

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS

Matthew 28:16-20

January 6, 2019 | DAVID ANDERSON



Do you know what you have been entrusted with in 2019?

To miss this is to miss the life for which Jesus recreated us. To miss this is to miss the joy and fulfillment that Jesus is offering. To miss this is to miss the greatest, most fulfilling adventure of your life.

Jesus leaves no ambiguity about what He has entrusted to us. There is no confusion about His calling on our lives:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20).

As we come to Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus has died for our sins and risen from the dead. He has conquered sin and death. *He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:13-14).*

Judas is gone and there are now eleven apostles left, and Jesus tells them to meet him up on the mountain. Verse 17 says, "When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted." It is into this conflicted worship that Jesus lays out the calling of our lives; we call it the Great Commission.

Jesus commands in verse 19 to go to all the nations of the world. John says in Revelation 5 that he saw a Lamb standing in the middle of the throne in the midst of the four living creatures and the 24 elders. It was a Lamb that appeared to have been killed. All those around the throne sang a new song to that Lamb, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were killed, and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation." (Rev. 5:6-9).

God's call on Church of the Open Door for 104 years has been to take this Gospel of Grace to every tribe, language, people and nation. Our calling is to go and tell all the nations and religions of the world that Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus is the only one that can forgive sins. Jesus is the only one that can free from bondage.

That's what Jose and Janeen are doing in Ecuador. That's what Rob & Karen are doing in France. That's what Kris and Heather are doing in Spain. That's what Angela Shih is doing in Vietnam. That's the message of reconciliation that God has placed in us, His jars of clay. That's the message of hope, grace and freedom that we offer to our neighbors and our classmates and co-workers and friends and family in 2019.

Like Paul, we don't come with superior eloquence or wisdom, but we have one message: Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We enter into 2019 with weakness, fear and much trembling. Our words are not persuasive words of wisdom, but demonstrations of the Spirit and of God's power (1 Cor. 2:1-5). We are the sweet aroma of Christ to God, or we are the smell of death. And who is adequate for these things? (2 Cor. 2:15-16). Not you or me.

Jesus says in vs. 18, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*" Jesus has the *exousia* (authority) to determine things, to decide things, to move in powerful ways. Jesus has all authority, all power, and all rights over all the nations and every person in them.

And as we go and a person comes to faith, baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And when we gather in these small or big churches around the world—teach them to observe all that I commanded them.

Jesus says, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me and I will be with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Jesus says that He has total authority in this world and he won’t leave us. No matter how they respond or what they do to us, He will be with us. He is the One who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Father, give us faith to release Your love in us to others.

This is our main Breakthrough Prayer request in 2019.

What is personally keeping you from releasing love to others? What is clogging that artery?

If I don’t feel excitement, what do I feel?

1. I can’t do another thing? I’m exhausted.
2. I’m numb from life’s onslaught.
3. I’m satisfied with life right now; it’s manageable right now; I don’t want to mess it up.
4. It’s hard to think about the Great Commission when you’re sick or trying to pay the mortgage.
5. It’s not on my radar because I’m angry.

Our prayer is that He will reveal and heal in all of us so that we can release love to others in 2019.

Why does Jesus tell you at the beginning of 2019 in Matthew 28:18-20 that He has total authority and won’t leave you?

Because He wants us to say yes. He wants us to make disciples of all the nations. And if we sense God moving in our life, this promise is meant to help us say yes. Whatever assignments we have this year, we never will be alone.

Jesus’ promises of having all authority and never leaving us are in essence saying, “*I know you are helpless. I know you cannot keep the commandments, let alone teach others to keep them. Therefore, come to Me. Trust Me. Dwell with Me and I will produce the fruit.*”