

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE **12.25.22**

Go Tell It On The Mountain | Matthew 28:16-20

from the series, Sing We Now of Christmas

If we are going to prioritize the great commission, we must leverage everything we have for the kingdom.

1. We must submit to the Lord (v. 16-18)

The eleven disciples obey Jesus, going “to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them” (v. 16). The first thing they do is to worship him. This is a pattern for our lives as well—we must sit before Jesus before we serve him. “But some doubted”—we are all in process, and may experience doubts on a number of issues. Jesus steps into that doubt. He gave the disciples something to obey and to follow—a command that would turn the world upside down (or, more properly, right side up). All authority has been given to Jesus—when we submit to him as savior, we must also submit to him as Lord.

2. We must go to the nations (v. 19)

There are four verbs in this passage: go, make, baptizing, and teaching. The English phrase “make disciples” is one word in Greek and it’s the main verb of the passage: we make disciples by doing the other three things. The verb “go” means “as you are going”—as you are doing life, you are making disciples. The nations here means not merely geopolitical groups, defined by boundary lines on a map. While one of the greatest things we can do it to have a passport ready to take the news to the end of the earth, we are also making disciples of all the people groups around us at all times.

3. We must baptize believers (v. 19)

Baptism assumes local church membership. We are to love the local church, be involved there and contribute to it. There is a “go and tell” dynamic to discipleship as we meet people while we are going about our daily lives, and there is also a “come and see” where we invite people into the local church. Ultimately, we’re discipling people so that we can send them out for the missionary task. The local church is the discipleship context where people can grow.

4. We must teach the Bible (v. 20)

A disciple is nothing more than a follower of Jesus. The word disciple has the sense of being a learner or a student. We are all learning, but we are also all called to be teachers of the Bible. Can you leverage your life to learn what the Bible means and how to teach it to others?

Matthew's gospel account is bookended with the reminder that God is with us. In chapter 1, the angel quotes Isaiah: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)." The incarnation is "God with us" in the flesh. At the end of the book, Jesus' very last words are a reminder to his followers: "behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that the best thing you can do is to obey Jesus? How can we nurture a spirit of obedience in our hearts?

2. What practical things can we do to be ready to "go to the nations"? What does it look like to go to the nations even in our everyday lives?

3. What are various contexts in which we might have the opportunity to teach the Bible? What can we do to be prepared for those opportunities?



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