

“Kingdom Mission”

Matthew 28:16-20

HOOK

Have you ever flown in a plane before? Growing up my Dad lived in California and so my brother and I would take plane trips out there every year. We were those two kids flying unattended who got to sit in first class and get shiny wings pins from the captain. It was pretty great, not gonna lie. As kids, especially brothers, you can imagine what we fought over every single time... The Window seat. You can tell we were kids, because nowadays I'd rather have the aisle seat to stretch out.

What I remember most about flying is that moment after takeoff when you get to look out the window and watch as everything gets smaller and smaller. I loved watching the cars the most. Once you get to a certain height they all look like little tiny toy cars or some kind of super expensive miniature train set.

There would even be moments where I'd try and pretend to be someone in one of those vehicles. Driving along totally unaware of the plane of people flying above me. As a kid, I'd just say, "wow..." Why? Because it really put things into perspective. I was seeing the big picture. That I was so small in comparison to the world.

In our text today, Jesus will reveal the big picture of our role in the Kingdom.

BOOK

Set up the context for Matthew 28 by focusing on the word Disciple!

In Matthew 28, Jesus will give us our Kingdom Directive. It is often referred to as the Great Commission.

In this chapter, we find Jesus after his unfair trial and his execution. Jesus was crucified by the order of the Roman Governor Pontus Pilate, and he died on that cross for the sins of the world. He was innocent, but he died in our place because we are not. But, he didn't stay dead. After 3 days buried in a tomb, Jesus rose up from the grave and appeared over the course of 40 days to more than 500 people.

Are you a Disciple of Jesus?

These people called themselves disciples. **A disciple is a person who has given up control of their life to follow Jesus.** In Matthew 28 Jesus appears to the 11 disciples who had walked with him for 3 years as his closest friends. There on top of a mountain right before he will leave them to return to the glory of Heaven, he gives them a mission for the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 28:16-20 – *Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed*

them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Pray_____

LOOK

The first aspect of the Kingdom Mission is...

1. Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-19 – *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*

Jesus wanted to make it clear from the beginning that their relationship with him was not just for them. He had walked with them so that they would walk with others. He had given them hope and truth so that they would turn around and do the same for others. And this was a serious mission.

Jesus isn't giving them his preference for how they live their lives. These verses are a command from the King of the universe. This is why he starts by declaring that he has all the authority on heaven and earth. This command extends to every believer of all time, it is not just to the 11 standing on that mountain. We know this

because he will go on to say “Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you...” which includes this Kingdom Mission.

So what does the King command? That his Kingdom People would make disciples. The Great Commission is the life mission of every Christian. It’s the role you play in God’s big kingdom story. Making Disciples isn’t just my responsibility or the job of other pastors or missionaries. It’s for every person who has chosen to follow Jesus. Because that is what a Disciple is. **A disciple is a person who has given up control of their life to follow King Jesus.**

Are you a Disciple of Jesus?

Notice two things in the first half of verse 19:

- Go = Greek Participle > ‘As you are going’, > as you do what you do.
- Make Disciples = Greek imperative > ‘Disciple-ize all the nations’. Everybody -All nations, Old, young, coworkers, classmates, people different than you, nations across the world with zero gospel access, etc...

APPLY: If we are all commanded by Jesus to do this, then who has God placed in your life that He is calling you to Disciple? A Friend? Family? Neighbor? What does discipleship look like? You baptize and teach others about Jesus. You help others identify with the life-changing story of the kingdom (baptism) and show them how to live their lives according to the power,

presence, and promises of God the way Jesus did (teaching with your life).

Here's the thing. God has entrusted us with the mission of spreading the kingdom and the hope of Jesus. He's not just trusting you with His words, He is trusting you with your friend's eternity!

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 — **All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.**

The first Aspect of our Kingdom Mission is to Make Disciples, the second is to...

2. Baptize Believers

Matthew 28:19 — ***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,***

Baptism didn't originate with Jesus and Christian believers. It was a practice that Jews picked up over time and is probably based in Leviticus 16 where ritual washing was instituted. However, by the time John the Baptist came on the scene right before Jesus' ministry, he was preaching a baptism of repentance. AKA he would call out truth and call people to turn away from their selfishness and sin. Then He would "baptize" them as a sign of their changed life. Jesus himself let John baptize him as an example for us.

The way Jesus and his disciples teach baptism is different from what John was doing. Christian baptism is for believers. It is something we do after we placed faith in Jesus and decide to make him the King of our lives. It is a symbol of what's already happened inside the believer. When we do it we are identifying ourselves with Jesus and each other. As a Kingdom Community.

Romans 6:3-4 — Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

When we get baptized its us going public about what we believe and how we are choosing to live the rest of our lives. It is a **symbol** for us and the world that who we used to be was buried with Jesus after he died on the cross for our sins and failures. And Now we are someone new, living out the love and mission of the Kingdom of God everyday. Buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. **Example: Baptism is a symbol, just like my wedding ring. My ring is a symbol to the world that I am committed to loving my wife, Melinda. Baptism is a symbol that I am committed to following Jesus as a disciple.**

It is the first act of obedience after a person encounters God and decides to submit to his rule and reign.

APPLY: Have you taken this next step? In a moment, our staff is going to be down front and you can respond.

Are you a Disciple of Jesus?

The last aspect of the Kingdom Mission is to...

3. Teach them to Obey

Matthew 28:19-20 — *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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...*

Jesus told them that being a disciple was more than just something you did one time or for a season of life. It effected their whole life for the rest of their lives.

Remember, a disciple is a person who has given up control of their life to follow Jesus. The Bible is literally filled with what Jesus commands believers to live like. These men had just spent 3 whole years living with Jesus and watching how he talked, how he thought, what he did and how he loved. They knew him and his commands.

Church Family, this is why we gather to listen to the word of God. We want to know what he desires from each of us. We want to live the way Jesus did and to be renewed in our minds and transformed in our lives.

APPLY: There are some of you here today who are believers, you might even have been baptized, but you feel farther from God than you've ever been. Question, are you reading and obeying His words? Or have you been running from something for too long? If we are

going to have our minds renewed we're going to need to have a steady intake of God's words.

We each take in so many messages every day. If we are not careful we will fill our minds with trash and only fill our minds with Christ one hour out of the whole week! Is that right? Is it effective? If that is your only intake of Christ, then you will never be a disciple who is making disciples, a part of His Kingdom mission right now. This is why taking time to view the bigger picture is so important. We need a perspective shift! How can we hope to live out our role in the big picture when we are too busy with the little things that distract us from the best things?

APPLY: When are you getting alone with God and asking Him to speak truth into your life? How is your life pointing others to Jesus? How are you encouraging other believers and asking them to sharpen you and help you grow? Like really grow?

Connect groups and Equip classes // Check out our website!

Because when life presses you, what's inside is what will come out. When you're pressed by your kids, your job, your life... Jesus mentioned this to the pharisees in Matthew 12.

Are you a Disciple of Jesus?

Our Kingdom Mission is to Make Disciples, Baptize Believers, and Teach them to Obey Jesus...

CONCLUSION

The problem with plane rides is eventually you have to come back down. It's fun, depending on who you're sitting next to, or the weather... But the reality is you must always come back down. The same is true when we think about the big picture. It helps us maintain a healthy perspective, but life isn't lived at 20,000 feet. It is crucial as a believer to be reminded of our role in the Kingdom, but eventually, you have to step off of the plane and actually get after it.

There is no waiting for a graduation from salvation before you start living as a disciple making disciples. And there is no retirement from our Kingdom mandate as a believer.

I'm going to ask our worship team to come back up, and we'll have our staff down front...

This morning, we've been flying at 20,000 feet to reset our perspective and to see our next steps. Jesus gave his disciples the gameplan on that mountaintop, but they had to walk back down alone. Eventually, Peter had to stand up and deliver the sermon of Acts 2. An uneducated man, but filled with the power of the Holy Spirit of the Living God.

God has something He is calling you to do. Every time the Word of God is preached, He is looking for your response.

What is God calling you to do?

How can you serve the King as you are doing what you do?

- ☐ Who in your life needs to know about Jesus?**

- ☐ Have you ever obeyed Jesus personally, and gone public with your faith by being baptized?**

- ☐ Are you seeking to grow as a believer and learn the word of God in order to live it out? Check out our Connect Groups on Sunday mornings, or our Equip Classes starting back in July and August.**