

Matthew 28:16-20 – The Great Commission

Introduction (John 20:30-31)

1. The postscript of Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*
2. The Great Commission is not a tag-on postscript to Matthew's Gospel
 - a. The Great Commission (GC) is the climax of Matthew's Gospel
3. The GC is more than just the Mission of God, but brings together all the major themes of Matthew and the greater narrative of the Old Covenant
 - a. The GC uses these themes and the greater narrative to showcase the identity of Jesus as Messiah and God

Main Idea: The Great Commission is the climax of Matthew's Gospel, bringing together the major themes and truths concerning the person and identity of Christ, not only in Matthew's particular Gospel, but also the whole of Scripture itself. Jesus is the Prophet like Moses, the King with total dominion and an eternal Kingdom, and Emmanuel, God with us... all our days. He is the King who blesses all the families of the earth, has complete authority, and expects universal obedience within His universal Kingdom. Therefore, His subjects worship Him and make disciples as he goes, teaches, and baptizes in the name of the Triune God.

The Rooftop: The Chief Command (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. The GC is the chief text for sending out missionaries and evangelists into the world to win people to Christ as Lord and Savior
2. **Verse 16** – The disciples are in Galilee in order to see Jesus, who has already revealed Himself to 7 of them at the Sea of Tiberius
 - a. They were to meet Jesus in Galilee (**Matthew 26:31-32, 28:7, 10**)
 - b. Jesus instructs them to go to the mountain He will show them
 - i. I do not think it is merely the 11 that are with Jesus, but also a crowd (**See 1 Corinthians 15**) – for some doubted
 - ii. The 11 are believing now, even Thomas – some who were there doubted (I take this to be the 500 who saw Jesus)
3. **Verse 17** – The doubters were not the scoffing cynical, but the hesitant
 - a. The word used is the same as when Peter came out on the water and doubted – was unsure, hesitant (**Matthew 14:31-33**)
 - i. When Jesus got into the boat, the disciples worshipped Jesus, just as they do here
4. **Verses 18-20** – The GC is made of one imperative (a command) and three participles (-ing words) – In your going, MAKE disciples, baptizing them and teaching them all that I have commanded
 - a. Disciples are made by conversion to Christ – the New Birth – then we baptize them in the Triune Name of God & teach them to obey
 - b. The aim of the Christian is to win converts from every people group on earth in order to spread the Kingdom of God
 - i. Our first mission is to our families, then our neighbors
5. The application of this text comes first – it is the imperatival command to Make Disciples – starting with your family, then to your neighbors, and then to the utter ends of the earth

The Walls: Matthew's Major Themes (Matthew 28:18-20)

1. The GC is constructed with four *ALLs*
2. **Verse 18** – *All Authority*
 - a. Matthew shows Jesus' authority from beginning to end
 - i. Jesus spoke with authority (**Matthew 7:28-29**)
 - ii. Jesus had authority over nature (the weather (**Matthew 8:27**))
 - iii. Jesus had authority over the supernatural (**Matthew 8**)
 - iv. Jesus had authority to forgive sins (**Matthew 9:3-8**)
 - v. Satan tempted Jesus to have authority in a God-denying way in the wilderness (**Matthew 4:8-11**)
 - b. Jesus is now given authority by His Father in Heaven (**Phil 2:9-11**)
3. **Verses 19-20a** – *All Nations, All Commands*
 - a. The *Missio Dei* (Mission of God) to the nations as the Church Militant armed with the Gospel of God and the Sword of Truth
 - i. Throughout the Gospel there was a hush on the proclamation of Christ, until now – and it was a come & hear, now a Go tell!
 1. Ex: The Canaanite Woman (**Matthew 15:24-26**)
4. **Verses 20b** – *All your days*
 - a. The Gospel of Matthew ends with a promise – Literally, “I will be with you all your days until the end of the age.”
 - b. Because Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth, we can trust Him that He will be with us all our days and the truths of the Old Covenant can be cemented into our lives and the lives who come to know Jesus as Lord (**Jer 31:33, 32:40, Isaiah 41:10, Rom 8:28!**)

The Foundation: The Full Counsel of God (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. *A Prophet Like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15)*
 - a. **Verse 16** - Jesus brings them to a mountain to reveal Himself as God (*Sinai* where God reveals Himself to Moses & His people)
 - b. **Verse 17** – Jesus is worshipped (*Yahweh is worshipped*)
 - i. Moses petitioned Pharaoh to bring the people to the mountain to worship Yahweh
 - ii. Everything Jesus does, Moses did (**Ch 2:** out of Egypt, **Ch 3:** through the waters of the Jordan, **Ch 4:** Tested in the wild, **Chs 5-7:** Jesus gives the Law on the Mount)
 - c. **Verse 20a** – Jesus gives the Law – and we listen to Him and obey
2. *Daniel's Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14, Matthew 26:63-65)*
 - a. **Verse 18, 20** – All authority is given to Jesus, the Son of Man, who has everlasting dominion, glory, and an everlasting kingdom in which all peoples will serve Him from every tribe and tongue
 - i. All families of the earth will be blessed in Him (**Gen 12:1-3**)
3. *Isaiah's Immanuel, God with Us (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:21-23)*
 - a. **Verse 20b** – Matthew uses the words of Moses to Joshua that the Lord will be with Joshua always (**Deuteronomy 31:7-8**)
 - i. Matthew's language matches the construction found in the LXX version of **Exodus 3** – “I AM has sent you” = I AM with you all your days...
 - ii. Jesus intentionally brings the full force of His Deity in view as the Law Giver, the Great I Am, Very God of Very God