

Every Christian A Missionary!

Lesson for Sunday, February 5, 2023

TEXT: Matthew 28:16-20

INTRO:

- Today our mission's emphasis kicks-off and will run throughout the month.
- What would you say is the main biblical text to support world missions?
 - Have a discussion – there is not a definitive verse. Any of the stated Great Commissions would work, John 3:16, the Book of Acts, etc.
 - Point out that Matthew 28 will always be in that conversation! It tells us everything we need to know for effective mission work.
- One commentator: "The Great Commissions is the climax not only of the Gospel but the entire NT. It is not an exaggeration to say that, in its broadest sense, it is the main point of all Scripture – OT & NT."
- The greatest danger is our familiarity with the GC, and we begin to think that this passage describes the jobs of pastors and missionaries but not the every day Christian. Nothing could be further from the truth!
- Every Christian is to be a missionary!

STUDY:

1. The **authority** of Christ compels us (vs. 18)
 - a. If we are going to be missionaries, we must answer the question: Why should we go?
 - i. We live in a pluralistic culture where every religion is considered equal.
 - ii. Many believe that mission work is offensive – that we shouldn't be trying to change people. This is seen in both home and foreign fields.
 - b. The reason we go is because of Who Jesus is, not just because of what He has told us to do. In vs. 18, Jesus doesn't start with a **command** but a **claim**.
 - c. Why do we go into all the world? Because Jesus is Lord! He isn't a king among kings – He is the King of Kings! He is superior!
 - d. Jesus is Lord. That is a fact. He is not just the personal Lord and Savior over those who claim to follow Him. He is Lord whether or not we agree. His Lordship does not depend on anything we do or don't do.
 - e. His Lordship is based on His resurrection. If you live a sinless life, die in front of the world, are buried and then walk out of the tomb – you are Lord.
 - f. Jesus is the Lord and Savior of the entire universe. In the Gospels we see...
 - i. He has authority over **nature** – calmed the storm, walked on water...
 - ii. He has authority over **disease** – healed the sick...
 - iii. He has authority over **demons** – cast them out...
 - iv. He has authority over **sin** – always saying, "Your sins are forgiven"
 - v. He has authority over **death** – He resurrected...
 - vi. He has authority over our **lives**. We've been called to die to self, submit to His control, and be open to whatever He has called us to do.
 - g. Jesus's authority **compels** us to go and gives us **confidence** as we go.
2. The call to **obey** the command of Christ (vs. 19)
 - a. "Therefore...GO." In light of Jesus's authority – GO!

- b. Notice: This is not a **comfortable** call inviting most Christians to come, be baptized and sit in **one location**. This is a **costly** command directing every Christian to go, baptize and make disciples of **all nations**.
 - c. Some go to other countries (Skeltons), some stay home (the rest of us). Either way we are called to be missionaries to our world – the place where God has us.
 - d. Following Jesus isn't a life of luxury. To do His will is costly. The question is do you trust God to provide exactly what you need (His grace) at the exact moment you need it as you faithfully follow Him?
 - e. There is one central command in these verses "make disciples." It contains four things we must do (taken from vs. 19-20):
 - i. We **share** the Word. We will be on mission from the time we pull off the parking lot. Everything we do is centered on pushing people closer to the Lord and the Gospel message. You are a link in the process!
 - ii. We **show** the Word. In the context it is specifically referring to baptism – it shows we belong. But it also includes that we show what Christ is like by the way we live, the way we speak, the way we work, the way we drive.
 - iii. We **teach** the Word. All of us are teachers. We teach our children, friends, acquaintances, etc.
 - iv. We **serve** the Word. In the text we serve all nations. The mind of Christ is the mind of a servant. Do you live to serve or to be served?
 - f. Discuss: Do you see your role as a missionary in your world?
3. We depend on the **presence** of Christ (vs. 20).
- a. Jesus's earthly life is book-ended with this thought:
 - i. "Name Him Immanuel – God is with us."
 - ii. "I am with you always."
 - b. Our success is not based on our abilities and/or talents. We can't do anything apart from God's power in our lives. But with His power all things are possible.
 - c. The success of our lives is based on Who Jesus is and what He is able to do in and through our lives. Christ is able to do "beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

APPLICATION:

- How do we support mission work?
 - When we give...church "tithes" 10% of each offering. This means when we give to the Lord we give to missions – we have a part in what the missionaries are doing all over the world.
 - When we go...have you ever been on a mission trip? We ought to be willing to give up the money and vacation time to go and see what God is doing around the world.
 - When we go to our world...take some time to define who "our world" is. It could be family, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Do they see these people as their mission field?
 - When we pray...don't minimize the role prayer plays in what God is doing around the world. Discuss how you can systematically pray for our missionaries.