

The Motivation for the Great Commission

Lesson for Sunday, May 3, 2026

TEXT: Matthew 28:18

INTRODUCTION: “*Because I said so!*”

- ⇒ The Great Commission is not a suggestion, a spiritual hobby, or a project for the super-committed. It is a clear command from the risen Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ Before He says “Go,” He says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” In other words, He stakes the Great Commission on who He is. The One who saved us, bought us with His blood, and now reigns over all creation looks at His disciples and says, in effect, “Go make disciples—because I said so.”

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The _____ of the Great Commission
 - a. The Great Commission is found five times in the New Testament.
 - i. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8.
 - ii. These five passages together constitute the missions imperative of the New Testament church and every Christian.
 - b. Of all the methods that the Lord could have employed to communicate the Gospel to a lost and dying world, God chose the method of human instrumentality to accomplish that task.
 - c. Question: *How involved are you in the mission? It is the responsibility of every born-again believer to partner with Christ in carrying out His mission.*

2. The Reason We _____ the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18)
 - a. Verse 18 provides all the motivation that the Christian ought to need in obediently carrying out our mission.
 - i. Jesus declared that He possessed all authority in the universe.
 - ii. Jesus declared without equivocation that He possessed absolute authority, both universal and unlimited in scope.
 - b. With this statement Jesus revealed Himself as sovereign Lord & King of the universe.
 - i. Jesus was the omnipotent Creator in John 1:1-3, but He had laid aside His deity to become a man and die for the sin of the world (Phil. 2:5-8).
 - ii. Now, having become the Redeemer as well as Creator, He has again assumed all the attributes of God, as well as those of glorified man.
 - c. To possess authority means to have the right & ability to command others to respond.
 - d. Yes! We should...
 - i. Have _____ for the lost!
 - ii. Recognize the _____ of the lost without Christ!
 - iii. Be concerned about the _____ of Christ!

- iv. But the primary motivation for sharing the Gospel is the _____ of Christ which every believer should obey.
- e. We ought to witness because Jesus told us to!

3. The Reasons We _____ the Great Commission
- a. Why do many Christians disobey such a clear command of Jesus?
 - b. First, we are easily _____.
 - i. Many Christians are occupied with good things, while ignoring the main thing.
 - ii. Ask: Are you too busy to witness? How often do you think and pray about it?
 - c. Second, we are _____ from God. If you are not walking with God, you will not be concerned about the things of God.
 - d. Third, we are simply _____. To fail to carry out the Great Commission is an act of disobedience.

APPLICATION: Hopefully, you are beginning to see that each of us have a personal responsibility to participate in Great Commission activity. What could that look like for us?

- ⇒ First is our class _____.
 - Each of us have a personal responsibility to reach “our world.”
 - Who has God placed in your life for you to influence?
- ⇒ Second is our church _____.
 - This summer our church will do what we always do: hit the streets!
 - While you can come out any Monday night you are free, our class will come out together on these three Monday nights:
 - June: _____
 - July: _____
 - August: _____