



3/6/26

Here's the big idea of this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished... Every believer is a servant of someone. The unbeliever is a servant only of "the prince of the power of the air", "the father of lies", the deceiver who can only sin. But as a believer in Christ, we have a choice. We are voluntary slaves... either of sin or of the Lord. The Lord makes the best Master. He gives us the grace and strength to choose Him. But we have a daily, minute by minute opportunity to choose. Let us choose Him. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

The timing of this passage is really important. BEFORE Jesus died on the cross and rose again, just a short time before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in John 17:1-2, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since You have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him." He was saying, "Father, You've given Me authority to save souls." But those words would have meant nothing if Jesus hadn't risen from the dead. Here, in Matthew 28, Jesus is speaking to the disciples AFTER He rose from the dead. So now when He says He has authority, He's proven it by His resurrection.

Matthew 28:18-20 ~

"And Jesus came and said to them (the disciples), 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'" Jesus has authority to give eternal life, so the "great commission" He's about to give has eternal weight to it. He's not just some guy off the street commissioning the disciples for their purpose on earth. He's the one in charge, giving them His marching orders.

Before I see what those orders are, which apply to me as well... I have to examine my heart. Do I see Jesus as having ALL authority in heaven and on earth? Do I see Him as authority over me??? Do I treat Him as the one in charge? It will show by how I live out my mission. So now... what's my mission?

"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

The Greek word for "go" actually means, "As you are going." God has placed each of His children in some career or school or environment that gives them a unique opportunity to share the gospel. No matter what my role is... God wants my first priority to be to point to Him. I'm fortunate to have a job in ministry, but it goes beyond that. When I go to the store, am I living a testimony that points people to Christ? Right now, I'm getting physical therapy. I'm not just there to get help for my back. I get to share Jesus with my physical therapists. I can talk about my faith and commitment to Him, His love... what I learn from His word. I need to have the mindset of Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Let Jesus be so much a part of my life that I'm unafraid to speak about Him, that I can't help but speak about Him. When I'm with my grandchildren, yes, I want to just love on them and play with them. But even more, I pray for their salvation, and I want to look for opportunities to teach them about Jesus. O Lord, please... wherever I'm going... help me to be so aware of Your love and the hope I have in You that I can't help but speak of You.

God wants His disciples, His followers, to help make other disciples. This is not just about helping them get their "get of jail free" card, but it's about encouraging them and being encouraged by them to keep pursuing the Lord in faith... knowing that the Lord continues to pursue us. This is such a beautiful picture of what the body of Christ together can do. We are not to live as individuals who just do our own thing. We're called to rally together as a church and point people to Christ. As we're all on fire for Christ, someone who enters our church will experience what 1 Corinthians 14:25 says. When he comes to our church and sees our genuine faith, "the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you."

What happens next? When someone puts their faith in Christ and confesses Him as Lord and is saved, there's a way to publicly proclaim his new life in Christ... to be baptized. Baptism is the outward symbol of what has taken place in the heart. Going down in the water shows that we have already died with Christ, because we have already confessed Him as Lord... and being raised from the water shows that we have already been raised to new life in Christ.

When people were baptized back then, they were taking a public stand that could bring persecution and even death. They were saying, "No amount of persecution is too much compared to what Jesus has saved me from. I take my stand with Him." That's still the case in some countries today. But today in America, we don't face that kind of persecution. But there's still a stand to be taken. It could bring conflict in relationships, sometimes even causing someone to disown a family member. But even then, when we understand what Jesus has saved us from, our loyalty to Him is so great that nothing will move us from Him. The fact that Jesus was saying this AFTER His resurrection and as He was about to ascend to His throne in heaven is enough to help me trust His words.

He also made it clear that it's not just about getting people saved and baptized. After that, we need to be taught. Our natural inclination will be to drift back to what our flesh used to latch

onto. We need to be TAUGHT to "observe", guard, watch over all that Jesus commanded. We need to be taught, and we need to teach what we're learning to whoever He places in our sphere of influence.

This is huge. God gives me a purpose that is so much greater than just living for today... it has eternal value. It takes courage. It takes sacrificial love. It takes the mindset Paul spoke of in Acts 20:24, "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." That is every believer's call. That is the call of God on my life.

What Jesus said next, I'm sure, gave the disciples courage to face whatever God would have them walk through... and as I remember and trust His words, it will give me courage to face whatever comes. Jesus said, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Check it out! Pay attention. There's a reason to worship. We are not expected to fulfill our calling alone! The one who could not be kept in the grave and ascended to heaven is seated on His throne forever! He has the authority and power to promise me that He will never leave me or forsake me. He will never expect me to fulfill His call alone. In fact, when I confessed Jesus as my Lord, He sealed me with the Holy Spirit. I am never alone... not for one millisecond. He will be with me forever, even to the end of the age... when He will take me home. Praise the name of Jesus.

O Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in my life, please help me to live out my mission... to let Jesus be so present in my life that I can't help but speak the gospel... to encourage others who put their face in Jesus... to celebrate their public pronouncement of their salvation... to teach them what You are teaching me through Your word and through those who speak Your word faithfully. Amen.