

What is the Mission of the Church?

Matthew 28:18-20

Main Idea

The mission of the church is to make disciples that delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. The foundation for our mission is the authority of Jesus and the promise of Jesus ensure fulfillment.

Overview

The Authority of Jesus

- Jesus claims to have all authority
 - “All” occurs 4 times
 - “I” or “me” occurs 3 times
 - Jesus places his name “the Son” right beside “the Father”
- Jesus exercises that authority today through the local church
 - In Matthew 16, 18 Jesus gives the keys, which symbolize authority, to the local church
 - Jesus while on earth spoke on behalf of heaven; now Jesus authorizes the church to do the same thing

The Command of Jesus

- The “Who” of verse 18 leads to the “What” of verse 19 – our mission is based on our Master
- The one controlling command of this passage is “make disciples”
 - Jesus is reiterating what God’s plan was from the beginning
 - “Be fruitful and multiply filling the world with worshippers”
 - God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule enjoying God’s blessing for God’s glory and our joy
- After we see people come to faith in Jesus we baptize them and teach them to observe all that Jesus commands
 - Notice the command is not just to get decisions, but teach to observe all the commands of Christ
- We’re to make disciples of all nations, that is all peoples of the world

The Promise of Jesus

- Matthew starts by introducing Jesus as “Immanuel” which means “God with us” and ends with this promise Jesus will be with us all days
- From beginning to end, our mission is based on Jesus and his assured presence through the Holy Spirit.
- God will use us, an imperfect people to accomplish his perfect task.
- One day disciples from all nations, all tongues, all tribe, all peoples will gather around the throne of Jesus worshipping his holy name. (cf. Rv. 5:9; 21:1-5)

Questions

Discussion Starter:

1. Read Matthew 28:16-20. How does passage point to the authority and centrality of Jesus?
2. How does that authority relate to the local church (cf. Mt. 16:13-20; 18:15-20)?
3. Why is it crucial to recognize and believe in the authority of Christ as we seek to make disciples of all nations?
4. What is the result of aiming for decisions but not following up with teaching people to observe all Christ commands? Describe the church’s role in this process.

5. How does Jesus command to “make disciples” fit into the overarching story of the Bible? Why is this important to understand?
6. Describe some outlets that currently exist in the life of our church that set up for the purposes of making disciples (corporate gathering, CG, prayer ministry, American Friends, etc.). How do personal relationships that are “life on life” (not programmatic or mechanical) help round out these venues?
7. In verse 20 Jesus promises to never leave us. How does this promise encourage us in making disciples? Where does this promise find fulfillment? How does that fulfillment relate to the local church today?

Accountability Question: *Confess and pray for any fears you have in making disciples, or share where you have been encouraged by God’s grace in your life here. Hold one another accountable for each other’s engagement of disciple making.*