

God Redeems: Redemption
God Sends: Mission
God Reigns: Kingdom
God Gathers: Church
God Returns: New Creation

Big Question: How Does Jesus Want Us To Do?

Matthew 28:16-20 says:

The eleven disciples travelled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them.

When they saw Him, they worshipped, but some doubted.

Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

There was a day when I was feeling overwhelmed by the many things I needed to do (I should say this is not an uncommon experience for me) but what happened in the midst of this particularly overwhelming day was extremely unusual. Some red roses were delivered to my workplace with a card from my husband, Nick, saying 'You are not done!' DONE! I went from experiencing joy at seeing the roses to feeling an even greater pressure than I'd had before... but I'd missed something. His handwriting had slurred together 2 letters that completely changed the message. The lower case 'd' on done was actually 'a' and 'l'. The card didn't read 'You are not done!' but it said 'You are not alone!'

Let me read our passage for today: Matthew 28:16-20 says: *The 11 disciples travelled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshipped, but some doubted. Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

It is Jesus closest disciples who went to Galilee after his resurrection and there he stood. They were looking at the one who they followed, the one who defeated death. He stood before them as the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ and he declared that he has been given all authority – not some, but all and he was walking, talking living proof! Then he called for a response. He told them to 'go'. They were to do something and that something was to make disciples - learners, followers, and they were to make these disciples from the nations, that is everyone. Jesus was sending them to teach what they had seen and heard commanded. To baptize those who turn in repentance and faith and do it all in name of the triune God. Jesus mission has the full backing of the Father and the Spirit. Clearly the disciples were not done! Nor is Jesus' mission done. As Jesus disciples we too hear his voice to 'go' and to make disciples. This is what he wants us to do. Does this excite you or make you uncomfortable? This mission is core to our church – we are about making disciples of Jesus. It is a call to action. Do you hear it? We are being sent to Orange and beyond. It is an overwhelming task or is it? Let's not let Jesus clear words slur together and miss his final enabling words: ***"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*** The mission may not be done but we are not alone in this.

Living and Active Prayer

Gracious Father,

You have saved us with a wonderful and powerful salvation.

Your Word is living and active. Today, we have heard you speak,

So help us to not harden our hearts but to live it out.

Forgive our failures, renew our wills, awaken our joy, and transform our lives.

Make our faith living and active.

In the name of your Son and by your Spirit, Amen

THREE QUESTIONS

Where has Jesus put you to make disciples?

Have you taken up the challenge to be praying for two friends you hope to introduce to Jesus?

Memorise a verse of scripture that helps you express the gospel e.g. Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Pray for two non-Christians this week, and consider when you can invite them to church

Everything A Child Should Know About God: Part 7

The-ology: Chapters 52-58

PTC Course: Evangelism

Tuesday

Luke 10:2

Am I actively praying for and seeking opportunities to be a worker in God's harvest field, and how can I encourage others to do the same?

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 5:20

How can I better represent Christ as His ambassador in my interactions and relationships?

Thursday

John 20:21

How can I better understand and embrace my role as one sent by Jesus to continue His mission?

Friday

1 Peter 3:15

How can I better prepare myself to share the reason for my hope in Christ with gentleness and respect?