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## The Great Commission Mt 28:16-20

**MATTHEW 28:16-20**

**THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**APRIL 19,2009**

We have come to the very last part of our study of Matthew. We have come from the birth of Christ, to His ministry and His death, burial, and resurrection and now after getting the account from Matthew, there is one thing left, and that is what we do with what we have learned. We are to take this good news to our families, neighbors, co-workers and whoever we come into contact with as we go about our daily life. We are accountable for what we have learned. We just can't keep it to ourselves. Jesus had prepared the apostles for three years and as He was getting ready to ascend to heaven, He had one last set of instructions which commanded them to make disciples, teaching them to obey the commands of the Lord. This has been the mission of God's people since Jesus left the earth. This is why the church has continued on for 2000 years. We too are to play our part in obeying the great commission. We have the privilege of participating in God's redemption plan. As 2 Cor 5:19 says, we have the ministry of reconciliation. God is glorifying Himself by calling sinners to Himself and redeeming them. We are a means that He uses to do that. As sinners are converted from death to life, God is glorified through that great miracle. Besides giving glory to God by worshipping Him, the supreme mission of the church is the work that the Lord has given us. John 17:18 "As Thou has sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." Jn 20:21

### 1.THE APPOINTED MEETING

**VV 16-17**

#### A.HOW THE DISCIPLES ATTENDED JESUS' APPEARANCE

They were there where Jesus had told them to be. They were there available to get this great commission. The ones who are obedient to the Lord and gather together around Christ's words receive a great blessing.

##### 1.BECAUSE HE APPOINTED THEM TO DO SO

He had told them several times that He would be going to Galilee for this special occasion and now is the time. This was an important meeting

Mt 26:32, 28:7,10

##### 2.PUBLIC MEETING

1 Cor 15:6

There were a great many of His followers that met at this mountain.

Galilee was a good distance from Jerusalem where there were too many enemies. Most of the followers were from there. These followers were confused and had doubts and weaknesses.

They were not the most intelligent or influential but they were the ones who the Lord wanted to be there.

Jesus had appeared to Thomas and later there was the appearance Jesus made before Peter and the other fishermen. At that time it would have been at least 15 days after the resurrection.

This had to have been between 20 and 35 days after the resurrection.

#### B.HOW THE DISCIPLES WERE AFFECTED BY APPEARANCE

##### 1.WORSHIP

This is the most important thing that Christians do. They were humbly adoring the Lord. They were worshipping the Son of God. They had to be in awe as they recognized the divine excellencies.

Mt 14:33 The disciples worshipped Him after He walked on the water. Jn 20:28 My Lord and my God.

All eyes focused on Christ 1 Cor 2:2, Phil 3:10

##### 2.DOUBT

###### Questioned

This shows the humanness of the people who were there. People are human and are imperfect.

Most had heard that He was alive but it was so hard to believe. Many people are like Thomas and need to see with their own eyes. So far it was just the women and the 11 who experienced the risen Lord. This shows the honesty of scripture. If this were a made up story, the writers would not want to tell that there were some who were disbelieving. Of course there were some who really had a hard time with this. Some might have been thinking as they stood a distance from Him that this was actually somebody else posing to be Jesus. They were not totally convinced. They were weak in their faith and wavering.

###### Believed

Jesus came up to these and spoke to them. That was it, this was Him.

He came near and gave them convincing proofs of His resurrection.

There was no more doubt. They saw His face and heard His voice. They held on to what was true.

### 2.THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

**V 18**

#### A.EXOUSIA—Freedom and right to speak and act as one pleases

His resurrection definitely proved His power. This was the way He demonstrated His victory over all His enemies and won for Himself all authority.

Before Jesus became incarnate He had all power. As the God-man He was given the power. He had power but now all power was given to Him.

Before Jesus gives the command, He established His authority. He had sovereign power and that should bring an attitude of submission on the part of the followers.

His authority expresses His sovereign lordship as He is in control of all things. Here it should mean to us that we are in complete submission to Him.

Eph 1:20-21

#### B.FROM THE FATHER

What was given Him by the Father was absolute and universal.

He had demonstrated His authority all throughout His ministry

Mt 11:27, Jn 3:35, 5:22 Acts 2:36, Phil 2:9-11, Acts 10:36

Jn 17:1-2

The disciples needed to know that as He had all authority they were now given the power to take the gospel anywhere without being afraid. The command He was giving them could have been so overwhelming that they could not have even imagined taking this

truth to all nations.

We want to have such an attitude of humility and submission to His authority that whatever He says we will do it.

Therefore: Because Jesus had all this authority, He has the right to command us to be witnesses and His power would equip us to obey His command.

### 3.THE COMMAND OF JESUS

**VV 19-20**

#### A.GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

##### Go

We are not to wait, but go. They are not going to just come into the doors of the church building. We have to be among them and telling them about the gospel.

As you are going The responsibility of every believer, not just a small group, is to go.

Disciples (Matheteuo) follow, learn, obey Jn 8:31

A disciple attached himself to his teacher, identified with him, learned from him, and lived with him. He learned by listening and doing.

Make disciples Mt 4:19 fishers of men If you are a disciple you will be a disciple maker. You have a desire to teach people the things of the Lord. The early church did this. Acts 2:47,14:21

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| <b>B.BAPTIZE (Baptizo)</b> | To immerse in water | It symbolizes death burial and resurrection. Rom 6:3-4 | It has no saving power or sacramental benefit, but it is obedience to the command. |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--|

Synonymous with salvation      The converts were immediately baptized. Acts 2:41, 8:38, 9:18, 10:48, 18:8.

## Acts 19:1-5

## C.TEACH

The whole purpose of God is what we are to understand. That is a lifelong duty for all disciples. Acts 20:27 Jn 14:23-26 Rom 6:17

We are expected to do all the above, but we cannot do them without the power of God. He has to work through us. Lo means to call attention to something important. Pay attention to what I am about to say.

Matt 1:23 Immanuel This means God with us here at the end of Matthew we see this again.  
He will always be with us leading and empowering us.

He is with us to pull down strongholds and make our ministry effectual.

His power and presence will be with us to the end of the age.

## Matthew 13:37-50