



Sunday, August 30, 2020
Pastor Doug Phillips

Intro to Matthew 28:18-20

It is very easy for us to get distracted. In a world full of technology that notifies us audibly or physically when something has happened, it can be easy to forget the main things we are to be about as Christians.

Revisiting a passage like Matthew 28:18-20 reminds us that our main task as Christians individually, and as a church collectively, is to make disciples. This means that we seek to lead people to a place of rightly responding to the truth about who Christ is and the work He has accomplished for us.

As Pastor Doug often says, He is the King who Saves. He is the King who has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. His authority is both the basis for and method of carrying out the great commission. He is the good and perfect King who does what is just and right for all His people. The things He commands of us are good for us. The things He prohibits are bad for us. Everything He does is ultimately for not only His glory, but ultimately for our good as well.

This is most exquisitely seen on the cross. There, Jesus died. While the scene may not appear glorious to put it in your mind's eye, it was the embodiment of the glory of God—laying down His life as an act of love for His people. Of course, most glorious of all is that death could not hold Him. He rose again and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Because He is now in heaven enthroned at God's right hand, we are commissioned to tell people of His glorious death and resurrection—that He died to pay for our sins, the only way to be made right with God, and He rose again and reigns in heaven from whence He will come to judge all people everywhere.

Our great commission is to tell people about Him!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 28:18-20

“What in the World Is the Church Supposed to Do?”

I. What is a disciple?

- There is no distinction between being a Christian and being a disciple (Acts 11:26)
- A disciple is a person who is unreservedly committed to learning and living by the teachings of Jesus
 - o Someone who does not cherish secret sins or idols
- A disciple is a person who truly believes the good news that Jesus alone saves through His atoning work on the cross
- A disciple is a person who loves God (Rom. 8:28)
- A disciple is a person who knows that they only come to God by grace through faith, not by being religious (Eph. 2:8-9)
- A disciple knows that Jesus is good and perfect and responds in obedience from the heart because they trust His character (Rom. 6:17)
- Two spiritual diagnostic questions
 - o If you were to die today and God asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say? (To know what they understand about how a person gets right with God)
 - o Are you committed to aspire to obey Jesus in every area of your life? (To know if they are truly committed to “Jesus first” → Col. 1:15-20)

II. How do we “make disciples”?

- Must be up front about the cost: you can’t get into the kingdom unless you submit to the King
- Remember that every conversion is a divine miracle
- We keep preaching and teaching the word of God empowered by the Spirit of God
- We have conversations shaped by the word of God
 - o People have to be taught (2 Tim. 1:11)
- When God converts someone, it is a demonstration of His power and results in His glory (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23)

III. What is the central task of the Church?

- Teach the Bible
- Explain the gospel

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- Treating people like consumers and providing religious goods and services for them to consume
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- Spiritual event planning (concerts, religious TED talks)
- Maintain a schedule of wholesome social events
- No one has ever been entertained into the kingdom
- Our most fundamental calling as human beings is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever

Recommended Resources

- Two Ways to Live
- “Right Side Up” by Paul Grimmond

Discuss

- 1) What are some common ways people mistake counterfeit Christianity for the real thing?
- 2) Read Colossians 1:15-20. What does this passage teach us about authentic Christianity? How should true disciples respond to this text?
- 3) Why is it easy for us as Christians to get distracted from our primary mission?
- 4) How does Christ's authority (Matt. 28:18) provide the motivation and the method of our mission?
- 5) Pastor Doug shared two helpful diagnostic questions to help understand where a person is at spiritually. What are some other questions that might be helpful not only to diagnose a person's spiritual condition, but also to introduce Christ into a conversation?