

THE CHURCH'S MISSION

--MATTHEW 28:16-20--

INTRODUCTION:

The supreme purpose and motive of every individual believer and every body of believers is to glorify God. The mission that flows out of our loving fellowship, our spiritual growth, and our praise is that we as believers are being God's faithful and obedient instruments in His divine plan to redeem the world. The supreme way in which God chose to glorify Himself was through the salvation of sinners, and it is through participation in His plan of redemption that believers themselves most glorify God. In the final message of the Lord Jesus as reported by Matthew, Jesus clearly gives or implies five essentials that are necessary for His followers to fulfill the church's mission.

I. BE AVAILABLE (Matthew 28:16)

- a. The first three _____ that are needed to carry out the mission of the church are attitudes.
- b. The first one, which is implied, is to be _____.
- c. Faithful _____ always begins with simply being available to be used by God.
- d. Jesus had told the disciples before His death and resurrection that He would _____ them in Galilee after He had risen from the dead.
- e. We are not told who was present when Jesus gave the _____ Commission, other than the eleven.
- f. Gathered on a mountain somewhere in Galilee were more than _____ of Jesus' followers.

II. AN ATTITUDE OF WORSHIP (Matthew 28:17-18a)

- a. The second essential attitude implied here that is needed for the effective fulfillment of the church's mission is an attitude of _____.
- b. These followers gathered here were not just showing respect and honor to a human dignitary or a mere earthly ruler but were worshiping God's own risen _____.
- c. Matthew writes, "*but some were _____.*" (Matthew 28:17b)

- d. The _____ of those who were doubting is not given.
- e. To remove doubt Jesus graciously came up and _____ to them.

III. AN ATTITUDE OF SUBMISSION (Matthew 28:18b)

- a. The third essential needed for fulfilling the church's mission of reaching others for Christ is another implied attitude, it is an attitude of _____.
- b. Before giving His followers their marching orders, Jesus establishes His sovereign _____ to give them the commission and command it.
- c. During Jesus' lifetime and ministry on the earth He often demonstrated His _____.
- d. Jesus received His sovereign authority from His _____, who has given all judgment to the Son and made Him both Lord and Christ. (Philippians 2:9-11)
- e. Submission to the absolute sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ is not an _____ for a true believer, rather it is your supreme obligation.

IV. BE OBEDIENT (Matthew 28:19-20a)

- a. The fourth essential that must be carried out to fulfill the church's mission is _____ to the Lord's command.
- b. "Make _____" is the main verb and the central command of verses 19-20. (John 8:31)
- c. The Great Commission is a command to bring sinners in this world to a _____ knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. Jesus' command then is for those who are disciples to become His instruments for making _____ disciples of all nations.
- e. Within this Great Commission Jesus gave three _____ for making disciples.
- f. The first requirement makes it clear that the church is not to wait for the world to come to them, but that it is to _____ to the world.
- g. The second requirement for making disciples is to be "_____ them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19, NASB95)

- h. The third requirement for making disciples of all nations is “_____ *them to observe all that I commanded you.*” (Matthew 28:20a, NASB95)

V. EMPOWERED BY JESUS (Matthew 28:20b)

- a. As crucial as the first four essentials are for us to effectively fulfill the church’s mission, they would be useless without the last which is the _____ of Jesus Christ’s continuing presence with us.
- b. One helpful way to keep one’s spiritual life and work in the right perspective as we seek to make _____ is through prayer.
- c. Jesus says that He is with us _____, which simply means “all the days.”

CONCLUSION:

Jesus outlined the church’s mission in this passage. We are to continue what those more than five hundred started more than two thousand years ago. We are to go to this world of ours and make disciples because this is what Jesus in His absolute, sovereign authority commanded us to do. We must obey; how do we start? I left five blanks on the bottom of your bulletin insert, I challenge you to write down the names of five unbelievers that you know, and pray for their salvation every day, and pray that God will give you opportunities to be a witness to them as Christ’s own power works in and through you. You pray daily for these five people until they are saved. Maybe they are friends, maybe they are family, maybe they are neighbors, pray for their salvation and pray that God would use you in their lives as a witness. This is making yourself available for God to use, do so in an attitude of worship and submission, and then be obedient when God gives you opportunity to make disciples and know that He is with you always.

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Unbelievers I will pray for: 1 _____
2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____