

# The Magnitude of the Great Commission

Lesson for Sunday, May 31, 2026

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ For the last month we have been studying in-depth the Great Commission.
- ⇒ Review:
  - Our Motivation & Mandate: the primary motivation for sharing the Gospel is the command of Christ which every believer should obey. We ought to witness because He told us to!
  - Our Method: through our personal witness and the church's proclamation, we are to go, win, baptize, and teach.
  - Our Message is the Gospel – the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
  - Our Means (the way we carry it out) is through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has not left us on our own to carry out the mission!
- ⇒ Today our focus is on the magnitude of our mission.

## BIBLE STUDY:

### 1. A **World-Wide** Dimension

- a. Have the class members look up the five Great Commission statements and identify the words or phrase that indicate the magnitude dimension (*there will be blanks for them to write in the phrase on their handout*):
  - i. Matthew 28:19-20 – “teach all nations”
  - ii. Mark 16:15 – “Go ye into all the world”
  - iii. Luke 24:47 – “among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem”
  - iv. John 20:21, 23 – This one is a little tricky! The magnitude is implied.
    - 1. Jesus said He was our Model. According to John 3:16, who did Jesus come for? The world.
    - 2. In verse 23 we see the word “whosoever.” Who does that apply to? Everyone.
  - v. Acts 1:8 – “both in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”
- b. Make some of the following observations as groups report back:
  - i. The word “nations” in Matthew 28:19 is a reference to all people groups. The word is “ethnos” in Greek. We must take the Gospel to every ethnicity!
  - ii. The word “world” in Mark 16 gives it a universal dimension – “kosmos.”
  - iii. In Luke 24 we see the word “ethnos” once again.
  - iv. Acts gives us a responsibility for both at home and away from home. Notice the use of the word “both”. We have a dual responsibility.
- c. Point: We have a world-wide obligation to share the Gospel with every **person** possible in every possible **place**.

### 2. A **Personal** Invitation

- a. When we think of the magnitude of the Great Commission, it indicates to us God's desire for all people throughout the earth to hear and to respond to the message of salvation.
- b. Since Jesus died for the sins of **all** mankind, the offer of salvation is available to **all** who call on the name of the Lord. The Bible is full of texts that support this. Consider some of these: John 3:16; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:13; 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:11; 1 John 2:2 and 4:14.
- c. God's will is that all people come to salvation through His Son. Look up and read these two verses: 1 Timothy 2:4 & 2 Peter 3:9.
- d. Because God's wills for all people to be saved, it becomes our responsibility to proclaim the message of salvation to all peoples on the face of the earth.
- e. Our mission is to complete the commission! Consider the word itself:

- i. Mission – the command to obey what Jesus has told us to do...
  - ii. Co – we work in cooperation with the Lord to fulfill the mission...
- 3. Identifying Your World
  - a. Reaching the world is a steep and overwhelming task – if we tackle it alone. Thankfully we don't have to!
  - b. Each of us has our own "world." Each of us has been placed in a circle where we live, work, play, etc. That is our world. Consider these areas:
  - c. Where you **live**
    - i. Have you ever considered yourself as the "Pastor to Your Street?" Have you thought about taking responsibility for the spiritual condition of those that live around you? Do you know their names? Do you pray for them?
    - ii. Idea: Draw a map of your street and label each home with the names of people who live there. Begin to pray for them and look for opportunities to spend time with them.
  - d. Where you **work/school**
    - i. Is it possible that your job is meant to be more than a source of income and a place to "punch the clock?"
    - ii. Is it possible that your workplace is a potential mission field?
  - e. Where you **frequent**
    - i. Identify the regular places you visit. It could be a certain restaurant, the gym, a store, etc.
    - ii. Begin looking for opportunities to insert spiritual things into these places.
  - f. Who are your **friends** and/or **family**?
    - i. Who do you already have an established relationship with that needs the Gospel?
    - ii. Are you sure of their spiritual condition? If not, are you willing to be the one to share the Gospel with them?
  - g. As you think of specific people, remember this simple strategy for working with them:
    - i. **Intercede**: Pray for them faithfully.
    - ii. **Invest**: Work at developing a true friendship with them.
    - iii. **Invite**: Look for opportunities to invite them to church, and more importantly, to invite them to Jesus.
  - h. As each of us faithfully reach "our world," we will eventually reach the actual world.
    - i. "You cannot reach a thousand unless you can reach one."
    - ii. "The harvest must be hand-picked."
    - iii. "Winning one soul at a time usually results in the winning of a multitude of souls in the process of time."
    - iv. "Reaching one person at a time is the best way of reaching all the world in time."

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ How often do we think of our obligation to get the Gospel out to every creature? What other things dominate our thinking? How do we become more focused on the mission?
- ⇒ In Acts we pointed out the word "both." How do we accomplish this?
  - Home: Personal responsibility in "our world."
  - World: Give to missions; take mission trips; pray for specific missionaries.
- ⇒ Remind them of two very practical applications:
  - Come & See List: Who are you specifically praying for their salvation?
  - Summer Evangelism Strategy: Promote the Monday nights that your class is participating together.