

A Closer Look at the “Great Mission”

Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)



Hope to the Hopeless

The Guard at the Tomb

Matthew 27:62-66 (NIV)

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.

⁶³ “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’”

⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

Hope to the Hopeless

The Guard at the Tomb

Matthew 27:62-66 (NIV)

⁶⁵ “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.”

⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Jesus is Risen - Matthew 28:1-4 (NIV)

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Jesus is Risen – Matthew 28:5–8 (NIV)

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Remembering the Body of Jesus Christ

Romans 8:11 (AMP)

11 And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Remembering the Blood of Jesus Christ

Leviticus 17:11 (NLT)

¹¹ for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (AMPC)

²⁵ Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being (an individual personality); the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving Spirit [restoring the dead to life].

Definitions

Great

- of an extent, amount, or intensity considerably above the normal or average.

Mission

- an important assignment carried out for political, religious, or commercial purposes, typically involving travel.

Commission

- an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people.
- a group of people officially charged with a particular function.

The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

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.

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.”

An Overview

- The Great Commission is the “Great Mission” that was “commissioned” to the disciples.
- The Great Mission was initially Jesus’ mission and He entrusted it to the care of the disciples. Therefore, we are commissioners; collaborators (1 Corinthians 3:9).
- Disciples, therefore, do not have the liberty to change Jesus’ mission.
- Every disciple has the responsibility to work in Jesus’ vineyard.
- Any mission void of the “Great Mission”, must be revised.

An Overview

- Authority is received through commissioning.

Power is received through encounter. (An encounter is an unexpected or casual meeting with someone or something).

- The Great Commission must be fulfilled actively and purposefully.
- The message of the kingdom is what “makes a disciple of Jesus Christ”.
- The message of the great commission requires that disciples should be immersed into the understanding of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

An Overview

- Obedience is mandatory.
- Teaching is mandatory.
- Jesus Christ is only obligated to back us (disciples) when we follow the terms and conditions of the “Great Mission” that was “commissioned”.

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What does it mean to “win souls”?

- Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV)

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise” .

- This is a scripture often quoted in the context of evangelism to indicate that wise followers of Christ ought to win souls.

The word “win” in the Hebrew language, is the word “laqach” which means [but not limited to] the following:

“to take; take in the hand; to take and carry along; to take from; take out of; take; carry away; take away; to take up or upon; put upon.”

Proverbs 11:30 cont'd

- Therefore, to “win” in this context
 - is not a one-time event, rather, an ongoing process.
 - it is not a one-way agreement, it is mutual.

The Key!!!

We take the person “in the hand”, “upon us” and “carry along” with us until they attain a certain level of maturity and can do likewise.

EXAMINE YOUR WINNING STRATEGIES!!!

Other translations of Proverbs 11:30

New Century Version

“A good person gives life to others; the wise person teaches others how to live”.

Expanded Bible

“A good person gives life to others [The fruit of the righteous is the tree of life]; the wise person teaches others how to live [gathers lives/souls]”.

Common English Bible

“Live right, and you will eat from the life-giving tree. And if you act wisely, others will follow”.

Conclusion

The fruits of our lives as disciples are very important and does serve as indicators of whether a person will be willing to come along with us or not.

- **1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (New International Version)**

⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

Every godly contribution made in a person's life yields fruits. We might be privileged to begin the discipleship journey, and someone else may continue the process.

- However, we should not act passively on any opportunity that presents itself because many people are in need to be discipled.

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