

## **“Christ’s Command” Matthew 28:16-20**

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*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:16-20 (English Standard Version)

**BIG PICTURE TRUTH:** As we navigate through life, our major task as Christ’s disciples is to make disciples of all people, everywhere, without distinction.

### **Phrase #1: MAKE DISCIPLES**

- Only one imperative verb in Matthew 28:16-20 = “make disciples” = *matheteusate*
- General definition of “disciple” = a learner, pupil, and student = summed up by the word “apprentice”
- A disciple = someone who is learning to love God, lives under His rule, and teaches others to do the same
- “Making disciples” envisions two results:
  - Making more disciples
  - Making better disciples

## Phrase #2: GOING

“Go” can be translated: “Therefore, as you are going . . .”

**Application:** “As you are going”—as you navigate through your life—be alert to those who need to know Jesus and those who need to follow Him more deeply. Then purpose to do something about it!

## Phrase #3: BAPTIZING

“Baptizing” is short-hand for: “Help people enter God’s Kingdom in faith.”

- Who is to be baptized? The one who has come to “repentance and faith”.
  - “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.” Acts 20:21 (New International Version)
  - This is someone who—to the depth of her will (what she intends to do) and to the depth of her affection (what she loves)—has repented and changed her mind.
  - A disciple who has turned from sin and turned to faith or trust in Jesus, committed himself or herself to obeying Jesus and becoming like Him.
- And how is a newly repentant disciple baptized? Into the name of the Trinity.

**Application:** How then do believers apply this?

- *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup>At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup>that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup>Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.* Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)

- Three instructions:
  - Pray for open doors.
  - Develop a gospel presence.
  - Give a verbal witness.

#### Phrase #4: **TEACHING**

Disciples are to receive ongoing instruction about how to obey what Jesus has said.

**Application:** In whatever Christian community you're in—small groups, triads, one-on-one—covenant with the others in that group to be accountable for:

- how you live as Christ's disciples.
- how you grow in knowledge and obedience to the Scriptures.
- how you choose other-centeredness, both in service to other Christians and in developing a gospel-presence with nonbelievers.