

Theme: All Christians are commissioned by Jesus to be involved in the worldwide mission of evangelism and discipleship.

## I. Intro - Commissioning Week

- A. This week is commissioning week - an exciting week of events - especially for those graduating
- B. The culmination is the actual commissioning ceremony
- C. Christians have also received a commission!
- D. Who has commissioned us? To do what?

## II. The Commissioning Authority: Jesus Christ

- A. Jesus has been given all authority  
Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matt 28:18
  - 1. The ‘commissioner’ must have authority
  - 2. Jesus can commission because He has all authority
  - 3. ‘In heaven and on earth’ to underscore all authority
- B. New authority for a new era of human history
  - 1. Jesus now has all authority from the Father
  - 2. This is a fulfillment of prophecy  
“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13–14

- a. The Son of Man has been given all authority
  - b. This authority is over all nations and times
3. Given because He submitted to death & conquered  
And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:8–11
- a. Jesus submitted to the Father - even to death
  - b. Therefore He is exalted above all
  - c. He has all authority and will be worshipped by all

## III. The Commission: Make Disciples

- A. The command: make disciples  
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,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20
  - 1. ‘Therefore’ - based on v18; commissioned!
  - 2. Many think the command is “Go” but it is not
  - 3. The controlling verb - make disciples
  - 4. The subordinate participles - go, baptizing, teaching
  - 5. The commission is to make disciples; to do this requires going, baptizing, and teaching

## B. What is a disciple?

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,<sup>20</sup> and **teaching** them to **obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20

1. A disciple is a baptized follower of Jesus who continues to learn how to follow Him more closely
  - a. The first step is baptism - the public announcement of faith and decision to follow Jesus
  - b. Disciple - come from the word “to learn”
  - c. This is why they must be taught
  - d. The goal of discipleship is not simply greater knowledge about Jesus - it is a lifestyle of obedience to His commands.

## C. We are all commissioned to be disciples

1. The commission is to make disciples - not converts
2. The commission is to turn unbelieving, sinful, self-centered, consumers into disciples - faithful, obedient, followers of Christ
3. This must be the mission of the Church, every local church, and every believer!

## IV. The Commissioned: Every Believer

### A. Jesus here commissioned the apostles

Then the **eleven disciples** went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go...<sup>18</sup> Then **Jesus came to them and said**, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.<sup>18</sup> Therefore go and make disciples.... Matthew 28:16, 18-19

1. The commission was originally given to the apostles
2. Their call was distinct from ours in many ways
3. Does this commission only apply to the apostles? Does it apply just to leaders? Or to all of us?

### B. Jesus commissions all believers for this mission

1. The Spirit empowers to fulfill the commission  
On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about...<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:4, 8
  - a. They were told they had to wait (Acts 1:4)
  - b. The Spirit would empower them to fulfill the call (v8)
2. Every believer receives this empowerment  
No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:<sup>17</sup>“In the last days, God says, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people**. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.<sup>18</sup> Even on my **servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy**. Acts 2:16–18
  - a. Spirit poured out on ALL people - not just apostles
  - b. Every category - sons, daughters, young old, servants; this means ALL believers
  - c. They will all be like prophets of old - speaking God’s Word to others!
  - d. The mission is no longer restricted to a few leaders because the Spirit is now given to every disciple of Jesus!

- e. This is the fulfillment of Jesus' commission promise to be with us to the end of the age

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

### 3. This was the practice of the early church!

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria...

**4Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.** Acts 8:1, 4

- a. The church spread as all the believers spoke the word wherever they found themselves
- b. This specifically did NOT include the apostles!

### 4. This was the beginning of the worldwide Gentile mission

Now **those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen** traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. <sup>20</sup> **Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.** <sup>21</sup> **The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.** Acts 11:19–21

- a. This was everyday believers engaged in mission in the course of their life and travels
- b. They were God's instrument to begin the mission to the Gentiles - all nations of Matthew 28

### 5. Leaders are to equip all believers for ministry

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> **to equip the saints for the work of ministry,** for building up the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:11–12 ESV

- a. Leaders are not given to do all of the ministry but primarily to equip everyone in the church to do the ministry!
- b. Leaders are Jesus' gift to His church so that all believers can be equipped to fulfill the mission of the Church.

- 6. The design and practice of the early church were that all believers were commissioned by Jesus and equipped by leaders to do the work on ministry. This was why the early church was so effective in reaching a lost world.

## V. Applying the Word

### A. Have you heard and responded to the Gospel?

1. You cannot be commissioned until you meet the requirements
2. The requirement - hearing and believing the Gospel!
3. Do you know that Jesus is your only hope of salvation?
4. Are you trusting in Him alone for your salvation?
5. Trust Him today!

### B. Do I understand that all believers are commissioned to be part of God's worldwide mission?

1. This is not something for a few heroes and saints
2. This is not just restricted to church leaders
3. You have been called, given the Spirit, equipped to spread the Gospel and help build up the body of Christ by helping make disciples

4. This is your inheritance from God! Don't settle for less!

C. How am I engaged in God's mission?

1. It is not enough to know I have been commissioned - a disciple must obey
2. How am I involved in reaching out to others with the Gospel?
  - a. Primary - just invite someone to church!
  - b. I should look for opportunities to share with others
  - c. We hope to have an evangelism group in the not too distant future
3. How am I working to help other believers grow in Christ here locally?
  - a. The primary way - small groups!
  - b. Serve in children's ministry, lead a ministry
  - c. Perhaps God is calling you to serve the mission full time - don't assume he is not!
4. How am I engaged in God's worldwide mission?
  - a. Only 3 options - radical goer; radical sender; radically disobedient!
  - b. Which of the three options am I?
  - c. Either go, or pray, give, and support those who do

D. A commissioning prayer

## Commissioned

Matthew 28:18-20

May 20, 2018

Prayer

Genesis 12:1-3

Teaching keywords: Great commission; evangelism and missions; discipleship

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Gen 12:1-3

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20