“The City of God: The Mission City”

**Matthew 28:16-20**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 10/3/21)

Our focus today is the mission of the church. When a believer asks, “What is my purpose?” he need look no farther than Matt. 28:16-20. We are redeemed for a purpose beyond our own. We are equipped for the ministry of Kingdom expansion. Our passion is for God’s Kingdom, not our own little kingdom. In the City of God, there is imagery of a mission being carried out: It is a life of actively standing firm. It is an army of saints waging war for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to gather disciples from all nations, populating a Kingdom that will never be destroyed (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:8).

This wonderful passage, known as “The Great Commission”, begins with both divinity and doubt. The disciples worshipped Jesus as God of the universe, but some still had doubts. (Q1) Does God really have all the authority and the ultimate power? Does the Great Commission really mean going to all the nations on earth? Read 1Cor. 15:24-26. Yes, Jesus has all authority and all the power, and He has given us marching orders: With the expectation of success, we are to go and make disciples in every nation! Now read Dan. 7:13-14. Jesus is King and He has dominion over all principalities and all powers.

Jesus has all the authority for this mission, much more authority than the USA or China or any other country (read Rev. 1:17-18). Jesus has the authority, and He has chosen us to accomplish His mission with His power (see Rom. 8:37). We are to mobilize, organize, and go out and reach all nations (see Mark 16:15-16). WE ARE TO GO!!!

Jesus will accomplish His mission of making disciples of all nations. Read Mark 5:19. This mission starts with members of our own household and our neighbors. Our mission goes on until “every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.” (Phil. 2:9-11). This is not about mob authority, but Christ’s authority. This is not about representing a political party, but representing our King, under His authority. It is not about us; it’s about Him. We want to make disciples who gratefully surrender to Him. Jesus offers to take the judgment of God upon Himself (see Acts 17:30-31). Is there any better news that you could share?!

Read Matt. 28:19 again. Why baptize? Because baptism is the outward sign of our receiving His mercy. 28:20 goes on to tell us to teach “them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Q2) And as the Word spreads, the Kingdom spreads (2Tim. 2:2). Can we “observe all that He commanded” on our own power? Of course not. Read 2Cor. 10:3-5 to see how we are to live in this messed up world. (Q3)

Our responsibility doesn’t end with just sharing the gospel. We are to be involved in the transformation of lives through discipleship. Discipleship leads to maturing into the fullness of Christ’s image (see 2Cor. 3:18). Pastor Sean said, “Strong men of God are made strong by the strong Word of God through the strong Spirit of God.” Amen to that! This is NOT a mechanical, legalistic obedience. When we have a newborn heart, we GRATEFULLY follow instructions from the Word of God (1John 2:6).

Are you learning to obey all His commands? Are you teaching others to obey all His commands? (Q4) Make no mistake: God’s mission will prevail, but He’d rather have our help, even if it is faltering at times. (Q5) Don’t worry, Jesus is with us in His mission. In 28:20 He comforts us by saying, “I am with you always.” And there is more comfort in 2Cor. 12:9. Yes, His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

This mission is for everyone, even if you’re in a wheelchair (like me!). Today’s lesson may be a wake-up call for you. Is it possible that you’ve been drawn away or distracted from the Great Commission? (Q6) Read Jesus’ own words in Luke 24:46-47. Church, our mission is to gather disciples from all nations. Will you exalt your King and proclaim His name to your family, your neighbors, and the world beyond? (Q7)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What doubts do you think they had? What doubts cross your mind?
2. As a group, list a few things that Jesus has commanded us to do or to be.
3. In your own words, state how we are to live in this messed up world.
4. Is there someone you could be discipling? You don’t have to be perfect; you just need to know the One who is perfect. Make a plan to disciple by phone, in person, or in writing.
5. WHY would God rather have our help, even though He could do things perfectly on His own?
6. What has distracted you from the Great Commission? What will you do about that?
7. Who needs to hear the gospel from you this week? (I knew for several months who I needed to talk to, but just couldn’t do it. Finally, I decided to do it in writing. How about you? What mode will you take?)

“To God Be the Glory” (Crosby)

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

To every believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.