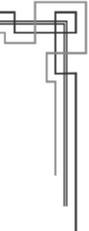

The Disciples: When The World Pushes Back



Matthew 28:16–20

^[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." (ESV)

1. Stay focused. Remember our mission and don't get distracted.

Matthew 24:14. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (ESV)

Mark 16:15. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (ESV)

Luke 24:47. "...and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in [Jesus'] name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (ESV)

John 20:21. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (ESV)

Acts 1:8. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)

2. Stay hopeful. Remember God's promises and don't get discouraged.

1 Peter 4:1-2a. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings." (ESV)

John 15:18. "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you." (ESV)

Luke 6:22. "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!" (ESV)

3. Stay united. Remember our bonds and don't get divided.

Ephesians 4:1-6. "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (ESV)

Matthew 16:18. "...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (ESV)



The Disciples: When the World Pushes Back

February 14, 2021



Open: What experiences have you had with missions?

Read & Discuss: *Matthew 28:16-20*

1. Verse 17 reports that the disciples worshipped Jesus, "but some doubted." Why might they have doubts even after all they had witnessed? What do you do with the doubts you experience? Do you think talking about these doubts is helpful or harmful to Christian fellowship? Why?
2. In verse 18, Jesus says that "all authority in heaven and on earth" had been given to him. Why is it helpful to recognize that Jesus has "all" authority in both *heaven* and on *earth*? How is the authority of Jesus relevant to the command that follows in verses 19-20?
3. What things does Jesus authoritatively instruct the disciples to do (vv. 19-20)? Why might Jesus' commands here appropriately be called "The Great Commission"? How might the disciples present have felt when given this task? How do you feel when you think about this task?
4. There is some debate about whether this commission was given to individuals or to churches. How would you respond to this question? How has your life been connected to this directive from Jesus? What are some other ways our lives can be connected to this cause?
5. How might the present pandemic interfere with our pursuit of "making disciples of all nations"? What are some ways we might leverage our present circumstances for this pursuit?
6. In the end of verse 20, Jesus promises His faithful presence in this task through to "the end of the age." Why would Jesus need to give such a promise to His followers? How do we experience Jesus' presence in this endeavor that He gives us?
7. Outside of issues related to the pandemic, what are some factors that keep us from greater devotion and faithfulness to the Great Commission? What do you see in this passage that might encourage you in overcoming these factors?

Pray: Ask God to work in our church family so that we keep this Great Commission continually before ourselves. Pray that we would not lose focus and not lose heart as we seek to make disciples, both here at home and among all the nations.

Matthew 28:16–20

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