

# The Great Commission

MATTHEW 28:16-20

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Monday: Pray for the families in our church. Pray for strong marriages and healing of past hurts.

Tuesday: Pray for those who serve us whether in government agencies, our police force, our military or fire departments.

Wednesday: Pray for the upcoming Lausanne Conference. Pray especially for those who will preparing major presentations and for the delegates from majority world nations that they have the needed resources to attend.

Thursday: Pray for the people of Haiti and Chili as they continue to rebuild after earthquakes and such tremendous loss. Pray for others you know who are suffering.

Friday: Pray for our youth. Pray especially that as they make plans for college that God will guide them. Pray also for their friendships that they would be ones that would strengthen and



## GLENKIRK CHURCH

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Weekly Devotional  
April 11-18

*As we begin a series on Jesus we will, over the next months not only study the sermon texts, but all read through the majority of the Gospel accounts of Jesus life. One chapter a day.*

**Monday: Matthew 28:16-20**

**Luke 1**

How do you determine what is important in life? How do you determine what is worth giving attention to, worth your time, worth your money. In quoting Jesus, Jim on Sunday said, that the validation of everything in heaven and on earth is Jesus (“exousia” is make up of “ek”, out of, and “eimi” existence). Meaning in life is found in Jesus. Everything that exists, exists because of Jesus and finds value in relationship to Him.

As an employee I make decisions based on what my boss sees as important. As a parent we make

decisions based on what will be best for our children. If Jesus is the one that gives meaning to all things, what does it mean to make decisions based on Him? Does even what I eat today become somewhat determined by what might please Him? I think so, in that as I care for my body, I am more available to Him, as I make sure that what I buy is produced justly I show love for others and thus honor Jesus. As you go through this day, ask God to make you aware of even the little decisions you make. What does it mean to make evaluating the truth of Jesus having all “exousia” in mind?

**Tuesday: Matthew 28:16-20;**

**John 1**

Jesus “came up to His disciples.” In Matthew’s gospel this word is generally used to refer to petitioners who

sport. How do we train to use our gifts for Jesus? Some of us are not so young. But we still need to prove ourselves to non-believers by our example. Our behavior speaks louder than sermon. What would my neighbors say about who God is based on my example?

It is easy to be intimidated. Many of us are intimidated when it comes to praying out loud for example. We worry about what others will think, we worry that somehow we will go blank in the midst of a prayer, maybe that we will become emotional. Intimation results in our holding back. Paul is encouraging Timothy to not hold back. Are you holding back in someway? Why not put God to the test, step out and see if God doesn’t meet you with an extra measure of His Holy Spirit.

**I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.**

**John 14:12-13**

As Jim mentioned, all too often we leave this to the “experts, the professional, paid Christians,” and the cause of Christ has suffered accordingly. Even if you became a Christian yesterday, you have something to share with others. How are you doing in this area? Who are you pouring your life into? If you do not feel adequate, what do you need to do to fulfill your calling in Jesus. To say I am not gifted in this area is often a cop-out for laziness. We are all to be disciples, discipling others who have similar gifts as ourselves. John Wesley once said that if he had 100 men who feared God and feared sin, he would turn the world upside down. At Glenkirk there are over 1000 in worship each weekend. Are we turning the San Gabriel Valley upside down? I wonder why not? Which part of the discipleship

definition do we need to be working on?

**Friday: Timothy 4:9-16**  
**Matthew 3**

Take a minute and list the various commands listed in this chapter: set an example in love, in faith, devote yourself, do not neglect your gift etc. Then take a minute and grade yourself. How are you doing? Is there an area that you need to work on? We spend a lot of time preparing for our careers. We go to school from 12 to 22 if not 30 years. We read trade journals and take continuing education courses. Even if your privileged to be a full time homemaker and mother you spend time reading magazines and books about parenting. Athletics spend time exercising, often running and lifting weights in order to succeed at their

approached Jesus, but here Jesus is taking the initiative and approaching, coming up to his imperfectly believing disciples. Jesus does not turn his back on our doubts or stand back until we have have it all together before He calls us. He approaches us in the midst of our unbelief. He has patience with us. He takes us as we are and uses us. Not only does Jesus send us forth, but in a sense He sends us out as his ambassadors. He sends, imperfect doubters out with the full weight of His authority, just as a U.S. Ambassador has the full weight of the government of the Unites States behind him. As all executive power has been given to Jesus, He gives it to us, calling us to take all of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to others.

What does it mean to take “all” of God to others? It means to offer all the

blessings, power, resources of God to others. Think about that a little, it power. It call us to take all of the love of the Father, along with His covenant commitment, all of the Grace, Mercy and incarnational presence of Jesus, and all the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit to others. But how can “I” give God’s resources to another (I am a doubter)? When I pray for healing for another person, I often am filled with doubt, but I pray anyway and God comes in the midst of the prayer with His healing power. As you go out today, what of God is He asking you to take to those you come in contact with? Don’t let your doubts, or fears, or....(you can fill in the blank) hamper you. Go, and see how Jesus will show up. For part of the promise is that He, Himself, is with us especially in the midst of our imperfection and doubts.



FOLLOW ME AND I  
WILL MAKE YOU  
FISHERS OF MEN

**Wednesday: Matthew 28:16-20;  
Luke 2**

The Great Commission, as this Matthew passage is often referred to, has 4 “alls” in it and one implicit 5<sup>th</sup> “all”: all authority, all nations, all of God (Father Son, Holy Spirit), all I commanded you all the days. One of the more significant events in modern church history occurred in 1974 when representatives from around the world gathered in Lausanne, Switzerland to discuss together the implications of the Great Commission for the world today. In 1989 a similar group gathered in Manila and this October over 4000 delegates from 200 nations will gather in South Africa to discuss what it means for the “whole church, to take the whole gospel, to the whole world.” The Dutch

theologian Willem Adolf Visser't Hooft first used this phrase in 1961 when he said: The command to witness to Christ is given to every member of his church. It is a commission given to the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world. When the church recognizes that it exists for the world, there arises a passionate concern that the blessings of the gospel of Christ should be brought to every land and to every man and woman.” “But the church is not just the mechanism delivering the gospel. It is also the *product* of the gospel, and is to be the living, visible *proof* of the ethically transforming power of the gospel.”\* You and I are to be the visible proof that the gospel transforms. You and I exist to bless the world. How is your

life proving that Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead and is reigning as the King of Kings? How can you this day be a blessing for others?

**Thursday: Matthew 28:16-20;  
Matthew 2**

Someone once defined Discipleship as “the process of being and reproducing spiritually mature zealots for Christ.” A disciple is first a learner, one who imitates the actions of another. This learning takes a lifetime. We will never fully arrive. When we start off following Jesus we are aware of this, but after time it is easy to coast, to believe that church on Sunday is enough (well and maybe a quiet time here and there). Have you lost your thirst for learning? Why not visit

Amazon (and browse: Books: Religion: Christianity: Christian Living: Discipleship) and chose a book to read, or commit to reading a chapter from both the Old Testament and New Testament each day this week. But discipleship is not just about head knowledge learning. It is as much about “practice,” about doing. Commit today to do something that Jesus might do: help someone who needs helping, finding a way to express love to someone outside of your normal circle of acquaintance, seek to have a conversation with someone about Jesus. What would it look like if you were “zealous” for Jesus? But discipleship is not just about “being” it is about reproducing. Each of us should be reproducing Jesus in the life of another.