

GREAT COMMISSION AND JESUS ASCENDS

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53



February 19, 2012



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Matthew 28:19-20

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.



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

Great Commission

The great commission is operative yesterday, today, and in the future. We are to "make disciples." That is the essence of this final command of Jesus while He was on this earth.



"Make followers of me."

"Teach people to do what I do."

"You remember the things because we spent a lot of time going over them."

"Do them."

"The outworking of the Gospel is in your hands."

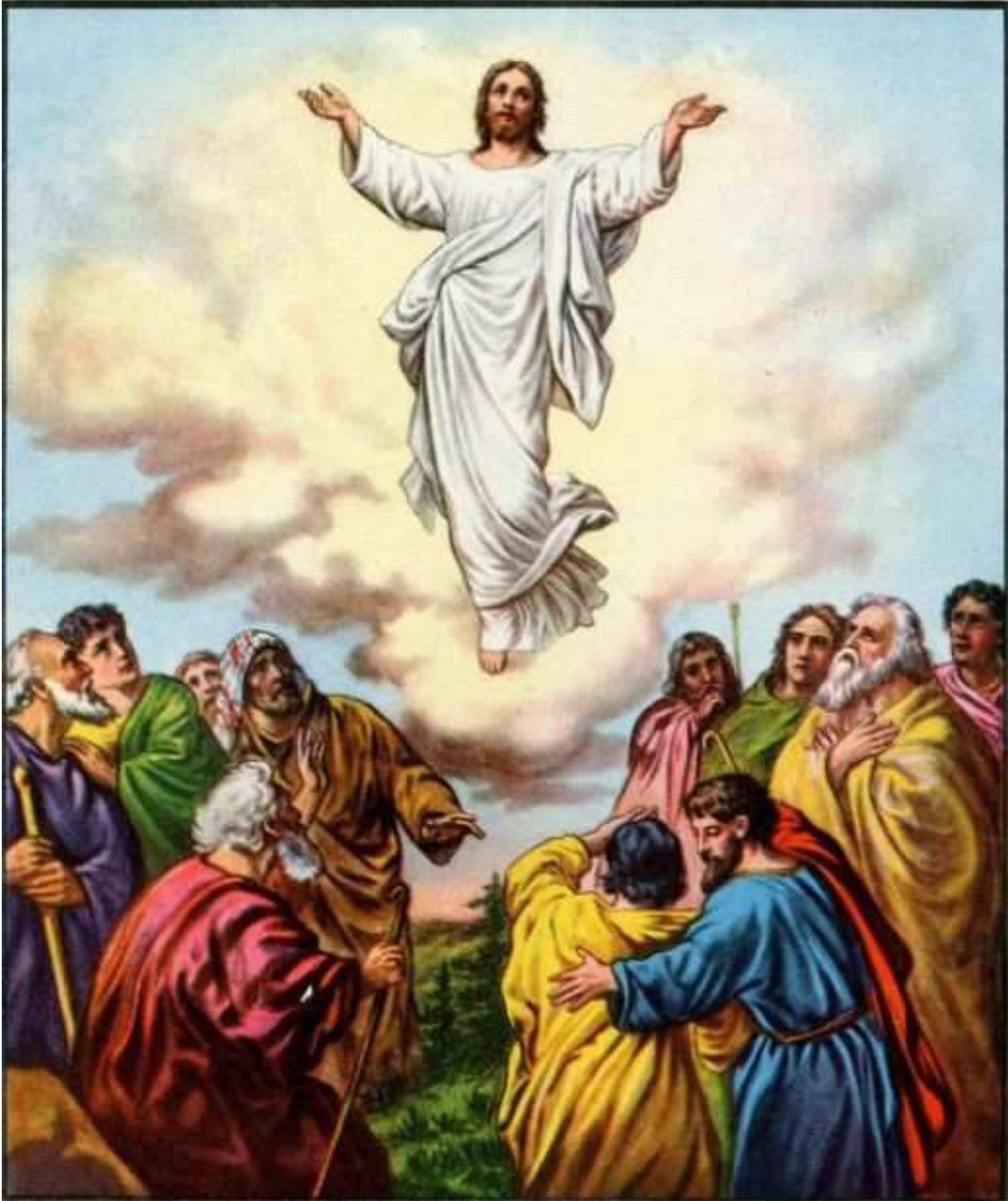
Isn't it amazing that He trusted human people (messed up ones at that) to accomplish spreading the news of God's redemptive work through Jesus? Unbelievable.

Jesus Ascends

And then Jesus leaves. He has to or the Spirit will not come, and Jesus says that they will need the Spirit. And so the God-Man leaves. He ascends into heaven in the

presence of many witnesses. Jesus returns to the Father's side to sit (and sometimes stand) at his right hand. This is a ministry practice which has been lost in our "climb the corporate ladder" mentality: Only when the head guy or girl leaves can one really know if things are healthy and going to continue on. If things are dependent on one person for a long time, then things aren't really sustainable for the long term. Jesus knew this and wanted His followers to depend on the Spirit when He left. And depend they did. The Spirit comes as recorded in the book of Acts, and is extremely important in the life of the church.

We are to live and depend on the Spirit of God, of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is operative and active in the life of the follower of Jesus.





LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

Discipleship

Do you believe in Jesus? Are you a disciple? Are you helping to “go and make” other disciples? Are you being taught to obey “everything Jesus commanded”? Does your OLD life creep in sometimes and affect your NEW life? Are you showing your community what God is like and what he has done in you (by being a disciple)?

To say you are a disciple is EASY. To live like a disciple is HARD. Which one are you?

Baptism

Are you baptized? Disciples of Jesus are baptized, not for a ritual, but in obedience. Disciples are baptized because it models to the community of God’s people and to the whole world that you are now DEAD to your old life, and ALIVE to your new life. Being baptized is a witness to the whole world that Jesus has changed your life and is now the LORD of your life.



QUESTIONS

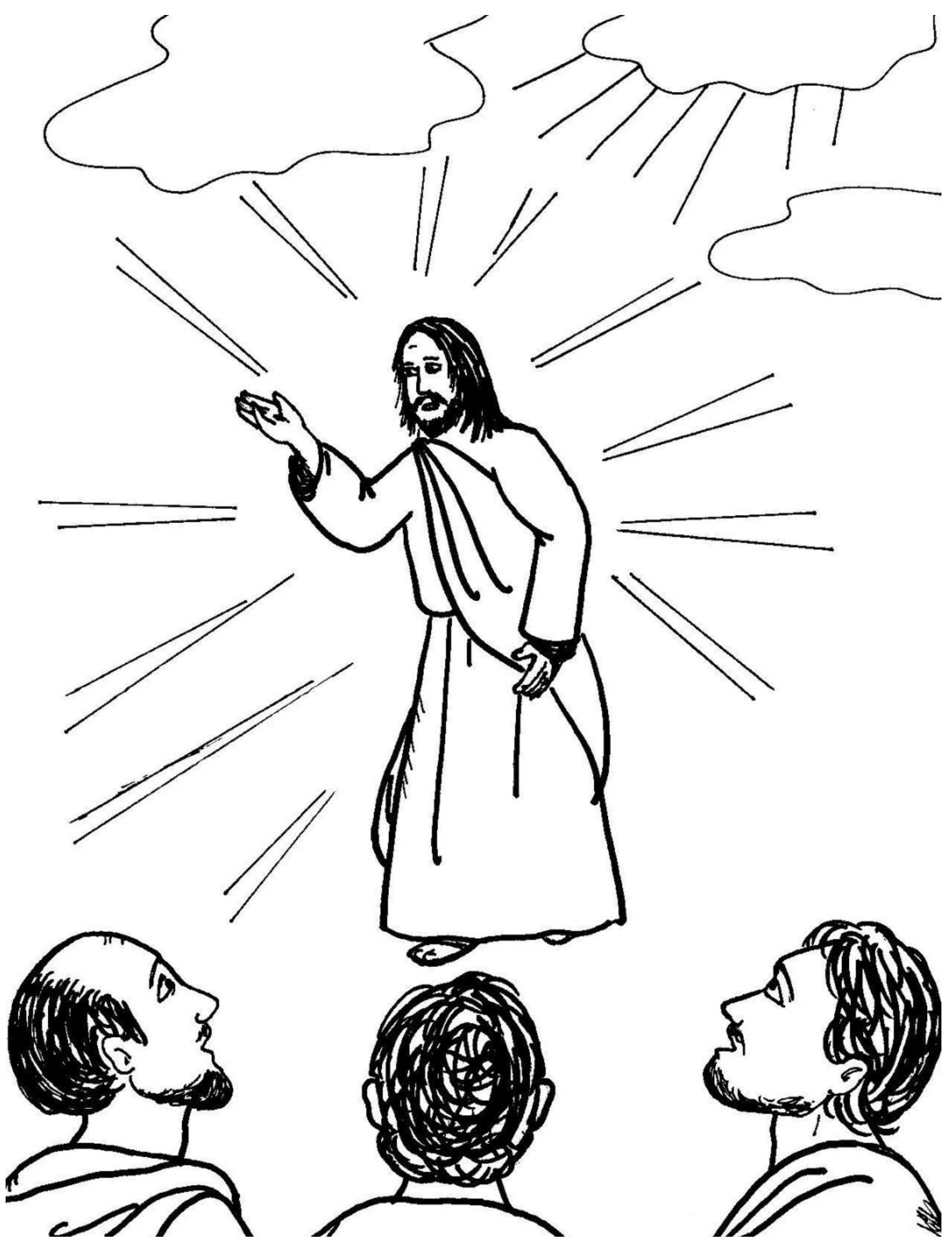
REMEMBERING

- 1. What did Jesus tell his followers to go and make?** Disciples
- 2. Where were Jesus’ followers supposed to go and make disciples?** All nations
- 3. In whose name are these new disciples to be baptized in?** The name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- 4. What does Jesus say they are supposed to teach these new disciples?**
Everything I have commanded you
- 5. Where does Jesus ascend to?** Heaven, to be with God on his throne
- 6. Who did Jesus promise to send after he left?** The Holy Spirit



COLORING SHEET

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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