

The Mandate of the Great Commission

Lesson for Sunday, May 10, 2026

TEXT: Matthew 28:19-20

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Have you ever been told to do something that you had no clue how to do? How did that make you feel?
- ⇒ Jesus never tells us to do something that He hasn't instructed us how to do it AND given us the ability to do it!
 - That doesn't mean it may not be hard – but God is always fair!

CONTEXT: Look at Matthew 28:19-20.

- ⇒ What is the authoritative command of Jesus in verse 19?
 - _____
- ⇒ The command is followed by three participles. Can you find them? Hint: They usually end in *-ing*.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- ⇒ Put it all together and we see four things we must do if we are going to obey the GC.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. _____ to Potential Disciples (Matthew 28:19)
 - a. We find this in the very first word of verse 19: “Go!”
 - b. This is a verb that can be translated literally “_____.”
This is a direct command from Jesus for each Christian to share the Gospel.
 - c. This means that Christians must move to where the lost people are in order that the unsaved can hear the message of salvation.
 - d. DISCUSS: What does this mean for us in Florence? What are the challenges of this? How intentional are we in going to the lost and unchurched?
 - e. _____
2. Disciples (vs. 19)
 - a. As we explained earlier, this is the central and only command of this text.
 - b. What does it mean to make disciples? *Allow for some input...*
 - c. The simple explanation is that we are to win the lost to faith in Christ by sharing with them the Gospel. “Teach all nations” could be translated “make disciples” or “win disciples.”
 - i. The specific Greek word that Jesus used is not referring to the ongoing process of discipleship. That is addressed in verse 20.
 - ii. The mandate is to proclaim the Gospel to the lost and to seek to lead them to Christ.
 - iii. This makes sense logically. We cannot move on to the other parts of the Great Commission until a person is saved.
 - d. DISCUSS: How many opportunities do we have to talk with others about spiritual things? What makes this hard in 2026?
 - e. Here are some tips that can help us take advantage of our opportunities:

- i. We must be **prayed** up, asking the Lord to make us aware of opportunities.
 - ii. We must be **prepared**. Can you share the Gospel? Do you carry Gospel literature? Do you know the next event you could invite someone?
 - iii. We must be **bold**. When opportunities come up, we must be willing to step up and to speak out.
- 3. **Mark** Disciples (vs. 19)
 - a. The third action necessary to fulfill our GC mandate is to mark disciples by “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. Baptism is an **outward** picture of an **inward** transformation.
 - c. There are three things that baptism represents and accomplishes:
 - i. The Christian **identifies** with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus through this symbolic act.
 - ii. The new convert gives **testimony** of death to his former life, the cleansing of his sin, and the new life he has received from Christ.
 - iii. Simultaneously, the new believer identifies with the **local church** in which they are baptized.
 - d. DISCUSS: If you have people in your class that need to be baptized, this could be a time for discussion. Don’t single anyone out, but you may give a brief challenge, offer the date for the next scheduled baptism, etc.
- 4. **Mature** Disciples (vs. 20).
 - a. The final action necessary if we are going to be obedient to the GC is to help the new converts to mature spiritually. We see this in verse 20a.
 - b. The goal is to see them become disciples of Jesus.
 - c. We refer to this as the process of discipleship. New Christians need to learn what it means to be a serious follower of Christ.
 - d. The key to discipleship is **obedience**. The new Christian must be taught “to observe all things.” It is much more than head-knowledge; it is life transformation.
 - e. DISCUSS: What opportunities do we have in the FBT Student Ministry to be discipled? *This is a chance to promote Wednesday nights, being faithful to SS, coming back on Sunday PM, etc.*

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Work on your Come & See List. Who do your students know that may be lost or unchurched?
- ⇒ Point out that this is their “world” that they have been commissioned to reach!
- ⇒ How do we begin to work these people?
 - Pray for them faithfully.
 - Pray that God will open their hearts.
 - Pray that God will give you opportunity to invite them or have a spiritual talk.
 - Pray that God will give you boldness to speak up.
 - Be their friend.
 - Look for opportunities to get to know them.
 - Express interest in them and spend time with them.

- Invite them to church and/or to Jesus.
 - When a natural opportunity comes up, invite them to something at the church, or start a spiritual conversation with them.
 - Look for chances to push people closer to Jesus.