

Great Commission

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 28:16ff.

B. Illustration: Three stone masons' different perspectives on the same job- the first two see their own little job only, but the third one sees the end goal of building a cathedral, not just laying stones.

1. If we do not have the overall vision of the great commission, then we are missing perspective that we need for ministry.

2. It is not so much the individual disciples that are the goal, though they are important. The goal is the ultimate fulfillment of the great commission.

II. The blueprint of the Great Commission

A. God's intent to bless all nations through Abraham's offspring, Christ. (Genesis 12:2-3; Isaiah 49:6)

B. The nations will become Christ's inheritance and he will rule over them. (Psalms 2:8; Psalms 22:27-28; Psalms 86:9)

C. God's rendering of the fulfillment of the great commission includes a great crowd of people from all nations and tongues. This is the final objective of our individual discipleship ministries. (Revelation 7:9)

III. The purpose of the Great Commission is not just to bring the gospel to all nations, but also that Christ's kingship would be established in each of them.

A. Christ has the authority/right (Greek) to command obedience and allegiance. Christ also has the power to exercise that authority. (Matthew 28:18)

B. The Great Commission essentially means to bring people under the sway of Jesus' authority and people we minister to need to know about kingship up front. (Romans 14:9)

C. The establishment of Christ's kingdom is accomplished one person at a time through discipleship.

IV. What does it mean to make a disciple?

A. John Broadus' definition of discipleship

1. The disciple is to be brought into a teacher/pupil relationship with Christ.
2. Interaction with Christ the teacher is the purpose of foundational disciplines like prayer and Bible reading.
3. Discipleship involves immediate submission to Christ's commands and teachings because he is Lord. The authority of Jesus Christ is the basis of all true discipleship

B. Our deepest issue with discipleship today is submission to Christ's authority. (Psalms 2:1ff; Luke 19:14)

V. The Bible was not given to increase your knowledge, but to guide your conduct. (Joshua 1:8)

A. We must study the bible so that we know what we are supposed to do.

B. We need the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit to apply the bible to our lives.

C. The mission of discipleship is to bring people into a teacher/student with Christ under Christ's authority. We pray for their hearts to change through the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 54:14; Hebrews 13:20-21)

Application questions:

1. How are you seeking to bring people under Jesus' authority in your sphere of influence?

2. How do you personally struggle with letting Jesus be the king of your life?

3. Who in your life can you be praying scriptures of guidance and change over?
