

## First Things First Week #3: Committed to Jesus' Mission

This week three of our series, "First Things First."

- There are some things where the order really matters.
- What comes first is foundational for what comes second and...
- In a couple of weeks, we will begin going through the book of Acts on Sunday and in our Bridge Groups.
- That is about the church.
- What is the church made up of? Disciples. Disciple comes before Church. When some disciples are made then they need a church for fellowship, to reflect on how to live, to encourage, grow, and worship.

**We have this definition of what a disciple is.** It captures the three main areas of what it means to be a disciple or apprentice of Jesus.

**A disciple is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to Jesus' mission.** It's on the **wall** here and above the **mailboxes**.

**We have covered** what it means to follow Jesus and be changed by Jesus. Today we are going to talk about what it means to be committed to Jesus' mission.

Today we are going to use the scriptures that were really **for next week**. Next week, we are to talk about disciple making and hit some of these **same scriptures**, but from a **little different perspective**.

**Here are his last words** of Jesus after his resurrection. He is about to leave his disciples and return to heaven. In a few words, he wraps up what he wants them to do. **He passes the baton** to them to continue what he did with them.

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:16-20

**If it's his last time** in the flesh to speak to the people who he has prepared for this moment, then do you think he is going to talk about **secondary issues**, even **important ones**?

- Is he going to break down how he wants the churches that are going to be planted are going to look and operate?

- What kind of songs are they going to sing?
- Should they buy property and build buildings?
- What about all of this "Jews versus gentiles" stuff?  
That's a tough one and really important.

Jesus was a first things first guy.

Based upon this verse that we call The Great Commission, here's how we can sum up Jesus' mission. **Jesus' mission is to make and multiply his disciples.**

They are to do for others what Jesus did for them

Repeat to process Jesus set into place.

Multiply.

**The primary imperative** in this famous verse is to "make disciples". **This means continue to allow the Holy Spirit to make you into a disciple through whom the life of Christ can be lived.**

The "Be" in "Be a Bridge, Build a Bridge."

Look at the definition again.

- Learning to follow, that's **head**.
- Learning to be changed by Jesus, that's the **heart**.
- Continuing the mission, that's **hands**.

The "Build" part is what we do when we join Jesus in his mission to make disciples.

Since this is the mission in a nutshell, then what does it mean to commit to this mission? **Committing to Jesus' mission means...**

That's the question we want to try to answer first **looking back to Jesus' last words** before his ascension and looking into other scriptures.

**In verse 21, that we didn't read, Jesus said, "And verily you should build a church on this mountain in Galilee, the kind that has never been seen, and invite all the people to come."**

**Go and engage...enter into the culture, engage the culture.**

How did Jesus do that? He met people at their point of brokenness or poverty. They did not have shalom wholeness, completeness, peace.

Similar to the idea of an ambassador. which cannot do his job or fulfill his mission by staying home. An ambassador or disciple is not "call help line".

How does an ambassador for the United States operate in another country?

Even before he tells them to go to the entire world he tells them to go somewhere. **Then the eleven disciples**

left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. Matthew 28:16

Ok, and then he told them to go from there. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations... Matthew 28:19a

Because the mission is universal in nature, this makes it impossible to do with going.

Even with technology today, it's still the same. Going and engaging is vital, because it is all about relationships. Jesus did it personally with these people.

**Who**...a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**What**...a disciple who makes disciples.

**Where**...that's the "go" part or rather the "being sent" part.

**Is there some way that I am created that meets a particular type of brokenness/poverty/lack of shalom in the world?**

As we are making disciples and doing the mission of Jesus, what kind of people are we? We are ones who engage brokenness. We are expressions of his Kingdom.

It is the direction of Jesus in the form of The Holy Spirit that gives us the "where" part of go make disciples of all nations.

This next verse may help give us a picture of what that looks like when we commit to his mission and go.

<sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, (That is Paul talking about Jesus) <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:22-23 NIV

Todd Wilson in the book, "**More**," puts it this way, "Paul says that the church is like water, permeating every crack and crevice of society, leaving nothing untouched by the fullness of Jesus." Pg 53.

You can probably see the pattern of where this is going. Committing to Jesus' mission means to... **Baptize these new disciples**

**Baptism is an act of obedience whereby the new disciple identifies with Jesus and his community. It all begins with an act of obedience. We will return to this as the first. It is practice, training for obedience.**

- **"If I can obey Jesus in this one strange command then I can obey him later when it's harder."**

**Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19**

**It is a statement of who I am and to whom I belong. Those attitudes are crucial for committing to Jesus' mission.**

- Baptized people are **more suited** to commit to the mission because they have **publicly promised their fidelity** to Jesus alone.

**And I don't assume that means just me** doing the baptizing and getting to have all the fun. I believe that in the future there will be bridge group leaders who have poured into someone, disciplined them, and walked with them, and will be the one in the pool with them. It only made sense.

Since baptism gives them practice in obedience that **sets us up for the next part**.

To commit to Jesus' mission we need to... **Help them learn to obediently follow Jesus**.

**More like coaching, not simply dispensing information.**

**Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. Matthew 28:20a**

For years I read this verse and **I heard the word "teach"** and really **didn't hear the word obey**. I simply **jumped to the content** of what people need to know in order to be called a Christian.

"Teach them" is a way of saying everyone who is a disciple is to be a part of this process.

- Remember who is here? It isn't just Peter, James, and John. It's not even just the eleven. He's saying this to a larger group, not simply to key

leaders who might preach or teach in a public setting.

**Teach how he operated. Obey not just words, but example.** His life is authoritative, not simply his words.

"WE ARE TO "OBEY ALL JESUS COMMANDED OR AUTHORITATIVELY REVEALED AS BINDING UPON OUR LIVES AS GOD'S WILL FOR US,"... PG. 958

**We have professionalized and institutionalized these three things.** Meaning, they are done by professionals or through and under the control of the institutional church.

Here's how it's supposed to look.

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. <sup>3</sup> Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:1-3

**Next week, we will dig into this one a little more,** but for now this is how it's supposed to work when we are all committed to his mission to make disciples.

**Steps of Obedience:**

1. Pray this prayer daily..."Father help me to see myself as a part of your mission today and give me the courage to join what you are already doing."

Let's practice this together by repeating this prayer.  
Take a posture of prayer.

Now...

**2. What is one commitment I can make to help prepare me to be a disciple who makes disciples?**

**What would happen if you got out of bed and prayed this prayer? Do you think you would view the events of your day differently? Do you think you would view the power of your presence differently?**

**Committing to Jesus' mission doesn't mean you have it all figured out. I don't. If you are married, did you wait to figure it all out before you said "I do?" Did you wait until you had parenthood all figured out until you had your first child? The power of committing is that we trust the one who asked us to commit.**