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# The Church's Mission: The Great Commission to Proclaim a Resurrected Savior!

Matthew 28:16-20

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

## INTRO-

### *Introductory Illustration*

- I'll never forget interviewing a woman for membership at CFBC and, at one point, she sat back and smiled & asserted: ***You wanna know why I'm a Christian and why I follow Christ? Because MY Savior is ALIVE! He is Raised from the Dead!*** >> Amen! I concur! Don't you?
- It is of first importance that Christ died, was buried & was raised from the dead for our sins!
  - *We have a great message & a great Mandate & a Living Master!*
- We have a Great ***Commander!*** We also have a ***Great Commission!***
- our motivation for the great commission is to honor & glorify our Resurrected Lord! Jesus said: "I was dead & I am alive forevermore" (Rev 1.18). **\*\*This resurrection gives us:**
  - **A Living hope** (1 Pet 1:3)
  - **Confidence that Christ will return with deceased saints** (1 Thess 4:14)
  - **Portrait of God's power at work within us** (Eph 1:19-22)
  - **The first fruits [template] of all believers who will rise again** (1 Cor 15:3-20)
  - **Proof that Jesus is Messiah and Lord** (Acts 17:30-32)
  - **Assurance of our justification** (Rom 4.25).
  - **An evangelistic centerpoint of proclamation & invitation** (Act 26:21-24) > where we are today!!!

### *Background to Matt 28*

- ***Matthew 28 in review:***
- The Unrivaled Resurrection (1-7)
- The Unhindered Proclamation (8-10)
- The Unbelieving Opposition (11-15)
- The Unstoppable Commission (16-20)
  - this is our mission> This is the GREAT commission

➡The Great **Commission** (Mandate)

➡flows out of the GREAT **Commandment** (Motivation)

➡Sourced in our Great **COMMANDER** (Master)

Missions = 5 simple axioms >>>

1. Christ has given you all the authority you need to go and speak His gospel! [we don't need permission; Christ, our Lord & King has given us the call/commission)]
2. Every Christian IS a disciple of Christ and a disciple-maker for Christ
3. True Missions is Ecclesiological — it centers around, is fueled by & it promotes the local CHURCH (local assemblies). ; faithful missionaries are equipped, affirmed, sent, supported by & accountable to a local church/assembly.
  - The responsibility for sending missionaries BELONGS SQUARELY with the local church.
  - Some simple priorities of GOD-CENTERED MISSIONS:
    - ❖the priority of missions must be faithfulness to God & His Word, NOT fruitfulness (61)
    - ❖the promotion of missions should be based primarily on God and his glory, NOT man's needs (62)
    - ❖the practice of missions must be controlled by Scripture, NOT traditions or trends (64)
    - ❖the power of missions must be Divine, NOT human (65)
4. Missions is about Truth — teaching the faith once for all delivered to saints (theological at its foundation) >> it's not so much about spanning Continents as much as it is about speaking of Christ & His gospel!
5. Every Christian should be concerned about missions because missions is the HEART OF GOD.

Now— not everyone is called to go. So, before William Carey left for India, he told Andrew Fuller “I will go down into the pit, if you will hold the ropes!” ***Both are involved in great commission work.*** All are active. All are serving! All are prayerful! ***Some send; some are sent — but all are involved in 'great commission work'.***

**THESIS — From Matt 28:16-20, 4 AMAZING TRUTHS about this great Commission text that calls you to proclaim the salvation of your resurrected Savior!:**

1. Jesus is the Sovereign **Authority** (WHO gives it)
2. Jesus gives the Specific **Agenda** (WHAT is it)
3. Jesus Promises Supernatural **Assistance** (HOW will I do it)
4. Jesus Calls for Sustained **Advancement** (WHERE shall I do it)

## **I. JESUS IS THE SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY**

### *A. WHO GIVES IT*

- B. The authority of Jesus Christ — Absolute; Universal; Victorious; Exclusive; Promised; Good. > Crowds were awestruck that God had given authority to Christ (Matt 9.8); Jesus taught as one having authority (Matt 7.29)
1. his authority is perfect, absolute, extensive, global, victorious, promised and good. > this one who came from heaven, lived among men, obeyed Scripture exactly, suffered death innocently, redeemed sinners graciously, rose up from the dead triumphantly, proving himself alive undeniably, and ascending to heaven bodily! **O great God!**
    - a) One commentator said: ““Submission to the absolute authority and the singular sovereignty of Jesus Christ is NOT a believer’s option but it is our supreme obligation. ... We cannot negotiate or compromise on this. ... Whatever the LORD commands, THIS I WILL DO!
- C. What comfort to know that in your life, in your work, in your home, at your job, with your family, around the lost —**Jesus, who Himself has all authority**, has gloriously called, commissioned, equipped & sent you to be his ambassador!
1. **2 Cor 5:20-21! We are his ambassadors.** Ambassadors do NOT have the freedom to change the message or the method. Our job is to deliver the message accurately, just as it has been given to us. We must deliver the message regardless of the discomfort produced, effort required, sacrifice financially and shame endured.  
Ambassadors EXIST to deliver message. ***Our commander calls us, His soldiers to go! Our King calls us, His subjects, to go! Our Redeemer tells us, His redeemed to go & speak! Our Master summons us, His slaves, to go forth into his work!!!***
    - John 20.21 - as the Father has sent me, I also send you!
- D. > But, people may say you’re CRAZY! like CT Studd who said: ”Had I cared for the comments of people, I should never have been a missionary.” **Behold his sovereign authority.**

## **II. JESUS GIVES THE SPECIFIC AGENDA**

### **A. WHAT IS IT?**

- here’s the agenda, the plan, the commission, the mandate.
- This is ***our mission, our agenda, the Church’s philosophy.***

- This agenda is *\*still\** binding upon us as the church today — ‘as long as this age will last/Christ is with his people till the end of the age’. ***we must obey/fulfill this***. Our focus should be laser-like, clear-headed, undistracted & unashamedly ***biblical***.
- B. Jesus says to GO & make disciples. The main verbal is ***Make Disciples!***
- C. MAKE DISCIPLES — The Great Commission is a command to bring UNBELIEVERS throughout the world to a saving knowledge of Christ. >> and to teach that new disciple ALL that Christ commanded. of course: we make disciples by ***\*Going\**** not staying; we must *get up & go forth*. There ought to be an urgency, a getting up, a going forth, a speaking up, a *telling out* of the gospel!
- D. **We are “Fishing for Souls”** - *we go after Men & we have a message from our Master.*
- E. How does someone become a Disciple? We go and make them (=when God saves them) [see the divine sovereignty & human responsibility beautifully at work harmoniously.] — **HOW? by preaching the gospel and making disciples (Acts 14.21!)**
  1. baptizing them - one of 2 ordinances in the church to ***picture*** the gospel-work (buried with Christ; old self crucified; raised to new life; Rom 6.4
  2. teaching them - a conversion isn’t the end > *baptism* > *then local church involvement* > *then growing in Christ, in theology, in Truth, in evangelism, in holiness, in prayer.*
- F. SO > mark this: we are after DISCIPLES, not decisions.
  1. many times, sadly, the work of missions is about decisions.
  2. not a mere induced transaction but internal transformation of soul.
- G. What’s the goal? ***Worship! The adoration & praise of our great God who is supremely & singularly deserving of ALL worship!***
  1. WORSHIP IS THE GOAL! >> Worship is the inner stirring of the heart to love & treasure God above all the treasures of this world
    1. a valuing of God above all else that is valuable
    2. a loving of God above all else that is lovely
    3. a savoring of God above all else that is sweet
    4. an admiring of God above all else that is admirable
    5. a fearing of God above all else that is fearful
    6. a respecting of God above all else that is respectable
    7. a prizing of God above all else that is precious***Spurgeon’s words are soberingly relevant = “If sinners be dammed, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one GO there UNWARNED and UNPRAYED for.”***

2. O may you & *I hear & heed & follow this agenda — like a warrior follows the instructions of the Chief* — outward focused. Go! Evangelize! Speak! Disciple! are you?
  - William Booth said: “Your God says to you as much as to anyone, ‘Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.’ There is neither ‘male nor female’ in the eye of your Creator, your King, your Saviour, your Judge. Will you obey Him? It may cost you all your friends, your reputation, your comfort in life, your home, your fortune, your life, your all; but, ‘He freely gave himself up for us all,’ for women as well as for men.” There is much work to be done; the issue is not men or women, black or white, rich or poor, literate or illiterate, educated or uneducated; the issue is who will go?”

### **III. JESUS PROMISES SUPERNATURAL ASSISTANCE!**

#### **A. HOW WILL I DO IT?**

"Brother, if you would enter that Province, you must go forward on your knees." (Hudson Taylor)

#### **B. How can we do this? *not in our power but in God's power. Not in our abilities but in God's infinite abilities* & His available assistance.**

#### **C. I am with you...**

1. Moses told Joshua: the Lord said: I will be with you (Deut 31.23)
2. God told Gideon: I will be with you (Judges 6.16)
3. Isa 43.2 - when you pass thru the waters, I will be with you
4. Jer 1.8 - I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD
5. Haggai 1 & 2 (1:13; 2:4) - get up and WORK for I am with you, says the LORD
6. Acts 18.10 - God told Paul — I AM WITH YOU for I have many people in this city.

#### **D. O what assistance & help! I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**

1. The Person (“I” — Jesus)
2. The Promise (I **am with** you)
3. The Presence (**with** you)
4. The Permanence (**always to the end** of the age)

#### **E. O yes! As William Carey said: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."**

1. 1. as you SEND, as you GO. As you SUPPORT as you SPEAK FORTH! As you hold the rope; or GO DOWN. As you give financially or go globally. As you engage the lost > *God Almighty is With you!*
  - **Consider = Extraordinary Work by Ordinary Christians serving an Extraordinary God.** It's not about you; God uses weak people [Paul uses the language of ‘weak, lowly, slaves, ‘dregs, fools’]. So, go forth! Charge on!

- As God told Joshua when he was to conquer bigger & greater nations of Canaan:  
I will be WITH YOU; I will not fail you or forsake you! ***Same God with you as well!***

#### **IV. JESUS CALLS FOR SUSTAINED ADVANCEMENT**

A. *WHERE SHALL I DO IT?*

B. This is **\*\*your role\*\*** **Remember: "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed" (Hudson Taylor).**

1. Your perspective // Your proclamation // Your passion // Your perseverance

C. C. This is our mission: "to evangelize the lost". Our 4th and 5th pillars of CFBC include: "The continuous evangelizing of the local community" AND "The global commitment to proclaim the gospel to the nations"

1. how long? "Till the end of the age" (when Jesus returns in power & glory to judge!).

2. Where? Luke 24:47-48 - "to all nations"; Acts 1.8 - Witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth".

3. Guess what? The mandate of missions, the sending of missionaries, the equipping of missionaries, the supporting of missionaries, the accountability of missionaries **BELONGS SQUARELY** with the local church. ***this is our Duty, our Call!***

#### **It's the great COMMISSION; let it not be the GREAT OMISSION.**

- Let us be FAITHFUL not negligent.
- Let's be FOCUSED
- Let's be FERVENT
- Let's be FIERY
- Let's be FUELED
- Let's be FILLED

So, Christian, church-member,

1. Maybe God will stir your heart to rise up, to be trained/equipped, to be sent, to GO forth (thru the affirmation & sending of your local church)
2. God calls us all to GIVE, to help, to support, to be "fellow workers with the Truth" (3 John 8) — *Christian: an active part you play in holding the rope is regularly & faithfully giving to the ministry.*
3. Pray — destroy spiritual strongholds with spiritual weapons — *Word & Prayer*. Advance on your knees.
4. All of us — *open our mouths; testify of Jesus; be HIS witnesses (Acts 1.8). Make a goal; set it > speak forth truth, to your family & kids & grandchildren, hand out a tract, hold up a sign, go to a college, an intersection, a bus stop; a metro station, your starbucks, strangers, online, social media, neighbors.*

## CONCL-

### *Concluding Illustration*

- So Christian: Go! Make Disciples! Baptize! Teach! Jesus is with you! >> And yes, Luke 10.2 — “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore **beseech [beg!]** the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.
- The 1920s were a dark period in Chinese history. Twelve China Inland Mission workers had been martyred along with five associates. Half of the overall missionary community left permanently. In the midst of darkness, in 1929, the China Inland Mission issued a call to prayer for 200 new workers over the next two years. THIS BOLD MOVE INSPIRED FRANK HOUGHTON TO WRITE “FACING A TASK UNFINISHED.” Houghton’s song was a **fervent call to urgent prayer** asking God to raise up 200 workers for China. God answered prayer—and just 2 years later — by 1931 there were 203 new missionaries on their way to China.

Facing a task unfinished

That drives us to our knees

A need that, undiminished Rebukes our slothful ease

We, who rejoice to know Thee Renew before Thy throne

The solemn pledge we owe Thee To go and make Thee known

We go to all the world

With kingdom hope unfurled [=to unroll / spread something out far & wide]

No other name has power to save

But Jesus Christ The Lord