

THE FULLY PREACHED GOSPEL **“Go and Make Disciples of all Nations”**

The Great Commission-

Matt 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV

The Great Commission is not for simple evangelization. The command of the Great Commission is to make disciples of all nations. What are the general precepts the Lord lays out here with regard to making disciples?

1. Baptizing-

Is this a water baptism? Is it the baptism of the Holy Spirit? You could say “yes” and be correct, I suppose. But I think that Matthew is talking specifically about water baptism.

Mark 16:16-20

16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. NIV

How is it that we speak with new tongues? How is it that we drive out demons? We do it in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This anointing we receive when we are saved. Therefore, whoever believes (in Jesus) and is baptized (in the Spirit) will be saved. And these signs will follow those who believe. The emphasis is on believers.

In Matthew, the emphasis is on disciples. All disciples are believers, not all believers are disciples. Matthew is dealing with discipleship. Water baptism is an outward sign of inward repentance and commitment.

John 3:22-26 NIV

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

24(This was before John was put in prison.)

25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.

26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan-the one you testified about-well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

John 4:1-2

1 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John,

2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. NIV

Acts 1:21-22

21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." NIV

The twelve apostles were all disciples of John before they were disciples of Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, He instructed them to baptize people with water. As John reported in chapter four, they were baptizing more people than John the Baptist. They did not stop water baptisms after the Pentecostal experience.

Acts 2:37-39

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call." NIV

Acts 9:17-19

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. NIV

1 Cor 1:13-16

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?

14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 so no one can say that you were baptized into my name.

16(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) NIV

Each of these instances refers to baptism as something distinct from being born again or receiving the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a “right of passage” for disciples. The church in Rome of the first two centuries were so serious about baptism being for disciples that they would not let converts be baptized until after they had completed at least a year’s worth of instruction. They wanted to make sure that the convert was serious about his conviction and that he/she would not backslide into paganism. It was considered shameful for the church should a baptized believer revert to his/her former ways.

If one feels that water baptism is passé, one should remember that Jesus was baptized.

Matt 10:24-25a

24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

25a It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. KJV

2. Teaching-

*Discipling requires instructing believers in the way of righteousness, teaching them to do all that Jesus commanded us. It is not enough to teach what He commanded. We are to instruct people in obedience, in the **doing** of the Word.*

James 1:22-25

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. NIV

Matt 7:21-27

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." NIV

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" NIV

Luke 12:47-48

47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.

48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. NIV

Phil 4:9

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. NIV

James 4:17 "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." NIV

1 John 2:1-6

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:

6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. NIV

Our relationship with the Lord is dependent upon obedience. John says this very thing in his first epistle. A man who proclaims to know Christ but does not obey His word is a liar. In other words, to obey Him is to know Him. He reveals Himself in the obedience of His disciples. This is why Samuel told Saul:

1 Sam 15:22-23

22b Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23a For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. KJV

If we are to know Him, we must obey Him. Since it is impossible to be a disciple of one you are not familiar with, it is impossible to be a disciple without obedience. To disciple people to Jesus, we need to teach them what He commanded and how to obey what He commanded. This teaching requires time.

John 3:22

After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. NIV

1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. NIV

He had lived with them, showing them all the things the Father had shown Him. They had a multi-media presentation of the Living Word of God. They heard Him, they saw Him, they touched Him. Discipleship requires intimacy and exposure time.

Acts 11:26

and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. NIV

Please note that “Christian” was the name given to disciples.

Acts 18:10-11

10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. NIV

Acts 19:8-10

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. NIV

Paul spent an initial time of open proclamation. When it came time to tend specifically to the disciples, he did so. The end result was that the Gospel is spread all over the province of Asia in two years.

The Great Commission gives us the broad parameters of discipleship, a summation if you will; somewhat like the two laws summing up all the Law. At the birth of the church, the discipleship program taught to the disciples by Jesus Christ was in full operation.

Acts 2:40-47

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.
44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.
45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.
46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,
47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. NIV

All the ingredients of church growth and promulgation are contained in this passage. Remember that by the time Pentecost had come, not many disciples of Jesus were left.

John 6:52-70

- 52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.
56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.
57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.
58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."
59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.
60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"
61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?
62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!
63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.
64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.
65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."
66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.
67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.
68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."
70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" NIV

Acts 1:14-15

- 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers [*Greek – TR: disciples, N: brothers*] (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) NIV

What was the first plan of action for the newly born church? Open proclamation of the Gospel!

1. Evangelism-

Acts 2:40

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." NIV

2. Baptism-

Acts 2:41

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. NIV

3. – 6. Teaching, Fellowship, Communion, and Prayer-

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. NIV

The new believers devoted themselves. Following is Thayer's definition of the Greek word so translated:

4342 proskartereo-

- 1) to adhere to one, to be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one
- 2) to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing
- 3) to continue all the time in a place
- 4) to persevere and not to faint
- 5) to show oneself courageous for
- 6) to be in constant readiness for one, to wait on constantly

Its literal meaning is to be strong [kartereo] towards [pros]. They were strong towards the apostles' teaching, to fellowshiping with the saints, to eating together (including the Lord's Supper, they were a covenant community) and to prayer. Devotion and continuing steadfastly is the attitude of a disciple.

Acts 8:13

Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. NIV

Even the likes of Simon Magus understood that it took devotion to learn a new doctrine. Of course, we know how he eventually encountered the apostles' doctrine first hand. But what I want you to see is the principle of devotion. Obedience takes devotion. In order to live in the community of the church, we have to sacrifice ourselves: our time, our space, and our facades. Each ingredient (teaching, fellowship, eating, and prayer) is equally vital. We cannot just teach,

or just fellowship, or just eat, or just pray. We need a balanced combination of all of these for well-rounded discipleship.

[Almost parenthetical]-

Acts 2:43

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. NIV

A reverential fear fell on all the believers and the unbelievers do to the bold proclamation of the apostles and the signs and wonders that accompanied it.

7. Community Conscious-

Acts 2:44 "All the believers were together and had everything in common." NIV

They thought and lived as a brotherhood. They were of one mind and did not consider their possessions their own.

8. Giving-

Acts 2:45 "Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need." NIV

9. Corporate and Intimate Gatherings-

Acts 2:46

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, NIV

They had a time of large, corporate worship in the life of the Temple. They also had the smaller, "church in the home" gatherings where they broke bread together. God has not called us to stand alone. He calls us sheep because He made us to be in a herd. He made us communal.

Gen 2:18-25

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. NIV

It is not good for man to be alone. God did not design us to go it alone. When relating to others, we are forced to deal with our inadequacies and put on the character of Christ.

Ps 68:5-6

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

6 God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. NIV

*The Lord will lead His people to the church community that He desires them to be in. As 1 Cor. 12:18 states, God has set us in the body as it pleases **Him**.*

Matt 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. NIV

The Lord wants our light to shine to the world. How does it shine best? On a lampstand. What is the lampstand?

Rev 1:12-13, 20

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. NIV

It is in the church that we shine and grow and are planted.

10. Worshipping God, Living at Peace with all Men-

Acts 2:47

praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. NIV

We are to go and make disciples of all nations. Amen!