

“Therefore Go and make disciples” 4/3/2018

Matthew 28:18-20

Thank-you Father! For sending your son Jesus to save us from sin and wrath. Thank-you for making us yours. I pray, Holy Father, that if there are any lost sheep here with your church today that you would call them to follow your Good Shepherd, Jesus.

So I want to plead Lord Jesus that today by your mighty Spirit you would lay on us such a sense of awe at who you are, and a sense of great joy because of your closeness, and a right sense of holy, reverent fear of the authority that you have been given and what you have commanded us to do. Help me to speak, my king.

Now, my friends, I want to read to you a true story. Would you close your eyes and hear these words as true and imagine them in your mind.

Read Matt 28:1-10, 16-17, 18-20

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

My desire for us all today is to come to a deeper and more practical understanding of what a disciple of Jesus looks like and how disciples of Jesus should make more disciples of Jesus.

We must start at the beginning, we cannot know anything about what kind of disciples we must be or what kind of disciples we must make without knowing who we are disciples of.

1. Who is the master of the disciples

Look with me at verse 5 where the Angel says to the two women” DO not be afraid, for I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen, as HE said. Come see where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold he is going before you to Galilee.

Jesus was crucified, Why was he crucified? :

To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree !

He suffered crucifixion to save sinners like you and me! And to reconcile us to God even whilst we were still enemies!

And now by the power of God, Jesus is risen NOT WAS RISEN, IS RISEN! Even right now he is alive and at work, where He was once dead now has risen from the dead.

Notice the last thing the Angel says about Jesus: “And behold He is going before you” These words from the Angel tell us much about how he relates to his disciples. Because even though the Angel was speaking of Jesus meeting the disciples in Galilee, more broadly understood, Jesus is always going before his disciples, and they always follow him. When Jesus was crucified on the he was going before us, and His disciples followed him, not that they all died on crosses but that they all died to their sin, died to themselves so they might follow Jesus. In the same way Jesus goes before us in being raised from the dead, we are now alive to Jesus Christ, raised from death In sin and one day we too will be raised from physical death like he was.

Now, what do we learn about Jesus in our text

Look at verse 18, Jesus says of himself, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”.

I wonder, what would you call a person who had all authority on earth: in the law, and in justice, in doing good and mercy in being able to command others as one who

deserves and has a right to be obeyed? What would you call such a person? The KING!

And what would you call a person who has such authority over all things in heaven: over evil, and all enemies in the spiritual realm, the movement of stars and the very fabric of space? What would you call such a person? GOD! Very God!

This is He who commissions us : The King of earth and the God of heaven – Jesus Christ. No other person is so deserving of your full attention, energy, effort and awe as Jesus, who died and is alive again.

(Call to reconcile to God)

2. What does he commission us to do?

Verse 19, “therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you”.

Let us take the first part of this text: *therefore Go Make Disciples*.

The word ‘therefore’ in this text is profound and awesome. When you read it do you get the sense that whatever comes before ‘therefore’ is strongly connected to what comes after? Have another read and see what the connection is. See if you see the same thing as me. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go”. So Jesus has all authority and that means we MUST go! Jesus is not sending you out on a hopeless mission, He has all authority! You cannot fail, it will happen because He said it will happen and has the authority to cause the mission to succeed. So you and I are to Go! Not sit around waiting for disciples to fall into our laps but to get up and make efforts and moves to find and make them. So what this means is that if we are ‘going’ in the authority of Jesus there is no-thing that can prevent our success in the commission. If we obediently go, Jesus has will make sure we succeed.

What are we ‘going’ to do?

Make disciples. Did you know disciples are made? Yeah, there is a little factory that makes them on the corner of Main Rd and Church Rd, Pantan Hill.

Jesus knows that every Christian disciple that has ever lived has been a miraculous intervention of God. So why does Jesus say make? Jesus is not calling us to make converts to Christianity but changing peoples hearts from stone to flesh, but disciples of Him! What is the difference? A convert is only changing their ideas and understanding from one to another, only affirming true statements. But a disciple of Jesus believes the truth and then obeys it. A disciple lives their lives following Jesus and is daily transformed by being encouraged, taught, rebuked and loved by other

disciples, who all are led by Jesus. So He wants you and I to make people follow him! He wants us to make regular people able to obey and do the things that Jesus said in their daily lives.

I hope that some of you are feeling whelmed (not overwhelmed and definitely not underwhelmed) about the enormity of this. But I hope you see two things: to be a disciple of Jesus will cost you everything but you gain Jesus, and two: this commission is impossible without heavenly help.

How do we make disciples?

1. Be a disciple.

I don't think that it is beyond the scope of this text to say that to make disciples we must be disciples of Jesus ourselves. I get this idea from the verse 7 when the Angel speaks of Jesus going before the disciples. I believe that in going before us Jesus showed clearly what it means to be a disciple by the way he lived. In the same way men and women who have been following Jesus longer than me have made me a disciple of Jesus by showing me how they live. And a personal example of this is in my Dad. Dad is much more patient than I am, where I tend to get frustrated very quickly and lose it, Dad is able to keep his cool much longer, and where I quickly forget to show grace when I am frustrated I have found that my Dad is able to continue to extend grace. And when that grace is extended to me I become acutely aware that I am being made as a disciple of Jesus by my Dad. I know that the grace my Dad shows me is the result of being made a disciple by other disciples.

So I think the the first thing we must do to make disciples of Jesus, is to be a disciple of Jesus showing an example of following Him.

2. Baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I have had many interesting conversations/arguments about the place of baptism in the life of a disciple, but Jesus has given us instruction and I want to be obedient and I want you to be as well. I the great commission Jesus sandwiches baptising disciples in between making disciples of all nations on the one hand and teaching them to observe on the other. The place that Jesus has placed baptism in is high. Baptism is so important! The believer obediently being washed by water to symbolise the death to self and sin, and the rising up to new life and cleanness in Jesus is commissioned. If you want to follow Jesus you must be baptised. If you want to make disciples you must baptise them. And I just want to add how beautiful are baptisms, how easy is it o love the church and your brothers and and sisters in Christ at a baptism.

If any of you has not been baptised and would like to follow Jesus into baptism, please come and speak to us after the service.

3. Teach them to observe all Jesus commanded.

The third way we make disciple from this text is to teach them to observe all Jesus commanded. I want to point out a few things: what is our teaching of a another disciple supposed to produce in them? Observation of all Jesus commanded. We are not told to teach only for knowledge sake. I don't want to preach to you only to have your head filled with mere information. I want this message to produce in you a different mindset which leads more Godly behaviour and effort. So in our teaching of other disciples we must teach them in a way to produce observe Jesus commands. The other thing I want to note is that this is to be done verbally and practically. We must teach with our mouths, we must say words to other people to teach them. That is what Jesus did. And we must be examples, practically doing in our lives the things that we are teaching so that other disciples learn from the way we live. That is what Jesus did. Please my friends don't ever play speaking words and doing actions off against each other, we must do both to teach and they are both equally difficult at times .

If you, like me, felt an extraordinary sense of deficiency and weakness upon hearing these things, I want to encourage you. I was lifted up with this amazing promise of Jesus. And I don't think that it goes without saying that we must rely on Jesus to obey him.

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Amen.