

THE GREAT COMMISSION

CMBC September 8, 2013

Matthew 28:16 – 20

Transition times are a normal part of life, when you move from one chapter in your life to another. The chapters are connected, but there is an important change.

One of life's biggest transitions comes with marriage. Ruth and I just celebrated our 49th wedding anniversary. 49 years ago we were single but on that September 4th our lives changed.

There is no greater transition than between our first reading of Scripture this morning and the second reading.

- The first was the story of Jesus and why he came to this earth. His purpose was to make a way to God by dying for the sins of the world.
It comes to completion at his resurrection.
This was a huge, costly act of God. Jesus had provided a way for mankind to be right with God.
- The second Scripture reading now gave the responsibility to Jesus' disciples to tell the world, to make it possible for generation after generation, for thousands of years know about this great act of God on mankind's behalf.

This is a great transition

1. THE GREAT TRANSITION

And it is here on the Galilean mountain that the disciples begin to understand this great transition.

- a. They worshipped him
 - i. They had known Jesus, as one of their people from Nazareth.
 - They respected him for caring, his leadership and teaching
 - They were awed by his power to heal and cast out demons.
 - They were impressed with his deep relationship with God.
 - ii. But on this day, when they met him there, they worshipped him
 - There was something new that they saw in him
 - The awe of the divine was now clearly evident
 - iii. The same had happened earlier to the women
 - iv. This was a change for them
- b. His complete authority

He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto me."

 - i. This was authority over sin, over death, over all evil powers, over the greatest powers of mankind

- ii. Authority over you, and to command and commission you to establish the church, the kingdom of God, to go make disciples
- c. So He commissioned them
 - i. "Go!"
 - ii. His great work of salvation, of redeeming mankind has been accomplished
 - iii. Now you tell the rest of the world
 - iv. Make disciples

2. THE AWESOMENESS OF JESUS MISSION

- Never had there been a commission like this.
- Never had the God of the universe been as clear in his statement of responsibility and privilege to his followers.

a. Baptizing "Into" My Name

- i. **Baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**
- ii. English word "in" doesn't have the power of the original word here.
 - Some translations use a better word "into"
 - **Baptising them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**
- iii. **ILL.** If you were baptised in the name of the Berg family, you would probably take on the name, have a new relationship with us.
But to be baptised into the name of the Berg family, you would now be a part of the family, a new DNA, a deep relationship
- iv. That is what Jesus is calling his disciples to do, bringing people into a new creation, a changed heart and character. Part of the family of God.

b. **Teaching them to observe**

- i. Tell them what you have heard
 - What you have seen
 - What you have experienced
- ii. Tell them how you are changed

c. Disciple the nations

- i. We go back to the first words of the commission "**make disciples of all the nations**"
- ii. What happens in the nations without Christ?
 - They kill each other
 - Homes are torn apart
 - Children are abused
 - There is quarrelling and fighting and hopelessness

- iii. Jesus says “GO”
- iv. You know that “go’ is not the verb in this commission sentence. “make disciples” is the verb
 - The sentence should read, “As you are going make disciples of all nations”
 - This isn’t an add on to your agenda and schedule
 - This is how you live
- v. This is just part of your character – this is the characteristic of God’s family members
 - You disciple when you live the example of a follower of Jesus
 - You disciple as you love those without Christ
 - You disciple by telling them about the great love and work of Jesus
 - You disciple by a passion to see people come into the family
- vi. It does involve discipling one person at a time.

3. IN ABBOTSFORD 2013

- a. In the church
 - i. This church has done a lot in making disciples
 - We could tell great stories
 - ii. Love the new comer – who doesn’t look like us, live like us because they don’t know Jesus, they haven’t been disciple yet
 - ILL. The man with the hat in church
 - iii. We care for each other
 - iv. Your unsaved children need to see that here is a place where you love and care for the people
 - v. So much is about me – about us
- b. In the community
 - i. AWANA – we want children
 - ii. MY HOPE
 - iii. Punjabi
- c. In the world
 - i. Earnest prayer for missionaries and indigenous church leaders
 - ii. Support and encouragement
 - iii. Some of us can go

4. THE PROMISE “I AM WITH YOU”

- a. Here is Jesus’ promise, “And lo, (be sure of this), i am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- b. G. Campbell Morgan stated this promise to a bed ridden saint. She responded, "This is not a promise. That is a fact."
- c. There is no saying, "I can't."
- d. To say that is to miss the meaning of the resurrection, and to deny the promise of Jesus.
- e. You are not alone. Jesus is with you.

"As you are going, make disciples of all nations."