

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Commissions His Disciples

Last time...Jesus appeared to the disciples for the 3rd time and took care of some unfinished business with Peter

This time...Jesus commissions His disciples – entrusts them with His authority and sends them into the world

This is the End of the Beginning

We will be in Matt 28, Mark 16, and Luke 24

Matt 28

v16-17 Then...into Galilee...worshipped...some doubted:

After John 21

- “for naught” fishing expedition on the Sea of Galilee led by Peter
- a great catch provided by the Lord Jesus Christ
- “Do you love Me more than these” and the complete restoration of Peter

it seems Jesus “disappeared” again

But before He did so, He told the eleven to go to a place into Galilee,
away from the Sea of Galilee,
a place He had arranged to appear to them again

When they saw Him again, later in the spot He picked, they worshipped Him

But...some doubted?!

What does this mean?

Who doubted?

What did the doubt

I believe Scripture interprets Scripture and that all of Scripture is true

Therefore, consider 1 Cor 15:5-6

And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

Some of the 500, to whom Jesus has not appeared yet in the 4 Gospel accounts
but may here in this place in Galilee He has picked,
doubted that Jesus was risen from the dead

- “to waver in opinion”
- “to duplicate” mentally...double-minded

v18 All power is given unto Me:
them...“the eleven” in v16 and “they” in v17

All...without exception or qualification

power...”authority, jurisdiction”

is given unto Me...By the Father

in heaven and in earth...”*en*”/in heaven and “*epi*”/on/upon earth

Universal (literally) authority belongs to Jesus

The Sovereign King of kings and Lord of lords, the King of glory

Who loses none that are His (John 17:1-13, 20-24)

Whom the Father has begotten (Ps 2:6-8) on the day of His
Resurrection

v19-20 Go...teach...teaching...I am with you alway:

The Sovereign King with universal jurisdiction and authority commissions

His disciples

- “commits, entrusts supervisory authority”
- “to authorize, to send”

What is Jesus Christ’s commission to His disciples?

1. Go...”live, walk, travel, go forth”

Where?

Into the world (John 17:14-18)

2. Teach...”instruct, disciple”

all nations...Jew and Gentile

- students/pupils/learners instructing other students/pupils/learners
- disciples making disciples

3. Baptize...”to make fully wet” i.e. immersion vs sprinkle
in...”into”, from without to “in Christ”
the name...”authority and character”
of the Living God, Maker of heaven and earth, revealed as
- Father
 - Son
 - Holy Spirit

Baptism is like a wedding ring

- if you wear a ring, people assume you are married – it is a sign
- if you don’t wear a ring, people assume you are not married
- a ring doesn’t make you married – the ring is a sign, marriage (legal contract) is in the heart/mind/soul

Baptism is like circumcision

Rom 2:25-29 not of flesh but of heart

Baptism is a public profession of an inward profession of faith

Rom 6

4. Teaching...to give instruction, to impart knowledge
to observe...”guard, keep, hold fast”
all things whatsoever I have commanded you...the reason for this
LMJC Study!

2 Peter 3:18

Deut 4:5-9 with 1 Peter 2:9-10, Eph 2:8-22

Deut 6:5-9 with 2 Cor 3:3

Does the Humble King, the Good Shepherd, scatter His sheep to go do this on their own?

lo...behold, take note

I am with...”accompany, joined” in participation and proximity senses

Matt 1:23

always...at all times every day

even if they/we cannot see Him

Jesus has been appearing and disappearing since His resurrection,
transitioning them to continue His work “without” Him

He will soon “disappear” finally until

- they take their last breath on earth (2 Cor 5:8)
- He returns to the clouds (1 Thes 4:13-18)
- He returns to earth at the end of DoL (Zech 14:1-4)

So, until He appears again, Jesus is promising His disciples that is still with them!

Heb 13:5b is very real, not theoretical

He is with us until...

unto the end of the world...

- the harvest (Matt 13:36-43, 47-50)
- the new heaven and the new earth (Rev 21:1) after
 - the end of His kingdom on earth (Rev 20:4)
 - the last rebellion against His authority/jurisdiction, power (Rev 20:7-10)
 - the Great White Throne judgment unto the 2nd death (Rev 20:11-15)

Meaning: Our place “in Christ” is secure for all eternity!

From the moment we are made new creatures in Christ,
and on into eternity,

Jesus Christ is with us!

Indeed, while we are about His business

- we are kept by the power of God, just as He promised
1 Peter 1:3-5
- Rom 8:31-39!

Mark 16

v15-16 preach the Gospel...believeth...saved...believeth not...damned:

In Mark's account of Jesus commissioning His disciples,

1. Go ye into all the world

All the nations of all the world, for John 3:16

Given the scope of the command, who is “ye”?

- The ones the Father has given Jesus – the 11
- Those who will believe their testimony – us

Thus John 16:7

One Voice is multiplied to 11 voices that are multiplied to
millions of voices

Exponential increase in the Voice of God

2. Preach the Gospel

Proclaim, announce the Good News of God – a gift for whosoever will believe God

- Grace and the forgiveness of sin
- Reconciliation with the Creator
- Salvation from death and His wrath
- Peace with God, justification by faith not by works

Every creature...the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ is sufficient for all mankind, from Adam to the last human born in His kingdom

What is required of every person to have this gift of God?

Faith...a choice to believe or not

God has provided, man must choose to believe or not

Those who receive the preaching and teaching, choose to believe what God has said and are baptized are saved

Matt 16:16

John 5:24

2 Cor 5:21b

Heb 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Those who do not receive the preaching and teaching, choose to not believe are unrighteous and (remain) will be damned/condemned/judged

John 3:17-18

Matt 12:30 He that is not with me is against me

Heb 10:31

v17-18 these signs shall follow them that believe:

The sinners (Rom 3:23) who make their peace with God (Rom 5:1) will go and preach the Gospel

Giving the 11 a Forward Look, the Word of God will be confirmed "in My name"

- by casting out devils
 - 1st order of business by Jesus and His disciples in retaking what rightly belongs to the Sovereign King given universal authority (Matt 16:18)
 - Acts 16:14-18

- by speaking with new tongues...languages they do not know
 - Acts 2:1-6
- by taking up serpents
 - Luke 10:17-20
 - John the Baptist called the Pharisees a brood of vipers
 - Jesus called them the seed of the serpent
 - “serpents” are demons; we have power over them
 - Apostle Paul on Malta in Acts 28:1-6
- by not hurt being poisonous things
 - immune from poison
 - Justus (Acts 1:23) according to Church and Jewish history, was forced to drink poison...and lived
 - ingested poison (spiritual) will not harm (Rev 2:1-3)
- by laying hands on the sick and they shall recover/be well
 - Acts
 - James 5:14-15a

Were the signs and wonders for the apostles only, not for today?

Did the gifts of the Spirit “expire” with the apostles?

What about

- “remember” because we forget
- Heb 2:3-4
- every generation must get its own faith
- spiritual warfare is raging to this very day...and will until Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire
- Satan stopped attacking the preaching of the Gospel when the apostles died?!
- 2 Thes 2:10...lying signs and wonders are counterfeits of real signs and wonders

v19-20 received up into heaven...the Lord working:

After Jesus commissions His disciples, He ascends to the right hand of the Father

His glorified body is equipped for heaven

He is seated in the place of power (authority/jurisdiction) – the right hand

He disappeared from earth...until the day of His appointed return to earth

As seen and testified of by Stephen (Acts 7:55)

What did the disciples do?

What they were commissioned to do...

- as chronicled in the Book of Acts and the Epistles
- with the Lord’s help (Matt 28:20)

The Lord was/is the co-worker/Helper of Jesus’ disciples

But, how did that all happen?

Luke 24

v49 the promise of My Father:

How did Jesus commission His disciples?

1. Wait
2. Go teach and preach

I send...Matt 28:20b and Mark 16:20b (the continuing of Jesus' work) will happen by His sending

the promise of My Father...

- a new heart and a new spirit
Ezk 11:19
Ezk 18:31
Ezk 36:36
- the baptism of Jesus
Matt 3:11
- power from on high
dunamis, miraculous power, not the power given Jesus in
Matt 28:18
- The Teacher and Reminder of all things Jesus said (Matt 28:20a)
John 14:26
- The Spirit of Truth
John 15:26
- The Guide unto all truth
John 16:13
- The Restrainer of evil in the world with/in/upon the Bride of Christ
John 14:17
2 Thes 2:7
- God the Holy Spirit

upon...*epi*

in/*en* and with/*para* and (the promise of the Father) upon/*epi*

For the promise of the Father the disciples must...wait, tarry/continue in Jerusalem

Not, "Let's rush right out and do (in our flesh) what Jesus told us to do."
But, "Let's wait until we are "clothed", "arrayed with", "put on" the power of God to do what Jesus told us to do, and then go."

Zech 4:6 building the Spiritual Temple (1 Cor 6:19-20)

v50-51 He led them...Bethany...carried up to heaven:
After Jesus commissions His disciples,

He led them...our Good Shepherd always leads His lambs, we go where He leads

out as far as Bethany...the commissioning of Jesus' disciples takes place in
Jerusalem, after they have returned there from the Galilee

Where is Bethany?

On the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives

There, out of sight of His enemies, the Lord Jesus Christ

- blessed His disciples...for the last time in His physical presence
- was parted/removed/went further than His disciples
- and was carried into heaven

v52-53 worshipped...returned...praising and blessing:

Not left comfortless/orphans, what did the disciples do?

1. Worshipped Him, the God of AI&J, Immanuel
2. Returned to Jerusalem...to joyfully wait for the promise of the Father, as directed by Jesus
3. Praised and blessed the Lord in the Temple...continually

Application

Jesus' commissioning of His disciples is for...us

We are His disciples

We also are commissioned

Matt 28:19-20

Teach...disciples making disciples

Participate in the Father's process of being conformed...and conforming...
into the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29)

Long, hard work that lasts a lifetime

Why Acts 2:42

Heb 10:22-25

The fruit of this labor by God and man is a function of the breadth/width/depth
that disciples will be sanctified...surrender our will to the Father's will

The work of making a disciple
Starts with milk
Must move onto meat

Ps 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that*
 trusteth in him
1 Peter 2:2-3 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may
 grow thereby If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious
Heb 5:12-13 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that
 one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of
 God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong
 meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of
 righteousness: for he is a babe

Disciples need meat, not milk, to press on to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus
Phil 3:14

Disciples

- Go...interact with people around them
- Teach...the Word of God
- Preach...Gospel

by the baptism of Jesus, the baptism of the Holy Spirit

- Boldness
- The mind of Christ
- The heart of the Father

Live/share our faith
 The Truth
 Love
 Light
 Life
 Grace

As naturally as we talk about politics or sports or food or...

Because Jesus is with us, working with us, just as He promised!

Monica and I just returned from Jordan Olerud's Celebration of Life
This amazing young lady, our sister, aided by an i-Pad,

- boldly shared the Gospel with every
 - Doctor she saw
 - Nordstrom sales person who helped her
- unashamedly asked them to make a commitment to Jesus Christ

Do you suppose we, without the physical burden she bore, could do the same?

In our times of Acts 2:42, invite unbelievers

Those still in the world (vs “in Christ”) need our church to

- bear witness of the Truth
- share hope
- be salt and light

Be the Body of Christ in here (Gal 6:10) and out there

We gather here to be encouraged, comforted, strengthened to be useful in God’s hands out there
Is 6:8

But, Family of God,

1. Go
2. Teach
3. Preach

Be a fisher of men

Reach out to the lost

Following Jesus is not event-driven, it is relationship-driven

Be a part of the catch of lost souls

- provided by Jesus...for there can be no catch without His direction and power
- caught by people...for there can be no catch apart from obedience to Jesus’ direction and power

Ask, Lord where do you want me to cast my net?

We have completed our study of the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

This is the End of the Beginning

Next: The Beginning of the End

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The remainder of the NT, in chronological order