

Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 28:16-20 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. When you hear the word “commission,” do you think of a heavy responsibility, an exciting opportunity, or a bit of both? Why?

Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. Why is it significant that Matthew ends his biography of Jesus in Galilee, the same place where the mission originally began? How does this Galilee “reboot” signal a fresh start for the disciples who had previously failed him?
2. How does it encourage you to know that Jesus gave the Great Commission to a community where “worship and doubt coexisted”? What does this tell us about God’s grace toward our own uncertainties?
3. In 28:18, Jesus claims that “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” If our commission rests on Jesus’ authority rather than our own, how does that change the way we approach fulfilling our part of the commission and bearing witness to Jesus as Lord and sharing our faith?
4. The core command in the commission is to “make disciples” (28:19). A “disciple” is defined as a learner, pupil, or apprentice. How does that change your understanding of what it means to be a Christian?
5. According to the sermon, making disciples involves three specific actions: going, baptizing, and teaching
 - a. The sermon states there is “no such thing as ‘go-less’ disciple making.” What is the difference between waiting for people to show up at a building and the church — the people of God — being missional in the world?
 - b. Why is baptism described as the “entry point” into the Christian community? What does this mean practically?
 - c. Jesus commands “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded” (28:20). Why is it vital that discipleship focuses on obedience training rather than just “head knowledge”?
6. How does the final promise, “I am with you always,” bring the entire Gospel full circle back to the name “Emmanuel” from chapter one? How does Jesus’ presence with us change our understanding of our commission?

Living it Out

1. The sermon argues that a church’s job isn’t just to hold services or run programs, but to “make disciples.” What would it look like to prioritize disciple-making over mere “religious activity”?
2. Discipleship is described as a “long obedience in the same direction.” Is there a specific area of Jesus’ teaching that you feel the Holy Spirit is prompting you to obey more fully this week?
3. Who is one person in your “world” (neighborhood, workplace, or family) that you can “go to” this week to represent the presence of King Jesus?



The King's Commission


(Matthew 28:16-20)



The Culmination:
Resurrection of the
King (26-28)

April 12, 2026
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church


The Disciples in Galilee



"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go" (28:16).

- Matthew's biography of Jesus ends where it began: **in Galilee**.
- There Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (4:17), called his disciples (4:18), taught and proclaimed the good news of the kingdom, and healed every disease and sickness among the people" (4:23).

The Disciples in Galilee



"When they saw him, they worshiped him" (28:17).

The Disciples in Galilee



"When they saw him, they worshiped him; *but some doubted*" (28:17).

"...they worshiped him, *but they doubted*" (NRSVue).

- The word "some" (like NIV, NLT, NRSV, ESV, KJV, etc.) does not occur in the Greek text, but most argue its implied.
- Jesus "gives the Great Commission to a community of disciples in which worship and doubt coexist" (Powell, *Matthew*, 323).

The King's Authority



"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (28:18).

- "All authority" (echoes yet surpasses Daniel 7:13-14).
- "Given to me" (cf. 11:27) — Jesus now has authority to rule; he is "Lord of heaven and earth."
- Our commission rests not our authority or the church's authority, but on Jesus' universal authority (Colossians 1:20).

The King's Commission



'Therefore,

after going,

make disciples of all nations/peoples,

baptizing them

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and

teaching them

to obey everything that I have commanded you... (28:19-20a)

The King's Commission



"... Make *disciples* of all nations..." (28:19).

- "Disciples" (*mathetes* μαθητης) — one who engages in learning through instruction from another; pupil, apprentice, follower.
- "Of all nations/peoples" (*ethnos* εθνος) — a group of people united by kinship, culture, and common traditions.

The King's Commission



1

"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (28:19).

- Baptized into the community that worships Jesus as the Son of God.
- An entry point into the Christian community: they are *first* baptized *then* taught to obey.
- Baptized into the *one* name of "the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (28:19; see also 2Cor 13:13; Eph 4:4-6; 1Pet 1:2).

The King's Commission



2

"Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (28:20).

- Not just head knowledge, but teaching "to obey."
- This is a life-long process of being trained in obedience; being shaped and formed by the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus the Son.
- Following Jesus involves a "long obedience in the same direction."

The King's Commission



"Therefore **after going**..." (28:19).

- No such thing as "go-less" disciple making!
- The church at its very heart is *missional*: we are invited (indeed, *commissioned*) to "join God on mission" in his world.



The King's Presence



"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (28:20).

- Highlights the enduring presence of God in the world: Jesus is "Emmanuel, God with us" (1:23).
- God is present with people in the person of Jesus and that Jesus remains present in the world through the life and mission of his followers (see also 18:20; 25:37-40).
- "Always" — not just some of the the time!

The King's Presence



"The missional goal is not just for there to be more disciples (more Christians) in the world, but for God's presence to be manifested in ways that effect God's gracious will for all humanity. Making disciples is the means for accomplishing this goal" (Powell, *Matthew*, 322).

Conclusions



The church's job is to "make disciples."

- *To be a disciple is to be baptized* (Baptism class on Thursday May 7th at 7pm).
- *To be a disciple is to obey Jesus' teaching* (corporate teaching times Sunday mornings, other opportunities in our various groups, CORE3).

Invitation



The King commissions....

- Will we follow in obedience and "join God on mission"?

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (28:20).