

Churched: We are on Mission Matthew 28:18-20 September 29, 2019 Pastor Jeff

- Every effective organization is going to be driven by a mission that provides the objective, meaning and direction for its existence and the church is no different.
- One of the challenges of staying on mission is mission drift (not keeping the main thing the main thing)
 - **The church is not on a benevolence mission** (Yes, we care and help those in need around us and look for opportunities to proclaim the gospel)
 - **The church is not on a social justice mission** (Yes, we can participate in righting wrongs and work on the flourishing of society as we share the gospel)
 - **The church is not on a political mission** (Yes, we can vote and work to see good laws in our culture while we live out and proclaim the gospel)
 - **The church IS on a disciplemaking mission** that God unfolds in a variety of great commission Scriptures (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Col 1:28)
- Jesus's stated mission in Matt. 28:18-20 has one major command ("*make disciples*") with three supporting actions ("*going, baptizing, teaching*")

1. **We must stay focused on our upward motivation** (Matt. 28:18)

- God uses many motivations to inspire His church, but in this text He uses His Son's authority to do so.
 - His authority is untainted by anything unjust or destructive
 - He outfits His church with everything needed to carry out this big mission.
 - He provides the greatest asset (the gospel) to produce eternal life change and thus, this mission is the most important anyone can ever participate in.

2. **We must stay focused on our outward messaging** (Matt. 28:19: "*go therefore...baptizing them...all the nations*")

- **“go therefore”** points to the activity of our messaging (Going will let people see how Christ has changed our lives-Matt. 5:16 and hear the good news message that can change theirs-Rom. 10:14)
- **“baptizing”** points to the response to our messaging (This is the first step of obedience and we’ll address this on Oct 13)
- **“all the nations”** points to the extent of our messaging (v. 19; Mk 16:15; Lk 24:47; Acts 1:8): Not only do we go into our own Jerusalem’s, but we can also support our missionaries and send others out into the mission field around the world.

3. **We must stay focused on our Godward mentoring** (Matt. 28:19b, 20a: *“make disciples...teaching them...”*)

- **Remember what a disciple is:** Someone who is called to follow Jesus, being changed by Jesus and is committed to the mission of Jesus.
- **8 marks of a disciple using the word “d.i.s.c.i.p.l.e.”**

D stands for our need to **die daily to self** (Luke 9:23; 14:27; Gal. 2:20): Disciples have been crucified with Christ, so they are dead to sin and alive to God and grow as they daily address self’s desire to be center stage.

I stands for **identifying with Christ in water baptism** (Matt. 28:19): Disciples are commanded to be immersed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

S stands for **saturating your life with God’s Word** (John 8:31): Disciples grow by learning how a disciple is to believe, think, speak, relate, emote and behave.

C stands for the **confessing Christ openly to others** (Matt 10:32-33): Disciples express their loyalty to Jesus Christ that perseveres all the way to death.

I stands for **imitating Jesus Christ** (Matt. 10:24-25; Luke 6:40; Rom. 8:29):

Disciples seek to progressively become more and more like Jesus in all areas of life.

P stands for **producing fruit** (John 15:8): Disciples expect to display the fruit of God's work in their lives. It shows up in attitude (Gal. 5:22-23); good deeds (Col 1:10a); conversion of others (1 Cor. 16:15; Rom. 1:13); praise (Heb. 13:15)

L stands for **loving others** (Matt. 10:34-37; John 13:34-35; Matt 5:43-45):

Disciples will learn to love God more than anyone else, love other disciples, love the lost and even love our enemies.

E stands for **equipping others for follow Christ** (2 Tim. 2:2): Disciples will help others grow in their walk as a disciple of Jesus.

4. **We must stay focused on our inward ministry** (Matt. 28:20b: "*I am with you always*")

- We are encouraged by the fact that our Lord will be with us in the mission, so we are not left to do it on our own.

Homework:

- Pray for God to keep your heart motivated by His great commission to you and our church family.
- Ask a few questions:
 - What needs to change in my life in order to become a better messenger?
 - Am I committed to becoming a better disciple of Christ?
 - Who can I help grow in their walk as a disciple of Jesus?
 - Am I remembering that Jesus is on this mission with me?
- Make a "*more and better*" list (write down names of people who need to come to Christ and names of people you want to help grow in their walk of discipleship)