

A PEOPLE OF PURPOSE – Embracing the Mission of God

Matthew 28:18-20 – Guide to Further Study

Some Key Points

Studies have shown that people who feel a sense of purpose live longer and state that they have a more fulfilled life than those who don't feel like they have a purpose bigger than themselves. There is something ingrained in us that calls us into a higher purpose than just serving ourselves. When we deny that calling (whether through over-programming our lives, choosing comfort instead of obedience, or allowing our fears to override our faith), we are missing out on the spiritually abundant life that Jesus calls us into in John 10:10.

So what is the purpose that should be a major part of our lives? Matthew 28:18-20 – often called the Great Commission – answers that question for us. Our purpose - our mission - is to make disciples of all nations, which means the work of Christ on the cross and the mission to make disciples needs to become the driving force of our lives and our church. Instead of focusing our churches on ourselves and on meeting our needs, God calls us to be “others-oriented” and to reach out with the gospel to those who don't know God and help them become mature followers of Jesus who can make disciples themselves.

Jesus outlines how to make disciples by doing three things:

- 1) Going – as you go into your workplaces, your families, your schools, your friend groups, you bring the good news of Jesus with you.
- 2) Baptizing – inviting people into the life-changing relationship with Jesus and to become a part of the people of God – the church.
- 3) Teaching – teaching people how to obey all that Jesus commands so that the pattern of their lives resembles the pattern of Jesus' life.

Jesus was a disciple-maker whose disciples made other disciples, and so on, and so on through the centuries, to reach us today. As individuals, and as a church, let's not focus on ourselves; instead, let's go out with the gospel and make disciples who make disciples.

For Discussion and Prayer

- 1) What keeps you from sharing the gospel more often with people who don't believe in Jesus?
- 2) What are some ways you could help the church be better at making disciples?
- 3) Who will you begin to disciple? As a group, pray for those people and ask God to open their hearts to receive the good news.