

## ***The King's Mission***

*Matthew 28:16-20* - NCBC, December 5, 2021

Main Point: **When Jesus is your King you live to make disciples.**

- Making disciples begins with your own Adoration of King Jesus (16-17)
- Making disciples relies on the Authority of King Jesus (18)
- Making disciples is your Assignment from King Jesus (19-20a)

To reproduce followers of Jesus who live to help others follow Jesus

- By Going: intentionally living “on the move”
- By Baptizing: evangelism resulting in a public identification with Jesus & His church
- By Teaching: training for obedient action
- Making disciples finds Assurance in the presence of King Jesus (20b)

Application: **Intentionally live to help others follow Jesus by His power and presence.**

## **Opening Announcements:**

- ***How to Worship Jesus Christ* by Joseph Carroll.**  
This is an excellent study of worship, which is so fitting for this advent season. Complimentary copies available in our Resource Center this month for you.

<<Joy to the World>>



Joy to the world – our Savior Reigns! His love is indeed wonderful, for His love compels us to grow deeper and reach farther together for His glory.<sup>1</sup>


Please open your Bible to the last paragraph in **Matthew 28**. In a few moments we will stand and read **Matthew 28, verses 16-20**, and you'll benefit from having the Scripture open in front of you throughout today's message.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:14



So if you didn't bring a Bible with you today, simply raise your hand so we can give you one. These Bibles are our gift for you to use every day, or you can also return them to the back at the conclusion of our service.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW				
1-3 Presentation of the King				
<b>4-7</b> Proclamation of the King <i>Sermon on the Mount (5-7)</i>	<b>8-10</b> Power of the King <i>Sending out the 12 Apostles (10)</i>	<b>11-13</b> Rejection of the King <i>Kingdom Parables (13)</i>	<b>14-20</b> Priorities of the King <i>Topsy-Turvy Values (18)</i>	<b>21-25</b> Progress of the King <i>Olivet Discourse (24-25)</i>
Kingdom offered to Israel			Kingdom offered to all Nations	
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

Today we conclude our 3-year study of the Gospel of Matthew where we behold Jesus as King in fulfillment of all of the Old Testament Scriptures.

If you've been with us through this study, you already know that Matthew arranges his gospel in a very careful fashion.

<sup>2</sup> The Pentateuch, or 5 books, consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These five books of Moses were the

The first three chapters present Jesus as the Messianic King in fulfillment of God's promises made to Abraham and David. In fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus is conceived by a virgin, born in the city of Israel's greatest king, worshipped by Gentiles, and given the name Immanuel, which means "God with us."

Then the body of Matthew's gospel is topically arranged into five main sections. Each section begins with what Jesus does and ends with what Jesus says. In this way Matthew highlights the supremacy of Jesus' authority over the Jewish religious traditions. Jesus works and words are the fulfillment of Moses and his five books of teaching.<sup>2</sup> These five sections repeatedly emphasize that Jesus has authority not only on earth... over all nature and disease and demons, but He also has authority in heaven. For Jesus exercises authority to forgive sins and resurrect the dead!

Interestingly, **Matthew** also emphasizes that Gentiles were the most receptive to Jesus. The Jewish people – including Jesus' own disciples – are often a picture of doubt and unbelief, while those outside of God's covenant family most often believe that Jesus is God.

So through **chapter 12** Jesus offers His kingdom to Israel until He is ultimately rejected, and then from **chapter 13** on Jesus offers His kingdom to all people groups – whoever will turn from their sin and believe that Jesus is their ruling King.

Finally **chapters 26-28** conclude Matthew's gospel by describing how Jesus willingly gave His own life as a

foundational Scriptures for the Jewish religion, and considered to be the most significant part of the Torah by many of the Jewish leaders at the time.

sacrifice for sinners. His death wasn't a failure. No... Jesus willingly fulfilled God's rescue plan for sinners by dying as God's Passover Lamb, and by rising from the dead after 3 days to prove for all time that He is God. Behold, Jesus is our Savior and resurrected King!

Now Matthew's conclusion reveals the "so what" implications of Jesus as King. In many ways, all of Matthew's gospel has been building up to this specific command and promise.



So please stand with humble hearts, as I read from **Matthew 28, verse 16** in the English Standard Version. I'll start reading in **verse 16** which says,

*<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have*

*commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

This is the reading of God's Word. You may be seated.

### Let's pray.

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Let's begin today with some honest reflection: Ask yourself, what am I living for? What is the ruling purpose of my life?

If someone were to objectively look at your finances, what would they conclude you were living for?

Jesus taught that our money trail always leads to what we most value.<sup>3</sup> So does your money trail lead to your own pleasure, or your own fame, or your own family, or do your finances prove you are joyfully living to advance God's glory? Are you living for this world, or the next? Are you investing more in fleeting pleasures, or eternal pleasures?

Or think about your time management. When you consider your calendar and normal routine, what are you living for? What is the ruling purpose of your life?

Someone might say, "Well right now, all I do is work or go to school, eat, and sleep when I can!" But think a bit more carefully: Where do you most joyfully give your time, even at some cost to other competing priorities? When you have a choice on how to spend your time (or your money), how do you find yourself spending it?

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 6:19-21

Scripture teaches that we live how we live because we want what we want, and we want what we want because we worship who we worship.<sup>4</sup> Our words and our behaviors are produced by our thoughts and desires. And our beliefs and desires are driven most fundamentally by where we find our greatest joy and satisfaction.

So ask yourself honestly, what am I living for right now in this present season of my life? Where am I currently pursuing my greatest joy and satisfaction?

This week I was very convicted by this question. I confess that I often end up using Jesus as a means to my own selfish goals. I approach Jesus as a consumer, like He exists for me. And when I live like this, I'm just sinfully using Jesus and His grace to help me in my pursuit of satisfaction outside of Him in some way.

But **Matthew 28** awakens us from our self-centered fog, reminding us that Jesus now lives as our King! Although it is true that Jesus indeed serves us,<sup>5</sup> He is not merely our suffering servant. Jesus rose from the dead to live forever as our Lord and King! Jesus not only serves us, but also demands that we serve Him as well!

Therefore when Jesus is your King, the entire purpose of your life is reordered by His authority, His commands, His provision, and His presence with you. Once you acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus in your life, the ruling purpose of life necessarily shifts to advancing His glory, and your greatest satisfaction now comes from knowing Him, and being known by Him.

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<sup>4</sup> James 4:1-10; Matthew 15:18-19

<sup>5</sup> I.e. Matthew 20:28; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; etc.

<sup>6</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:15

Church, we all need this reminder, don't we? Jesus didn't save us so that we could keep living for ourselves.<sup>6</sup> Jesus redeemed a people to Himself for the sake of His Name!<sup>7</sup>

This is why Christians live for His glory.<sup>8</sup> Because there's no greater satisfaction possible for the human soul than the glory of God.

So today our attention is on **Matthew 28** which focuses on our witness as a necessary means to God's glory.

And here's the main point of this Scripture:



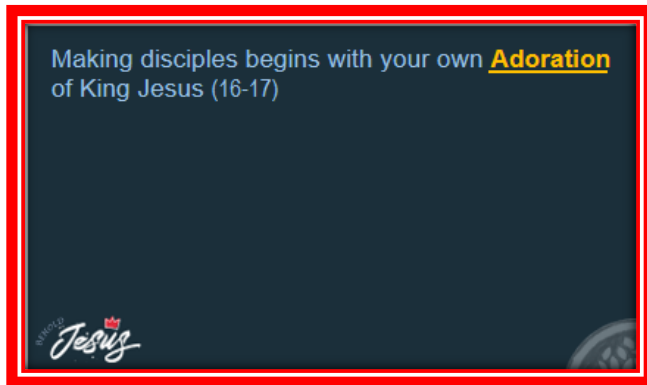
**When Jesus is your King you live to make disciples.**

Once you recognize that Jesus possesses all authority and power over you as your King, you will necessarily reorder your finances and your time and your relationships and your entire life for the purpose of making disciples.

<sup>7</sup> C.f. Ezekiel 20:9, 14, 22, 44; 36:22-32

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11

So let's begin by first recognizing that,



Making disciples begins with your own Adoration of King Jesus.

**Verse 16** provides the setting for our King's marching orders for us. After Jesus rose from the dead in Jerusalem, he appeared to His disciples several different times.<sup>9</sup> Repeatedly He reminded the disciples that He wanted to meet them back at a designated mountain in Galilee.<sup>10</sup>

Now I'm not entirely sure why Jesus wanted to give His disciples their marching orders in Galilee. It's interesting that sometime in those 40 days<sup>11</sup> between His resurrection near Jerusalem and His ascension near Jerusalem... He desired to meet all His disciples back in the Galilee of the Gentiles,<sup>12</sup> where most of His earthly

ministry was done, far from the religious hypocrisy of Jerusalem.<sup>13</sup>

It is very likely that this Galilean mountain-top meeting included more than just the 11 disciples, even though Matthew only mentions the eleven here. After all, the angel outside of Jesus' tomb told the women to meet Jesus in Galilee,<sup>14</sup> and most of Jesus' followers lived in Galilee. So this gathering may actually be where 500 disciples all saw the resurrected Jesus at the same time accordingly to **1 Corinthians 15, verse 6**.

But notice what happened when these disciples saw the resurrected Jesus in **verse 17**: *They worshipped Him*.

And Jesus received their worship! Because Jesus is truly God! Loved ones... behold King Jesus, and worship Him! He is God of very gods... He is Lord of lords, He is King of kings. Come let us adore Him!!

Making disciples always begins with your own adoration of King Jesus.

But did you notice the end of **verse 17**?

*Some doubted.* Literally the word conveys the idea of being double-minded. Some experienced an internal tug-of-war... is Jesus truly God? I want to believe, but my faith is weak. Some of us can relate, can't we?

<sup>9</sup> John 20:11-18 and Mark 16:9-11; Matthew 28:9-10; Luke 24:13-32, Mark 16:12-13, and 1 Corinthians 15:5a; Luke 24:36-43, Mark 16:14, and John 20:19-25; John 20:26-31 and 1 Corinthians 15:5b; John 21:1-25

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 26:32, 28:7, 10; Mark 16:7

<sup>11</sup> Acts 1:3

<sup>12</sup> Matthew 4:15-16

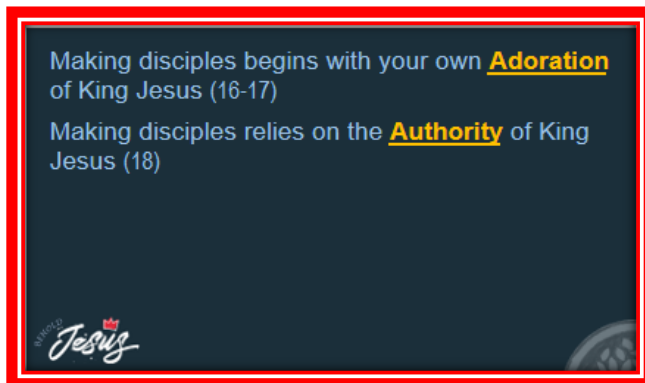
<sup>13</sup> John MacArthur's commentary provides an insightful accounting of the chronology of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances, concluding that this appearance on the Galilean mountainside would have had to occur sometime between 20-35 days after His resurrection.

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 28:7

So come all you unfaithful.<sup>15</sup> Come all you unstable. Jesus doesn't build His church with the most powerful or wise.<sup>16</sup> No, Jesus reveals Himself to weak people, confused people, broken people like me and like you whose faith is far from perfect...and notice how He responds to our doubts... He speaks!

Loved ones... when your faith is weak ... open God's Word. None of our worship is perfect. All of us are plagued by doubts at times ...but behold Jesus as King! Hear His Words and Adore Him.

After all, **verse 18** makes it clear that,



Making disciples relies on the Authority of King Jesus, not on the quality of my own worship or faith. The solution for my doubt, and the foundation of my witness is the power of my King.

Listen friends, King Jesus possesses all authority – that means He has all power, and He has the right to exercise that power to accomplish whatever He deems best.

Circle that little word, “all” in **verse 18**. There is no power in heaven or on earth that is greater than Jesus. There is no disease, no demon, no natural disaster, no death that is stronger than Jesus. There is no human power, no policy, no politician, no pride that can withstand the authority of Jesus. There is no sin that is too great for Jesus to forgive. There is no past too dark for Jesus to redeem. Jesus possesses all power over everything...everywhere...and He has the absolute right and prerogative to exercise His power however He pleases whenever He pleases. Jesus is King over all!

Now, just pause. Allow yourself time to process this. Your Savior is King! Our Passover Lamb is the most powerful One!

And notice, our marching orders to “go *therefore*, and make disciples” is rooted and grounded in His sovereign authority!

So listen: Living to make disciples would be doomed to failure apart from the authority of Jesus. Because no person can convert another soul. Nobody can cause someone else to follow Jesus. None of us can grant repentance or create a spiritual desire within others.

But Jesus can. He possesses all authority. So our mission relies on who He is, and what He says, not who we are, and what we can do.

Making disciples begins with your own Adoration of King Jesus, and then relies on His Authority while accepting that,

<sup>15</sup> If you are wrestling with doubt or unbelief, I highly recommend listening to the new Christmas carol, “O Come, All You Unfaithful” by Sovereign

Grace Music - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-QHbpYjuIg>

<sup>16</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:26-31



Making disciples begins with your own Adoration of King Jesus (16-17)

Making disciples relies on the Authority of King Jesus (18)

Making disciples is your Assignment from King Jesus (19-20a)



Making disciples is your Assignment from King Jesus.

After clearly establishing His authority, Jesus tells all His followers,

*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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

Because Jesus is your all-powerful King, you should now live to make disciples. This is not just a command for apostles or missionaries. This is the assignment for every Christ-follower. Everyone who adores Jesus as King, and acknowledges His authority, should therefore live to make disciples.

That's the main verb in the command. *Make disciples.*

Now let's make sure we understand what this means:

A disciple is a learner, or a follower. A disciple is a person whose life revolves around his master. So when

Jesus commands every one of His disciples to go and make disciples,

Making disciples is your Assignment from King Jesus (19-20a)

*Making Disciples:*  
To reproduce followers  
of Jesus who live to help  
others follow Jesus



He's commanding us to reproduce followers of Jesus who live to help others follow Jesus. The great commission and great promise at the end of **Matthew 28** is the reproduction strategy for Jesus' church.

The glory of God advances every time a Christ-follower reproduces. And this happens every time a disciple causes anyone – no matter who they are or what they have done—to become a disciple who then seeks to cause others to become disciples of King Jesus.

So brothers and sisters, our all-powerful King has assigned you to exponential spiritual reproduction.

Is this assignment properly reflected in your life's priorities? Or have you, like me, allowed other "civilian affairs" to distract you from our King's marching orders?<sup>17</sup>

Pastor Tysin shared a story with me this week about a seminary professor who once assigned everyone in his

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<sup>17</sup> 2 Timothy 2:4  
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class to convert three souls over the course of the semester.

As you might expect, the students immediately protested this assignment, saying that they didn't possess the ability to convert souls. Only God could change a heart, and grant repentance and faith! So how could the professor give them such an impossible assignment that was so far out of their own power and ability to complete?

To which the professor simply replied, "Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, but whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully."<sup>18</sup>

Ouch. I'm convicted by this story. Because Jesus clearly knows that salvation is God's work.<sup>19</sup> Jesus clearly understands that sanctification is God's work.<sup>20</sup> That's why He begins with the reminder in **verse 18** that He possesses all authority.

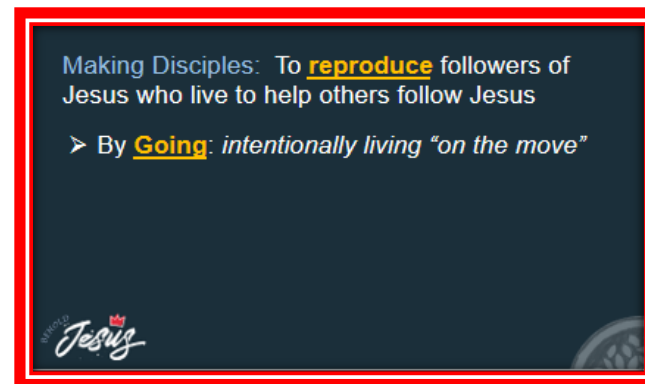
But **verse 18** doesn't keep Jesus from assigning each of us with the humanly impossible task of making disciples. No... in fact **verse 18** empowers the command of **verse 19**. For when the King gives you an assignment, He gives you the power to complete this assignment as well.

So then, ask yourself honestly, what are you living for? Have you taken the King's assignment for your life seriously?

Now if we are going to please our King in this way, we need to understand that Jesus assigns us to something bigger than evangelism. Making disciples is greater than

converting souls. Making disciples includes going, baptizing, and teaching according to the grammar of **verses 19-20**. These three participles all modify the main verb, to make disciples, and therefore explain what Jesus is commanding us to do.

So let's quickly walk through each of these participles to make sure we have a biblical understanding of what it truly means to make a disciple.



First we reproduce followers of Jesus who live to help others follow Jesus By Going.

Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations...

Now this doesn't mean you have to move to an African hut, or travel across a large body of water to obey Jesus. Remember, this command was originally given in Galilee. The fact that we are assembled for worship here in central IL today is a testimony to the fact that Christ's disciples have fulfilled this assignment in the past.

<sup>18</sup> 2 Corinthians 9:6

<sup>19</sup> John 6:44, 63; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 1:18

<sup>20</sup> Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:21



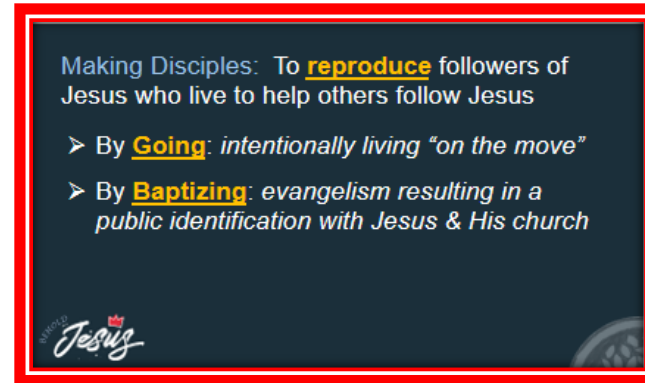
Going simply refers to living intentionally. **Intentionally living “on the move”**. Living with purpose, aimed at reproducing faith and obedience among “all nations.”

Now... nations may not be the best translation here. The root word is actually the word “ethnos” meaning “people groups.” The focus is more on people, than on nations. Here at the end of **Matthew**, Jesus is obligating His people to intentionally live to reproduce followers of Him among all people everywhere.

So here’s our question today: How am I ordering my life’s priorities, calendar, finances, and relationships in order to intentionally move towards all kinds of unbelievers... with the intention of seeing them become obedient followers of Jesus all by His power and grace alone?

The church is not a museum... it’s a movement of people who are living intentionally together for the glory of Christ!

So how do you make a disciple? First, by intentionally living to proclaim Jesus to everyone who is around you – no matter who they are or how different they may be from us.



**Second, By Baptizing.**

*Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Notice by the way, one name, and three persons. One God revealed to us in three persons of Father, Son, and Spirit.

Here baptism represents the initial result of disciple-making. Note carefully that water baptism is not the means, but the result of making a Christ-follower. In other words, making disciples involves **evangelism that results in a public identification with Jesus & His church through water baptism.**

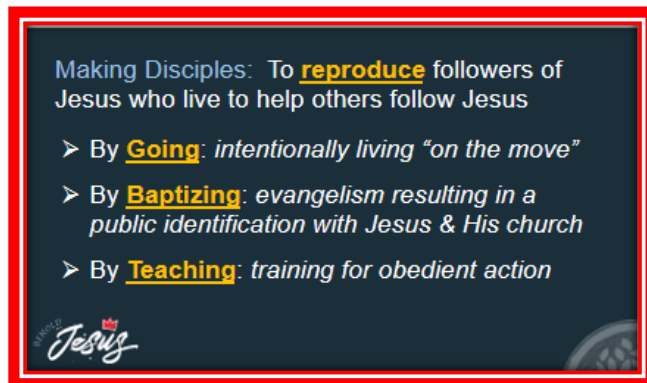
Water baptism does not save anyone or make anyone a follower of Jesus. But everyone who believes in Jesus for their salvation is commanded to demonstrate their faith in Christ through believer’s baptism. Jesus intends for baptism to be the initial way a disciple of Christ makes their new identity public.

Water Baptism publicly identifies the disciple with Jesus’

death and resurrection, and also publicly identifies the disciple with Jesus' church.

After all, baptism is inherently public. You can't baptize yourself in your bathtub. It's something the church does together, initiating new followers into their new identity in Christ and as a part of His church.

So Jesus has assigned you to intentionally live to baptize those you have brought to faith by His authority. But notice that surprisingly, the making of a disciple is not complete once they become baptized and identify with Jesus' church.



The third part of making a disciple is by Teaching, or training for obedient action.

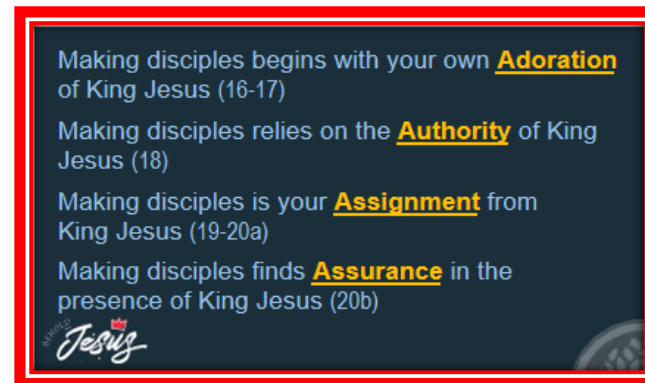
*Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

Notice how comprehensive this is. "All" that Jesus has commanded, we are responsible to teach and train to those who are baptized... so that they may learn to live obedient lives to our King... necessarily obeying even this great commission for the rest of their earthly life.

This is our assignment, church. Every Christian individually has received this same assignment. No matter your abilities, your giftings, or your doubts. If you are a follower of Jesus...if you are submitted to Jesus as King, then His authority compels you to reproduce followers of Jesus who live to help others follow Jesus, all by intentionally living to witness to all kinds of unbelievers, so that your proclamation of God's gospel will result in their saving faith which will result in you being able to baptize them, so that you can spend the rest of your life training them for obedience to our King's commands.

Now, if you ever take your eyes off King Jesus, you will be overwhelmed with this assignment. So notice what Jesus says next,

*And behold...look at this! ... I am with you always, to the end of the age.*



Making disciples finds Assurance in the presence of King Jesus.

No human being could ever accomplish this supernatural assignment... but Jesus is with you! Always. He

promised to never leave you.<sup>21</sup> The Spirit of Christ Himself dwells within you.

King Jesus – the One who has all authority and power both on earth and in heaven... He is with You, dear child.

O what blessed assurance this brings to our assignment. What eager adventure, what glorious privilege, what delightful vocation... to live as a disciple-maker for our King!

Loved ones,



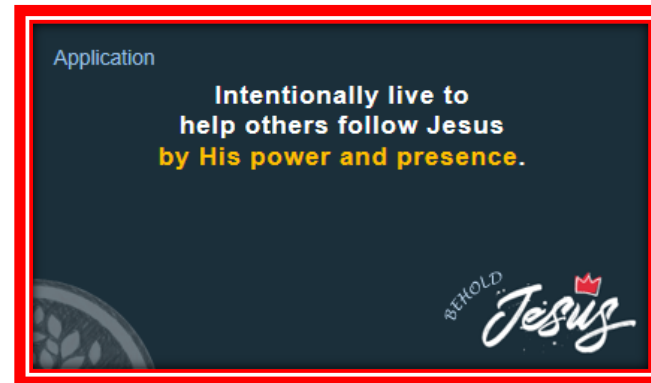
When Jesus is your King you will live to make disciples.

After all, you adore no one more than Jesus. The all-powerful King has commanded you to do so. You can't ignore this all-important assignment, and Jesus Himself has promised to be with you.

For even as we recall **chapter 1 of Matthew**, Jesus is Immanuel... God with us.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5  
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So then, we must reorient our life's purpose today to,



Intentionally live to help others follow Jesus by His power and presence.

Every Christian alive today has been given this assignment. But sadly, most Christians rationalize or excuse themselves out of obedience to this command.

O church... may we be encouraged by the authority of our King. May we be encouraged by the presence of our King. And may we live to make disciples the way God has designed for His church to reproduce.

Some of you are exemplary in how you intentionally live as a disciple-maker. If this is you, our church is so thankful for your example. Please don't stop encouraging us to join you in this mission.

Some of you are convicted today, and you know God is calling you to reprioritize your life this week so you can fulfill His purpose for your life. If that is you, just take a

<sup>22</sup> Matthew 1:23

moment now, and identify the excuses that have constipated your joyful obedience to this command.

Are you afraid? Bathe your mind in the exceeding great promises of **verses 18 and 20**. Are you distracted? Remind yourself of the shortness of this life, and the length of eternity. Do not be ignorant of Satan's strategies... he is content to use "moral things" to distract us from what God would have us to be and do.

You must identify your false thinking or your excuses if you are to overcome them with greater faith in Jesus' power and presence. Don't fall short of God's glory by settling into justified disobedience. Pray for God's grace, and ask other brothers or sisters to walk alongside you as you submit yourself entirely to Jesus' Lordship.

And then finally, some of you are unmoved by this great command of our King. You are leaving today with no greater conviction for disciple-making than when you came in. You see no reason that your life should reflect this priority at all. And if that is you, dear friend, I must ask you gently to consider whether or not you truly know King Jesus at all.

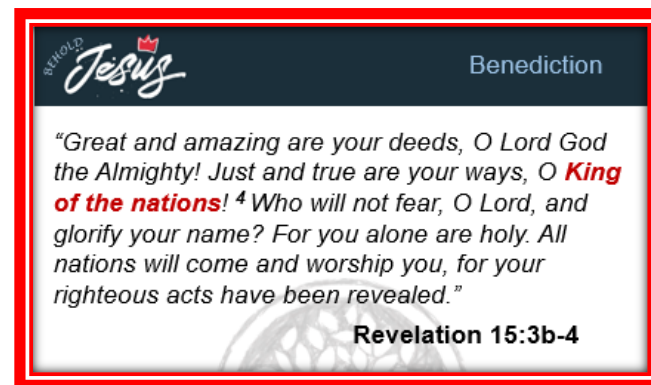
Because this text makes it very clear, that when Jesus is your King, you will live to make disciples.



Let's pray.

<<Facing a Task Unfinished>>

Let's pray our benediction together:



*Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.*  
**Revelation 15:3b-4**

### **Recommended Resources on The King's Mission:**

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Luke 2:29-32; 4:25-27
- Mark 16:15-16
- Luke 24:45-48
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 15:8-9
- 2 Corinthians 4:15; 5:18-20
- Galatians 3:8, 13-14
- 2 Timothy 2:4
- *Replicate*, Gallaty & Swain
- *For the Sake of His Name*, Duran

### **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Read Matthew 4:19. If someone assigned you to “go convert a soul” how would you respond? Has Jesus made you a “fisher of people”? Why or why not?
2. Read 2 Timothy 2:4. What excuses do you most commonly use to justify your disobedience to Jesus’ command in Matthew 28:19-20? How does the authority of Jesus and the presence of Jesus overcome these excuses?
3. Review Matthew 28:17. How do you worship Jesus? When you find yourself doubting Jesus, how do you respond?
4. How does the Great Commission of 28:19–20 compare or contrast with the call of Abraham in Genesis 12:1–3?
5. What is one practical step you could take this week to live intentionally to reproduce Christ-followers? How could we encourage one another with gospel-centered accountability to pursue the right priorities with our living? How could we encourage one another with the glories of Jesus’ authority and presence?