

Matthew 28:18-20 (Title: GO!)

Announcement about Holy Spirit Series

Matthew 28. Jesus has finished his work on the cross. Jesus has risen from the dead just as he said he would. He has appeared to his disciples. They are tripping out. Jesus is alive, and...

Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **(Matthew 28:18-20)**

The title of this sermon is: GO!

Pray

- “Go. And in the gospels this is what we see happening. We see a constant “going”. There is always **movement** forward happening.
- It starts with an angel telling Mary and Joseph to GO to Bethlehem.
- Go...
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- We are intended to move. We are intended to grow.
- **Nothing living ever stays the same. Only dead things stay the same.**
- The Kingdom of God and the body of Christ are ALIVE, and so there should always be movement and growth.
- **The Kingdom of God is never stagnant.**
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- If you haven’t seen growth and movement in your life in a while, then you should examine that.
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- Nothing Living Stays the same.
- **In the Kingdom of God there is always movement.** And in our text today this movement continues, as Jesus commissions his disciples, and in turn us, to **GO**.

He says in verse 19, “GO therefore and make disciples”

The point is GO.

But HOW do we go, WHERE do we go, and WHEN do we go?

How Do We GO?

We find the answer in verse 18 when Jesus prefaces this commission to “GO” with these words

“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore...” (vv. 18-19)

For over two years we have been studying the book of Matthew.

- *Authority...*
- And so when Jesus conquers death and then appears to his disciples ALIVE and says to them, **“All authority has been given to me.”** It’s like, “Yeah, no duh Jesus. You are the man. You are God clothed in human flesh. You said it, and we have seen it — all authority has indeed been given to you.”
- And it has, **There is nothing beyond the scope of Jesus and his power and authority.**
- **Some of you need to hear that today.**
- Even there that day with Jesus some needed to hear that. It says right before this that “some doubted”. Jesus is here, before he sends them out, re-assuring them that HE DOES INDEED have all authority in Heaven and on earth.
- **Jesus has all of the authority.**
- But THAT is not actually the point here. The point that Jesus is making isn’t that He has all the authority. That is actually just the **preface** to his point.
- He says **“All authority has been given to me... Go THEREFORE” (vv. 18-19)**
- His authority is a preface to the main point.
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- And whenever there is a “therefore” in the Bible, you need to ask the question, **“What is the therefore, there for?”**
 - And how do you know what the therefore is there for? You look at what **proceeded** the therefore. The word “Therefore” is a way of saying,
- **“Therefore” = In light of what was just said...**
- In other words when Jesus says **“All authority has been given to me. Go, THEREFORE”** he is saying, **“In light of me having all the authority, GO”**.
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- This passage of scripture is commonly called the “Great...what?” The great commission.
- To **Commission** = To be given the authority, power, and license to act on behalf of another. A command or duty given to a person to complete a work; the authority to perform a duty or task.
- It’s like when Michelangelo was **commissioned** by the Vatican and the Pope to sculpt these magnificent sculptures or paint one of a kind paintings.
- Jesus is commissioning the disciples, and in turn, us, and saying “I have all of the authority, and now I am giving you the authority, ON MY BEHALF, to go out and make disciples.”
- **2 Cor. 20**, says that **“We are ambassadors for Christ. It is as if God were pleading THROUGH US to the world to be reconciled to Him.”**
- **His authority and power, working through us, to accomplish His plan.**
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- The Bible calls us the body of Christ, and Christ the head.
- In the body, the central nervous system is the authority. And it tells all the body parts what to do.

- Christ is the head. He is the authority, and he sends us out in His authority, and COMMISSIONS us, as if He was pleading through us to the world.
- **Jesus is not commanding us to work FOR Him; He is commissioning us to work WITH Him.**
 - **He doesn't need our hands, but He does want our intimacy.**
 - Fruitfulness flows from with-ness. Fruitfulness flows from intimacy.
 - "I am the vine [Jesus said], you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit." (John 15:5)
- The **passive voice** conveys the idea that the subject is being ACTED UPON by an OUTSIDE force or power. The subject is the RECIPIENT or the RECEIVER of the verbal action or effect.
- Example of the passive voice is when **1 Peter 1:15** says "As He who called you is holy, you also BE holy..."
- But make no mistake He did say "GO". But you don't go on your own authority. You have been commissioned by the one **with the authority**, to go.
- And this is what Jesus invites us into. **But we've got to receive the invitation**, just like my son has to receive the invitation to join in with me. And in order receive, we have to position and posture ourselves to receive the commission.
- These guys that Jesus is talking to right here... They have left their nets for a second time, to follow Jesus. They are here and they are ready.
- They have put down that which may have been a distraction. They have even left their jobs. And they have positioned themselves to hear the call, and then to receive and respond to the call.
- Chad...
- "Before da commission, you gotta position." - Lil' Chad
- **You guys know lil' chad? (PUT UP PHOTO OF CHAD)**
- **So, Jesus said, "I have all authority, and I am commissioning you to go." And we respond to the call, and we GO. But HOW do we go?**
- **We go in the authority of Jesus.** But there's more. **Turn over to Luke 24**
 - He [Jesus] also said to them, "This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Jesus would commission the disciples to proclaim his name to all the nations. And then continues...) **You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city** (and here is the promise) **until you are empowered from on high.**" (And Luke continues as he is writing in the book of Acts ch. 1) **"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."**(Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:4-5)

The power comes when the Holy Spirit comes.

We go. But

HOW do we go?

We go in the authority of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

- So, we have been sent, by Jesus, into the world in His Power and authority.
- And what are we sent to do in this power and authority? We are sent (v.19) to:

“Make disciples” (v.19)

- A disciple simply defined is **Disciple: A learner, a follower, an imitator, and devotee.**
- *What does it mean to MAKE a disciple?*
- What is translated “make disciples” here is actually just one word in the Greek. It’s just the verb, “Disciple”. As in “**disciple** people”.
- **To disciple means to teach and instruct people like Jesus has taught and instructed you.**

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- **So how can we join in with this work of disciple making that Jesus is doing? Three simple things:**

Making Disciples means that we:

1. **Point others to Jesus.**
- When Jesus called people, He called them to himself.
 - **Above all else, the goal of disciple making should be to help others see and know Jesus more clearly.**
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- **How do we do this practically?**
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- The example that we see in Jesus is that He brought people into what **he was doing** in the Kingdom.
 - And the example that we see in people like Paul the apostle is that he brought his younger brothers **into what He was doing** in the Kingdom.
 - Paul, “I’m following Jesus. You can follow me, and I’ll show you how to follow Jesus.”
 - There is something personal about disciple making.
 - **Which brings us to our second point here. Making disciples means that:**

KEYNOTE PUT THIS UP:

Making Disciples means that we:

1. **Point others to Jesus.**
 2. **Teach others what we have been taught, but not what we have not.**
- Jesus says it right here: **“teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you” (v. 20)**
 - Jesus is saying, **“You have been with me. You have heard me speak. You have seen me live. Show people what I am like, and teach them what you I have taught you.**

- The idea here is to take people where you have been with Jesus. And don't try to take people where you haven't been with Jesus.
- How deep have you gone? How much have your eyes been opened to who God is? What have you learned? What truth about God and about who you are in God has changed your life? Bring people into THAT.
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- You can't take people where you have not been. And that's alright. Nobody is asking you to. But you can take people where you have been and where you are.
- Like Paul told the church in Philippi: **"Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me." (Phil. 4:9)**
- **The idea is that you take people with you.**
- **None of us have arrived, but we can bring people along with where we are, and we can take that journey to new places, with each other. But Jesus is always the goal right?**
- **To disciple means that you disciple people to Jesus.** You teach people, instruct people to Jesus.
- **We are not inviting people to follow us as we follow ourselves or follow each other. We are inviting people to follow us as we pattern our lives after the life of Jesus.**
- We are teaching what Jesus has taught us and taking people where Jesus has and is taking us.
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- How do you join in with the disciple making work of Jesus? We **do what Jesus does.**

KEYNOTE PUT THIS UP:

Making Disciples means that we:

1. Point others to Jesus.
2. Teach others what you have been taught, but not what you have not.
3. Do what Jesus does.

- Jesus came on mission. And everything he did had forward movement, as I said before. There was a constant moving forward.
- And then he dies, which wasn't the end, because then he rises (still moving forward), and then right here commissions us to continue the work, when He says, **"All authority has been given to me. And I am in you. And you are in me. Therefore, with the power that I have, and the same power that is working in you, GO.**
- **1 Cor. 12** says that we are the Body of Christ. We are the members of the body of Christ, and like I said earlier, we get to join in with what Jesus, the head is already doing.
- And He moves us as his body parts and does his work through us. (*check the other times "use" and "uses"*)
- **Talk about BODY**
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- You want to be on mission where Jesus is already working? Well start doing the things that Jesus did, and the chances are, Jesus is already there. Start being about what Jesus was about.
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- **What was Jesus about?**

- He was about the least of the these.
- He was about bringing life, light, and love to dark, dead, and dry places and people.
- He was about compassion and mercy.
- He was about telling the truth about culture, and speaking the truth about God in love.
- He was about preaching the good news.
- He was about healing the sick and lame.
- He was about neglecting the pleasures of the world for the will of God.
- And He was about GOING.
 - Start going where Jesus is and doing what Jesus does, and what you'll find is that He was already there long before you.

So the call is to make disciples, and who do we make disciples of? We make disciples...

"Of all nations" (v.19)

- We talked about the **How** we go (in the authority and with the power). But **where** do we go?
- The call is to the nations.
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- In Mathew 24, Jesus is talking about the end of the age when all wickedness and evil is permanently and forever done away with, and he says there in Matt 24:14 **"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matt. 24:14)"**
- This is part of how God's plan is going to play out, and here Jesus is inviting us into this.
- I know you may not feel like a missionary. But YOU are. You have been commissioned by Jesus (who has all authority) to GO to all the nations. You have been sent.
- **Some of you need to hear that today. You have been sent.**
- And in John 17 we see Jesus praying to the Father and He says, **"Father, as you have sent me into the world, I send them into the world." (John 17:18), and in John 20 we see Jesus saying it to the disciples, "As the Father has sent me, I also send you" (John 20:21)"**
- Jesus was SENT to the world, and sent for a purpose.
- And just as Jesus was sent, he has sent Us into the world with a purpose.
- **We are a sent people.**
- You don't need some authority to tell you to go. You don't need a church to send you. You don't need to wait for your pastors to commission you.
- **You don't need God to speak to you about going. He already spoke. Read the book. We are a sent people.**
- We have been SENT by Jesus into all the world to preach the good news about Jesus.
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- **Sometimes the church talks about mission as those who are "sent" and those who are "senders".** And yes there is truth to that, especially when we are talking about going places that require much more preparation and investment like overseas or to some hostile country.
- But the truth is, we are all those who are "sent". YOU ARE ALL GOERS.

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- If you're being sent to the nations someday then awesome! We need more people to respond to the call to go to the nations. But don't forget also that: **You have been sent where you are.**
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- We are all sent. We send each other, yes.
- But we are all also those who HAVE BEEN SENT.
- JESUS HAS SENT US.
- Now your'e like, "But really? Like to the nations?" Yea maybe."
- But don't forget what Jesus said in Act 1:
- Jesus said **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)**
- He sent us out, yes.
- But it always starts with Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem was home base for the church. Jerusalem was home. Jerusalem was right in front of them.
- Where is **your** Jerusalem?
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- **Maybe you need to know that you you are being sent out somewhere else.**
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- **But maybe you just need to know that you have ALREADY been sent out to the place where you currently are.**
- Where has God planted right now?
- **Bloom where you have been planted.**

Jesus has already sent you.

- **Don't look or long for Judea when Jerusalem is right in front of you.**
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- Don't neglect what God has put right in front of you for what seems like a more exciting or even more spiritual opportunity unless He is really calling you to that.
 - **For some of you that means not neglecting your actual home** for the sake of what feels like a spiritual call, or like "Ministry".
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 - **If your Jerusalem is getting second best because you're so occupied with what's happening OUT THERE, than you need to recalibrate and come back home.**

WHERE do we go?

We go the nations, starting in Jerusalem.

So we make disciples of all nations (starting in Jerusalem)...

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

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- "John baptized with you water, but I will baptize you will the Holy Spirit.)

- "To baptize" = To Immerse
- "To immerse" = To plunge deep; to saturate; to be consumed with; to be overcome by.
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- Jesus says, make disciples, "Baptizing them..." (IMMERSE THEM)
- Immerse them in WHAT?
- **In the name.**
- Jesus isn't talking about tagging the words "in Jesus name" on to the end of prayer before we say Amen.
- **To pray in Jesus names means to pray according to his character.**
- "To baptize in the name" = To immerse (plunge deep) into the character
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- But we also are to plunge people deep into the character! The character of who?
- **The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me." Because of this, I am sending you to make disciples of all nations, and **Baptize people in water yes, but baptize them into the deep things of who God is.**
- **One**, Jesus has all the authority, and He is the one who has commissioned you.
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- **Two**, You do not go alone. Jesus said ends this whole deal by saying (v.20), **And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (v.20)**
- **Remember** ("Don't forget" he says **that** I am with you, and I will always be (even to the end of the age). **I will be with you until all the work is done.**
- **Three**, you need to know that NOT ONLY do you not go in your own AUTHORITY, but you also don't go in your own POWER.
- And that's the answer to the question "When do we go?"
- **WHEN do we go?**
- **After we've got the power.**
- Because we see a detail in the other gospels that Matthew doesn't include here. Jesus **DOES** tell the disciples to "GO", but he also tells them "Not Yet". He says **before you go, "Wait"**. Wait for what, "Wait for the POWER of the Holy Spirit".
- **WHEN do we go?**
- **After you've get the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- Jesus breathed on the disciples in the text last week and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit". At that moment the Spirit came in them (Greek work "en). They were born again right then.
- **But the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit is multi-faceted** (as we will see in our series on the Holy Spirit in the coming weeks), because Jesus says, **BUT go to Jerusalem and wait for the the Spirit to COME UPON you. And you shall receive POWER when the Spirit comes UPON you. Different Greek preposition. It's the word "epi"**.
- **The spirit makes you alive when he comes IN you, but you receive power when He comes UPON you.**
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