rather than God, plunging all their posterity into sin and subjugation to his kingdom. That first civilization became so wicked that “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5), and God destroyed them all with a flood except Noah and his family. As mankind again walked away from God, He divided them into specific nations and kingdoms. The devil offered those kingdoms in temptation to Jesus. “The devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, ‘All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me” (Mt. 4:8-9). After paying the penalty for our sin upon the cross and conquering death and hell by His resurrection, He returned in absolute authority to commission His own.

“IF A CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDS ALL THE REST OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW BUT FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THIS CLOSING PASSAGE, HE HAS MISSED THE POINT OF THE ENTIRE BOOK. THIS PASSAGE IS THE CLIMAX AND MAJOR FOCAL POINT, NOT ONLY OF THIS GOSPEL, BUT OF THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT.” JOHN MACARTHUR

“CERTIANLY THE APOSTLES WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PERSUADED TO ATTEMPT SO ARDUOUS A TASK, HAD THEY NOT KNOWN THAT THEIR PROTECTOR AND AVENGER WAS SITTING IN THE HEAVENS, TO WHOM SUPREME DOMINION HAD BEEN GIVEN.” JOHN BROADUS

Why a mountain in Galilee? Are others there also? Is it the natural response of disciples to worship Jesus? Do these doubters give greater authenticity to Matthew’s report? Is there any nation or even a molecule in the universe that is not under the authority of Jesus Christ? What is the only imperative in this passage? Can any Christian be obedient to Christ without going to disciple others? What is the most strategic way to disciple all the nations? Is baptism the first act of obedience? How are others to be taught “all” that Jesus commanded?

I. DELIVERING ALL AUTHORITY MT. 28:16-18

History gives Mt. Hermon where the surrounding nations can be best viewed from Israel, as the strategic spot for this singular appointment prophesied before and after His death (Mt. 26:32, 28:7). The presence of the doubters after Jesus had already revealed Himself to the Apostles, means that this is probably when Jesus “appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time” (I Cor. 15:6). All who

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 30-JUNE 1: INTRODUCTION TO JONAH NINEVEH THE MOST CRUEL CAPITOL
- JUNE 6-8: JONAH 1:1-3 THE PATRIOTIC PROPHET AND GOD’S GRACE UPON HIS ENEMIES

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 13900 NOBLEWOOD PLAZA
THURSDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – RT. 10&301 SHONEY’S, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA – 8TH & MAIN – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

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were available and came, would have met the risen Lord of the Universe and would have been commissioned with the Apostles! Sometimes the greatest ability is availability. The believers' first response was to worship Him as the Messiah and King of the Jews! But some, like Thomas, were reluctant and required more evidence. So Jesus "came up and spoke to them." Not only did His physical features make Him obvious, His voice and words made Him even more recognizable as He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Such ultimate and all encompassing authority both required their complete submission and validated the Great Commission. But since availability, worship and submission will be exercised in heaven, why are believers left here on earth?

"UNIVERSAL LORDSHIP MEANS UNIVERSAL MISSION."
W. D. DAVIES AND DALE ALLISON

II. DISCIPLING ALL NATIONS MT. 28:19-20A

"Therefore" is the key word launching this non-optional command. It is because Jesus has "all authority" that His people are both required to obey and empowered by His infinite might. Jesus only gives one imperative requiring that they reproduce themselves, "make disciples," with three modifying participles. Disciples are not just learners or followers, they are committed to Christ and His Word. "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine" (Jn. 8:31). "And he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt. 10:38). "Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mt. 16:24-26). The first participle requires proselytizing. Literally, "having gone," assumes the necessity of mission. It is not just lifestyle

evangelism, it includes a deliberate going to reach others with the Gospel. The second participle modifying "making disciples" points to the success of the mission in "continually baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." The entire Trinity is engaged in their salvation and the first step of obedience for the new disciple of Jesus Christ is to be baptized (Mk. 16:16). Though Baptism is not part of salvation, it is the first act in proving it and picturing it before others (Rom. 6:1-11). The final participle is comprehensive, "continually teaching them to continually observe all that I commanded you." The goal is not just to convert but to teach the new disciple the fullness of what Christ taught, including reproducing themselves. Such multiplication is inherent in the direct object, "disciple all the nations." It is not just, "making disciples out of all nations," but literally, "all the nations" are to be made disciples! Thus, God strategically commissioned them to be a witness in capital cities (Acts 1:8) and to win kings (Acts 9:15, I Tim. 2:1-4, 6:13).

"THE COMMISSION EMBRACES WHOLE NATIONS RATHER THAN INDICATING INDIVIDUALS AMONG THEM."
GRIFFITH THOMAS

III. DEPENDENCE ALL OUR DAYS MT. 28:20B

Here Matthew provides his final astounding "behold," and Jesus gives the means by which such a command can be realized. "And behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age." Matthew begins with the prophecy of "Immanuel" translated "God with us" (1:23) and ends with Jesus as the Universal Sovereign Lord, emphatically promising His presence with us every single day!

"WE ARE NOT SENT TO WORK FOR GOD, BUT TO BE THE AGENTS WHEREBY GOD MAY WORK IN US."
CHARLES PRICE

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you ever received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and been obedient in baptism?
- 2) Are you a true disciple who is "making disciples" by going, baptizing, and teaching others?
- 3) How is God working in you to disciple all the nations?