

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS FOR EVERYONE

By Terry Jones, March 30, 2008

Christ's Church at Tiffin, Ohio

Matthew 28:18-20

CENTRAL SERMON THEME – Jesus Christ has commissioned His church to make disciples of all nations.

INTRO. - Do you know what this is? (Can of Coke). Ninety-seven percent of the world has heard of the soft drink, Coke. Seventy-two percent of the world has seen a can of Coke. Fifty-one percent of the world has tasted a can of Coke. Coke has only been around a little over 100 years. More people in our world have heard about Coke than have heard about Jesus Christ. Should we give the task of telling the world about Jesus to Coke?

Source Unknown.

However, God gave the task of telling our world about Jesus Christ to His followers. God does not outsource His business. God is depending on us to give His message to people who do not know Christ. Furthermore the world is depending on us to hear the message of salvation. The commission Jesus gave His disciples almost 2,000 years ago is still relevant to us.

I. SUBMIT TO JESUS' AUTHORITY, V. 18

- A. Jesus' appearance to His disciples in Galilee is not a usual visit.
 - 1. Some of His followers doubted He had risen from the dead.
 - 2. Both believers and doubters fell down worshiping Him.
 - a. Jesus presents Himself to confirm the faith of the believers.
 - b. He stands before the group to persuade the doubters.
 - c. Applic. - The strongest argument for Jesus' resurrection is to stand with the doubters permitting them to see, touch, talk to Him, and hear Him speak.

- B. The crucified and risen Jesus informs His disciples of His authority.
 - 1. After His resurrection His Father gave Him all authority over everyone in Heaven and on earth.
 - 2. Because God created everyone He has power over everyone.
 - 3. Jesus establishes His authority before He issues His orders.

- C. The Bible establishes Jesus as the Lord and King.

1. Luke 1 - Gabriel foretold who Jesus would be. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.
2. Philippians 2 - Though He existed in the form of God, He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death. For this reason God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which above every name, which is Lord!
3. Illus. - Nate Saint was one of five missionaries killed by the Auca tribe in South America. He once said that his life did not change until he came to grips with this idea "obedience is not a momentary option . . . it is a die cast decision made beforehand." My confession is an oath that I will obey my new King.

D. Applic. - I encourage you to work through any resistance to Jesus as our authority. I have learned the hard way that Jesus is the supreme authority to follow.

II. MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE, V. 19

- A. On the basis that Jesus is Lord over Heaven and earth, He issues these orders to make disciples of all people.
 1. A disciple is a learner and follower.
 2. Jesus commands His disciples to disciple others.
 3. A disciple is a learner who believes in Jesus as the Christ and obeys His orders.

- B. His orders engulf the entire earth and all of time.
 1. "Make disciples of all the nations" is universal in scope.
 2. Since the Great Commission is worldwide, "Go therefore" precedes the command to make disciples.
 3. Our mission is to lead people to Christ in this community, support efforts in our community to minister Christ's love, support those in Ohio, the United States, and the world who present Christ.
 4. The disciples/apostles started their work on the Feast of Pentecost after Jesus' ascension to Heaven.
 - a. God poured out His Spirit on the Apostles who praised God in the languages of the feast attenders.
 - b. The crowd mocked them as being drunk.

- c. Peter declared from the prophecies of King David that Jesus died and arose.
 - d. Peter publicly declared God exalted Jesus to be Lord and Christ.
 - e. The audience cried in deep remorse - What shall we do?
 - f. Peter is making these listeners disciples.
 - g. Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit."
 - h. Repentance is surrendering our wills to God as Jesus prayed and obeyed, "Not my will but Your will be done."
5. We work for Christ until the end of time.

C. Baptize the disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- 1. A sign of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be baptized.
- 2. Under Jesus' authority we speak about baptism.
- 3. Illus. - A minister tried to explain the significance of baptism to a new convert as he prepared to baptize him in the ocean. He was gesturing as he talked and noticed his hand made a shadow on the ground. He said to the convert, "Do you see the shadow of my hand on the sand? Now this is just a shadow." Belief joins us to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Christ is the real thing. Baptism is the shadow of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- 4. Applic.
 - a. We accept the biblical order of baptism: being a learner or disciples in order to believe precedes our baptism.
 - b. According to Romans 6:4 baptism is a symbolic action of Jesus' burial and resurrection, therefore we immerse for baptism.
 - c. We do not add church membership to baptism which is not found in the Bible.

D. Our goal is to make disciples for Jesus Christ according to His orders.

III. TEACH DISCIPLES TO OBEY CHRIST, V. 20a

A. Teach them to obey all I have commanded you.

- 1. Baptism is not the end but the beginning.
- 2. After baptism we are instructed to obey all Jesus' commands.
- 3. Illus. – In Wayne Smith's book, *Love, Laughter, and Leadership*, he includes his favorite sermon. "Playing Hurt" He tells the story of Lou Gehrig, who played first base for the New York Yankees for 15 years. He played 2,130 games without missing one game.

When he retired they x-rayed his hands. Every finger had been broken once, some twice, and some three times! He played when hurt. God deserves faithfulness though we may be wounded.

B. What did Matthew's readers understand Jesus' commands were?

1. Sermon on the Mount
 - a. You shall not murder or be angry at anyone.
 - b. You shall be reconciled with your brother.
 - c. You shall not commit adultery or lust but be a one woman man.
 - d. You shall not divorce your spouse except for marital unfaithfulness.
 - e. You shall not make false vows but let your yes be yes and your no be no.
 - f. You shall not practice an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth but go the second mile.
 - g. You shall love your neighbor and your enemy.
 - h. Pray in private.
 - i. Do not fast and pray to be praised.
 - j. Store up treasures in Heaven.
 - k. Do not worry but trust in God.
 - l. Do not judge others without judging yourself first.
 - m. Treat others as you wish to be treated.
 - n. Hear and obey Christ's word to be wise.
2. "Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest."
3. For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
4. Be good soil for the Word of Christ to be planted.
5. Beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees - liberals and legalists.
6. Jesus is God's beloved Son, hear Him.
7. Become like children in your humility.
8. Forgive one another seventy times seven.
9. Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.
10. Be prepared for Jesus' return.
11. Remember Jesus' death.
12. Believe in the resurrection and commission.

C. Applic. - We want all of you to be mature in order that you will be an example to others and be faithful until your death or Jesus' return.

IV. REMEMBER JESUS' PRESENCE, V. 20b

- A. Illus. - A circus trapeze artist admitted the net underneath was there to keep them from breaking their necks. He also added, “The net also keeps us from falling. Imagine there is no net. We would be so nervous that we would be more likely to miss and fall. If there wasn’t a net, we would not dare to do some of the things we do. But because there’s a net, we dare to make two turns, and once three turns – thanks to the net!” Jesus is like a safety net when we witness to people.
- B. God's presence gives us courage in times of danger or crisis.
1. Ex. - When Esther bravely stood before the King of Persia to ask that the Jews not be killed, she knew God was with her.
 2. Ex. - Daniel was put into the lion's den because he prayed to God but he was brave because God was with him.
 3. Ex. - Jesus did not want to die on the cross but He prayed for God's will to be done. He endured the cross and arose from the dead.
- C. Applic. - Our Vision Statement requires courage from Jesus' presence.
1. A church of Christ-sharing believers who study and apply the Bible, selflessly serve, display a Godly love for families, friends and community, and provide the necessary resources to support the mission of the church.
 2. Joe Ellis in *The Church on Purpose* studied the rise and decline of American institutions. His studies led him to discover what made American institutions rise, develop, decline, and disappear. He concluded the decline and death of these institutions was because they had forsaken their original purpose.

CONCLUSION - I will illustrate Jesus' plan for the whole world to know and believe in Him with these pieces of candy.