

The Mission is the Great Commission

To follow Jesus is...

- To be known for what He was known for
- To be like Him
- To be on mission with Him

The mission of King Jesus is to establish His Kingdom.

We follow the King when we follow the Great Commandment and fulfilling the Great Commission.

The Great Commission is found in **Matthew 28**.

"¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..."

Note: Before Jesus gives His disciples their mission He reminds them of His position.

He is King. All authority in heaven and earth belongs to Him.

So what we call as the Great Commission is a great Co-Mission. It is what disciples do to join Jesus in His mission. His mission is to establish His Kingdom.

"¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

5 Questions to answer:

Who is this command given to?

Answer: All believers

How many commands are in these two verses?

Answer: There is only one. "Make disciples" is the only imperative command.

Going, teaching, baptizing are all participles that express the means/manner of fulfilling the command

Who/what are we supposed to be making into disciples?

Answer: The "nations" is ethne (greek)= ethnic groups

We disciple individuals from different nationalities.

We do not disciple nations (political states marked by geographical boundaries)

There is no such thing as a "Christian nation."

There are only Christian people living in nations.

Christian nationalism has never helped more people follow Jesus.

It only helps Christians feel safe by offering them power and control over others.

So...The Mission of each and every follower of Jesus is to make disciples of people from all nations.
It is not to enforce Christian morality for everyone living in our nation.

Understanding Discipleship in the Jewish Context:

The word, disciple, simply means “learner.” But the early church understood the word in a Jewish context not a Greco-Roman context.

A disciple was a “Talmid” of a Rabbi.

The Typical Rabbinic Process

1. Children learned Torah- ages 5-10. (Beit Sefer-“House of the Book”)
2. The gifted continued to study Scripture- ages 10-14. (Beit Talmud-“House of Learning”)
3. Elite students sought out a Rabbi-teenage years and beyond (Beit Midrash-“House of Learning”)

4. The Rabbi Chose Only a Few (Beit Hillel/Shammai/Jesus)

The rabbi evaluated candidates and accepted only those he believed could become like him.

In effect, the disciple said: "Rabbi, I want to be like you."

And the rabbi answered: "I believe you can."

Note: Jesus changed everything by recruiting disciples that had already been told, “I believe you cannot.”

Other rabbi’s chose disciples they found worthy. Jesus chose disciples because He could make them worthy. He has recruited you to be a disciple and make disciples. He has made you worthy.

Jesus didn’t come primarily to save you FROM sin. He saved you FOR Himself.

He saved you for a purpose bigger than where you spend the Here-after.

He recruited you as an active participant in spreading His Kingdom in the Here-and-Now!

You have been commissioned to make disciples of all people groups as you are going through life.

When the disciples heard Jesus say:

"make disciples of all nations..." (Matt. 28:19)
They heard..."Come and learn how to imitate me"
Not..."Come and learn information from me."

They were not simply students of ideas. They were students of a person.

We have made discipleship about the transference of information.

We have built our lives around a “come and learn” model.

Jesus intended discipleship to be about transformation through imitation.

His model is “follow me!”

Paul's discipleship language is deeply rooted in this model.

He tells believers: **"Imitate me, as I imitate Christ."** — **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Jesus intended discipleship to exist in the school of life not in a Sunday school class-room.

The information is important. There is a place for "Come and learn."

But it cannot replace, "Follow/imitate me as I follow/imitate Christ."

Almost every believer has people around them that is looking for someone to imitate and follow. They are being disciplined by someone. Why not you? You have what they are looking for. You have Jesus. You just need to model Jesus. Imitation discipleship is meant for every believer. If we couldn't all do it, Jesus would not have commanded it. And all we need to know are the basic commandments.

We are asked to **"teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."** (Matt 28:20)

Note: Jesus has boiled down the commands to loving God and loving others.

And, He spends more time telling us who we should be instead of what we should do.

The litmus test of Christian maturity is, do I exhibit the character of Jesus? Am I fulfilling the Great Commandment of Jesus

Every believer can model what it means to be like Jesus and to love God and love others as they are going. And you are already moving through life. You don't have to stop to make disciples or teach a Bible study or lead a men's or women's group. Those things are good. They are not enough. They aren't something all believers are gifted to do.

All believer's are gifted/talented at something in life.

There is no distinction between what is secular and what is spiritual.

Your body is the Temple of God. You bring "worship" wherever you go.

Everyone of us can do what we are gifted at and invite others to share life and model for others what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Before you invite them to church simply invite them to play golf, to grab coffee, to go shopping, or bake cookies. Invite them to do life. Do life with others. Love them and imitate Christ.

Still not convinced your life can make a difference?

Who has made the greatest impact in your life?

There is a 99% chance they were a "nobody."

And a 99% chance they made you feel like a "somebody." It was about the relationship.

Note: The Great Commission is fulfilled when a bunch of no-bodies quit relying on the some-bodies and simply fully surrender their lives to Jesus, spend time in His presence and spend time investing in others.

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13)

Paul wrote this to Timothy, his disciple that he left to pastor the church in Ephesus.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (II Timothy 2:2)

Imagine being so extroverted and charismatic that you could invite one person a month to church for the next 20 years and have every one of them "come to Jesus"
 $12 \times 20 = 240$

Now imagine you aren't. But, you decided to do life with one person every year and each of those people decided to do life with someone intentionally for the next 20 years.
 $2^{20} = 1,048,576$

Final Question: ***Who will you lift up? Who will you live to invest in?***

Someone is hopefully already in your life. They are following you to play golf or in gossip. Help them follow you as you follow Jesus. Chances are in many ways they are already imitating you. Imagine the difference you could make, you could make if we were intentional about investing for the purpose of the Kingdom and not just our hobbies. The Great Commission is not a hobby Jesus calls us to. It is what we use our hobbies to accomplish.

Following Jesus is life. It is all of life.

We are reminded that our life is found in Christ and in Community when we partake in communion.

Jesus gathered His disciples, those He had invested His life in and would pour His life out for.

He gathers us here today. Those He has poured His life out for.

We are reminded of His words in **Matthew 26:26-29**

"²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Communion Response:

Pastor: In Communion, we are reminded we live in Community.

All: Let us be a community dedicated to loving You and loving others in Your power.

Pastor: In this Bread we are reminded of your Body broken for us and for the world.

All: We commit ourselves to being your Body in our world.

As you have loved we will love.

Pastor: In this cup we are reminded of Your Blood shed so we can be forgiven.

All: As forgiven followers we commit to the way of forgiveness in our world.