

MOVING FORWARD IN GOD'S MISSION

Matthew 28:16-20

The mission of the Church addresses the eternal destiny of every man and woman in this world. In fact, the mission of the Church of Christ calls us to be engaged in the greatest movement in history - the ingathering of the redeemed people of God from all nations, peoples, tribes and tongues until the full number of God's people is saved. This mission of the Church is anchored upon the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the glory of God, in obedience to Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we strive together to fulfill this mission: *We are a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church which Proclaims God's Word, Equips God's People and Witnesses to the Lost.* Reflecting on Matthew 28:16-20, let's consider three ways on how we could move forward in fulfilling God's mission for our church.

1. *We must worship the _____ Christ.*

Before the disciples of Christ were commissioned to go and carry out their gospel mission, they first prostrated themselves before their risen Lord in humble worship (Matt. 28:16-17). They worshipped Jesus as the resurrected and reigning Christ who declares that "*all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him*" (Matt. 28:18; Phil. 2:8-11). As Christians saved by the grace and mercy of Jesus, we should gladly worship Jesus and joyfully submit to the Lordship of Jesus. As our Lord, our lives belong to Jesus and every spheres and details of our life are directed by Him. Jesus deserves our utmost worship and supreme allegiance. The chief end and ultimate goal of the Great Commission is the universal worship of King Jesus.

2. *We must obey the _____ of Christ.*

Jesus' Great Commission also specifies the mission strategy of our Lord: "*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*" (Matt. 28:19-20). This Great Commission has four components. First, Jesus commissions us to make disciples. This is the main and central command of our Lord. A disciple is someone who trusts in Christ alone for salvation and follows Jesus in lifelong learning, obedience, self-denial and submission (John 6:40; Rom. 10:9; Matt. 16:24; 11:29; John 8:31). Every disciple is a disciple-maker. We are all tasked by our Lord to help others know, trust, follow, love and obey Jesus. Hence, we need to go and reach out to unbelieving people. Going is the second component of the Great Commission. We are called to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations or to all people groups around the world. Baptizing Jesus' disciples in the name of the Triune God is the third component of the Great Commission. Through baptism, a believer identifies himself with Christ and the body of Christ. Finally, teaching disciples to obey everything Jesus commands is the fourth component of the Great Commission. The goal of our teaching is not merely the transfer of biblical information, but lifelong obedience to Christ.

3. *We must depend on the _____ of Christ.*
As a church, we will be able to fulfill our mission as we are empowered by the personal and perpetual presence of Christ (Matt. 28:20; Psalm 46:1; Isa. 41:10; Heb. 13:5). Our Lord promises His abiding presence as we obey His command to make disciples of all nations.

ICOP PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE (JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 20)

Once a week or once every few weeks from January 12 – February 20, instead of eating breakfast, lunch, or dinner, spend that hour praying and reading God's Word. Devote that sacred time praying about these following concerns:

1. How will I prioritize worshipping our Lord and feeding on His Word?

- a. What time of the day must I devote in worshipping God and meditating on His Word?
- b. How will I read God's Word?
You might start with a plan to read a chapter a day, or you could consider using an intentional Bible reading plan that covers all of Scripture over a certain period of time.
- c. What day of the week must I set aside for family devotion and prayer?
- d. By God's enabling grace, honor your commitment to worship the Lord every Sunday.

2. How will I obey the Great Commission of our Lord to make disciples?

- a. Who are the people that I must pray for and share the gospel of Christ with?
Take some time to write down the names of three, five, or twelve unbelievers God has placed in your life. Then begin praying specifically for God, through the power of His Spirit, to draw them to His salvation and to use you to share the gospel with them.
- b. How will I share the gospel of Christ to these people?
Think through and pray about how, in the context of where you live, work, and study, you can begin to speak intentionally about God's character, man's sin, Christ's provision, and our need to respond to that provision. Identify how you might most effectively share the gospel with the people you identified above.
- c. When will I share the gospel to these people?
It's wise to consider when you will actively share Christ's love by creating opportunities to tell people about Jesus. As you think about the people you identified above, consider when you might intentionally share the gospel with them (i.e., over a meal, during an activity together, after inviting them to our worship gathering).
- d. How will I pray for the nations?
Pray passionately for God's kingdom to come and will to be done across the earth. Plan to deliberately focus your praying generally on the nations and specifically on the unreached people groups of the world. (Use the prayer guide from joshuaproject.net)
- e. Who will I disciple and help follow Christ and be established in faith?
Consider one, two or three people God has put in your sphere of influence whom you can disciple. Then invite those few people to spend intentional time with you in the days ahead for the express purpose of growing in Christ together.