

Matthew 28.16–20

The King we Follow Forever

Disciples of Jesus Been on Roller Coaster of their Lives: 3 Amazing Years

AMAZING Part Jesus the Nazarene – Rabbi, Friend, Miracle Worker, Messiah?

Most Exhilarating WEEK > Highs of Palm Sunday – Depths of Terrible Friday

From HOSANA to our KING! To Him Hanging on Cross w/ KING of the JEWS

Dark and Long Sabbath while Brutally Murdered friend Buried in Stranger’s Tomb

They were Still trying FIGURE OUT what happened the NEXT DAY > SUNDAY

Earthquake, Breathless Sisters Wild Claims, Body Gone, Graveclothes Untouched

The account of the empty tomb is soul-shaking...an event beyond human comprehension and therefore awesome and frightening William Lane

Jesus said to them (women at tomb), “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” Matthew 28.10

Now 11 who Still Followed - Trekked over 150 kms Mtn in NORTH of Palestine

They were WORN Out from their LONG HASTY Journey

Exhausted in just About EVERY Way – Physically, Spiritually, Emotionally

SISTERS said Jesus wanted to Meet in GALILEE – So HERE we Are!

v. 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

They Met Jesus! Sort of? SAME Man who Sat in their Boats, Slept in their Homes

One so LOVED by People - but So HATED by their Religious Leaders

This was the JESUS they Knew – but NOW Much MORE than they EVER KNEW

They could see HIS WOUNDS but He arrayed IMPERISHABLE GLORY

Like on SINAI & Ch. 5 He TEACHES from Mtn. Kingdom Promised / Fulfilled
 Matthew – One of those 11 – Writes GOSPEL Decades Later to Jewish Kinsmen
 Jesus is Son of Abe, Lord of David, Fulfilled Prophecies > Long Promised Messiah

HOW can bring LONGEST Gospel to Appropriate CLOSE for Jewish Audience?

Hebrew Scriptures – SAME Books as Xtian OT – In DIFFERENT Arrangement

Last Book of Hebrew Scriptures > CHRONICLES, 2nd Chronicles

I wonder if Matthew thinks > HOW do the Hebrew Scriptures End?

Sovereign King w/ Global Authority, Grand Task, Promise God’s Presence in Task

	End of the Jewish Scriptures 2 Chronicles 36	End of the Gospel to the Jews Matthew 28
Sovereign King	v. 23 Cyrus king of Persia: ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth’	v. 18 Jesus: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”
Saving Command	v. 23 “he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem...Whoever is among you of all his people...Let him go up.”	v. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”
Secure Promise	v. 23 may the LORD his God be with him.	v. 20 “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1. Triumph of the King: *Earned All Authority*

v. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Matthew > Jesus was BORN a KING > King Herod could Not Kill God’s KING

See Glory of KING Jesus thru this Gospel > Authority of His Teaching

the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes
 Matthew 7.28,29

Authority in Healing And he (Jesus) said to him (centurion), “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For *I too am a man under authority*, with soldiers under me.”
 Matthew 8.7-9

Authority to Forgive Sins “the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”
Matthew 9.6

Authority given to Disciples over Satan

he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. Matthew 10.1

RESURRECTION is OPEN Declaration of Jesus’ ETERNAL AUTHORITY
Now the SPHERE of His Authority has been ENLARGED > Fills UNIVERSE
CRUSHED the HEAD of Serpent as Stretched Out His Arms on the Cross

No Weak Authority > He is the Risen Lord > Conquered Every Foe

“*all* authority in heaven and on earth” > Given to Him

God rules in All Matters and All Places - Nothing is an Accident

For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” 1 Corinthians 15.27

SWEEPING Authority – No Person, Time, Place is OUTSIDE Jesus Rule
Some speak of Jesus as COMING KING --- KING Jesus says ALREADY Come!

3 yrs PREACHING the REIGN or Kingdom – Now He’s PROVEN He IS the King
Disciples must Make Know TO END of WORLD -- UNTIL the END of the AGE

God has appointed Christ the heir of the world in his kingdom of grace, and to possess and reign over all nations, through the propagation of his gospel, and the power of his Spirit communicating the blessing of it. Jonathan Edwards

These are GRAND CLAIMS but Hard to BELIEVE amidst Suffering & Sin World
Is this the BEST that King Jesus can do? Does He really have Sovereign Power?
Can’t he STOP the Killing – the Sinning – Disease – or Trump from Tweeting?

Amidst EVIL he saw from GENEVA in 1500's Calvin wrote...

There is nothing of which it is more difficult to convince men than that the providence of God governs this world. John Calvin

Declaration of Christ's Authority on Earth > Over Those Not Yet Believers

Over ALL those People Christ Sends us To to SHARE the GOOD NEWS of Jesus

Christianity is a World Religion > No one is Exempt from His Call

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2.8,9

If the authority of Jesus were circumscribed on earth, if he were but one of many religious teachers, one of many Jewish prophets, one of many divine incarnations, we would have no mandate to present him to the nations as the Lord and Savior of the world. If the authority of Jesus were limited in heaven, if he had not decisively overthrown the principalities and powers, we might still proclaim him to the nations, but we would never be able to "turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26:18). Only because all authority on earth belongs to Christ dare we go to all nations. And only because all authority in heaven as well is his have we any hope of success. John Stott

2. Task of His Church: *Disciple All Nations*

NT > At Least 10 Appearances of the Risen Lord

Nearly all Resurr. Appearances of Jesus End > Sending to Announce Good News

Matthew Not End his Gospel with the Resurrection Itself, Nor Christ's Ascension

Instead, he Ends the Gospel with the Lord's Great Commission

Words are For ALL Jesus' DISCIPLES > Not Only for Apostles

God does the Work of Saving and designs us for Works of Service

v. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations // Disciple = FOLLOWER

First, he tells us to “make disciples” > “teach all nations” KJV

COMMAND / VERB *matheteuo* = “to make one a disciple” – GO is IMPLIED
Cannot OBEY Command by STANDING STILL – Gotta Go cause He’s Going!

“make disciples of all nations” = “make them disciples of Christ”

Disciple ALL Nations? RIDICULOUS? PREPOSTEROUS?....He IS Serious!??

Reading 2000 yrs of Christian HISTORY Later – Room Xtians from Around World
Jesus > 11 Simple Men in Remote part of Despised Province Oppressed Nation

GOING > NEW Covenant brings 180 degree TURN in Work of OUTREACH

Old Covenant Believers SUPPOSED to tell WORLD to COME to Jerusalem

the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.*”
Isaiah 2.2,3

Never did GREAT Job! Most like JONAH - They HATED their Neighbors!

Few GENTILES met People of God – Naaman, Ruth, Queen of Sheeba

Now RISEN LORD gathers NEW COVENANT Followers on Mountain Galilee
Turns them from FACING INWARD to Look Out to Fields White for HARVEST
Galilee to Guangzhou – Palestine to Peru – Israel to Iceland – Jerusalem to Jakarta
“all nations” Universal Authority of Jesus over All People / Worldwide Christianity

The Great Commission is given by the highest authority in the universe, and it is binding on all disciples for all time. No other task comes with the same authority, the same universal scope or the same eternal consequences. To go into the world and make disciples of all nations is the most exciting, most urgent and most necessary task in the world. Joe Kapolyo

REASON we are SAVED / PURPOSE of Salvation / MISSION Identity

Purpose of Your Life? – Raise Family? – Get Degree? – Play POKEMON GO?

Jesus calls us LIFT OUR SIGHTS – Him, His Glory, His Kingdom, Eternal Life

See your Family – Studies – Work – Pokemon – Star Trek Movie >> for Gospel

How can this BRING ME & How can I BRING OTHERS – to Jesus Christ?

Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter. Charles Spurgeon

M Word is Misunderstood - Loaded with Cultural & Historical BAGGAGE

“When the Missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the Missionaries had the Bible. They taught how to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land and we had the Bible.”

- attributed to several people, including Jomo Kenyatta and Desmond Tutu

Whoever said it TOO MUCH TRUTH in IT!! M's poor Reflection of the Master

Jesus: “You are my friends if you do what I command” John 15.14

If we do Not Obey Jesus, we are Not his FOLLOWERS or FRIENDS

A SERVANT of Christ and SON of Africa....

I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity. David Livingstone

3. Teaching God's Commands: *Obey All His Words*

DISCIPLES of Jesus must be BAPTIZED and TAUGHT

a. A Stand that Counts Forever – 1st Step of DISCIPLESHIP is INTO Water

v. 19 baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Would have been OXYMORON to be UNBAPTIZED Christian in Early Church

Public Commitment and Personal Confession

Baptism...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ 1 Peter 3.21

Baptism “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Words NOT a MAGIC FORMULA – Acts > Baptism in NAME of Jesus

BOTH Valid – Matthew Teaching TRINITY – One God/Name, 3 Unique Persons

Following Christ demands Affiliation with His Church

Confession of Faith seen in Commitment to the Faith

Jesus wants us to BAPTIZE People, Bring People to Him! Get Started! Take Stand!

Peter on Pentecost: “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Acts 2.36-41

b. A Struggle that Continues Forever

v. 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you

Need to Apply & Obey God's Eternal Word in our Ever-Changing World

I got Baptized @ 17 – Excited to SHARE my Faith > Lady across the Street
 Working in her Yard – Stopped and Shared my Testimony
 “I am happy for you! I did all that when I was Young.” Been There / Done That!
 Had My Religious RITUAL so Now I am ALL SET, thanks!

Jesus is KING we FOLLOW FOREVER – Not Lord OF All, Not Lord AT ALL
 Baptism ENROLLS us into SCHOOL of Jesus & we’re LIFE-LONG Learners
 “He who is not busy bein’ born is busy dyin’” Bob Dylan

Do NOT Share Word of Christ on Level Playing Field – World is NOT FAIR
 v. 15 “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were
 asleep’ ...And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

MESSAGE Already SPUN – FUNDED by Israel’s Leaders / w/ FORCE of Rome
 Might of OUR Nations – All their POMP and POWER Spread ANTI-God LIES
 Jesus is JUST LIKE Moses, Budda, Muhammed // Koran 5 X’s Not DIE on Cross!
 Gov’t: There is NO GOD – GAY is GOOD – ABORTION is SAFE and LEGAL
 “Abortion is the safest procedure in America today. Nobody gets hurt.”
 CNN Reporter, 26 June 2016

Jesus does not foresee a time when any part of his teaching will be rightly judged
 needless, outmoded, superseded, or untrue: everything he has commanded must be
 passed on “to the very end of the age” Don Carson

Followers Know & Do Teaching of KING Jesus so World can Look and see...
 So that’s WHAT Kingdom of God LOOKS LIKE
 So that’s WHAT KIND of King Jesus IS

“to obey everything” (or *all* things) > Lifetime of Learning follows Conversion
 God BREATHED-Out 66 Books > ALL PROFITABLE for the Life of FAITH
 Robust disciples are not made by watered-down teaching. James Boice

Paul: “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” Acts 20.27

Pour into their untaught minds the preaching for both the Old and New Testaments
 in the spirit of virtue and love and sobriety and with reasoning suited to their
 understanding. Boniface, English missionary to Germany (680-754 AD)

How is it possible that the gospel be credible, that people should come to believe
 that the power which has the last word in human affairs is represented by a man
 hanging on a cross?...the only answer...is a congregation of men and women who
 believe and live by it. Lesslie Newbigin, English missionary to India (1909-1998)

IMPORTANCE of Evangelists & Evangelism being Connected to LOCAL Church
 As Pastor SAD: People come to EVANGELIZE NO LOYALTY to Local Church
 Greatest PROOF they have to Show World TRUTH of Message is HOLY Church
 Collection of Men,Women,Boys,Girls – Not Perfect, but Pressing ON to Follow X

4. Trust of the Christian: *Jesus with us All Days*

v. 20 Jesus: “I am with you always, to the end of the age”

v. 20 Greek text literally says, “all the days, even to the consummation of the age”

Chapter 1 Matthew told us - “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and
 they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Matthew 1.23

One of FEW times in Gospel he uses the Word CHURCH, Jesus says...

“ where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” Matthew 18.20

Now, as Jesus is about to LEAVE, He tells us HE will be with us FOREVER!

NOT an EASY thing to BELIEVE – Gospel is HONEST about the STRUGGLE

v. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

Perhaps MORE Accurate Translation = HESITATED – Not SURPRISING

Honest, NORMAL Reaction > SHOCKING, Paralyzing, TAKES Breath AWAY

Jesus resurrection did not instantly transform men of little faith and faltering understanding into spiritual giants. Don Carson

Even Jews who DID believe in Resurrection of Dead – Not All did...

Expected a GENERAL Resurrection of ALL Faithful, Not just ONE GUY

LIKE when we Face SHOCKS // FAMILY Member DIES SUDDENLY

World Trade Center > CRASHES to the GROUND

EARTHQUAKE Levels a CITY > PRESIDENT is SHOT

FEAR is the NORMAL Response to GOD'S GREATNESS

And for *fear* of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "*Do not be afraid*, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen...So they departed quickly from the tomb with *fear* and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them...Jesus said to them, "*Do not be afraid*..." Matthew 28.4-10

EMPTY Tomb is FEARFUL FACT > Only as Understand MEANING Fears Quiet

WORLD – Gov't and Religion – Violent Hostility against JESUS TODAY

Many People AFRAID to Follow Jesus – Understandable! He is MIGHTY KING!

But as we Know Him – Grace, Love, Mercy – We can DARE to FOLLOW Him
 ONLY the WORDS of Jesus can CAST OUT our DOUBTS and FEARS

“...some doubted” whether because they mistrusted their senses, thought they might be seeing a ghost, or simply could not accept that the Messiah would be crucified, we are not told. But the transition had been made. Companions had become worshippers.
 Rose Dowsett

So Ends the First and Longest of the Gospels: Jesus will be With Us as we Go
 Very BIG Job – Disciple the Nations – have even BIGGER Jesus is our Strength
 Promise – Presence – Power – Provision of the RISEN LORD

The third millennium may bring us back to a situation reminiscent of the early church, where our mission will necessarily be from weakness, foolishness, and poverty.
 Charles Van Engen

So these 11 begin Journey back to Jerusalem – Still Traumatized, now Revitalized
 Lots of Questions – More than they could Comprehend – Sure He was WITH Them
 Still Follow Jesus their Friend AND Now WORSHIP Him as LORD and SAVIOR

He'd ALWAYS done Amazing Things – Now this Amazing is GOING GLOBAL
 No Idea HOW or WHEN the NATIONS would be DISCIPLED
 But they've DECIDED to FOLLOW this KING FOREVER

NOT TOLD Length of Time between this Commission and Final CONSUMATION
 But we ARE TOLD that, No Matter how LONG or HARD, He will be WITH US
 FINAL Chapters of Gospel still being Written as Disciples Added to His Church
 Starting THEN and CONTINUING to Right Here & Now – We PRESS ON!

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

Pressing On

Written by: Bob Dylan

Well I'm pressing on
 Yes, I'm pressing on
 Well I'm pressing on
 To the higher calling of my Lord

Many try to stop me, shake me up in my mind
 Say, “Prove to me that He is Lord, show me a sign”
 What kind of sign they need when it all come from within
 When what's lost has been found, what's to come has already been?

Well I'm pressing on
 Yes, I'm pressing on
 Well I'm pressing on
 To the higher calling of my Lord

Shake the dust off of your feet, don't look back
 Nothing now can hold you down, nothing that you lack
 Temptation's not an easy thing, Adam given the devil reign
 Because he sinned I got no choice, it run in my vein

Well I'm pressing on
 Yes, I'm pressing on
 Well I'm pressing on
 To the higher calling of my Lord

Copyright © 1980 by Special Rider Music