

No News is Bad News

Part II

Matthew 28: 18 – 20

24 January 2021

Series: The Best News

Matthew 28: 18 - 20

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The gospel empowers us to make disciples outside the church

- He has all authority to tell His people to do this, all authority in heaven and on earth.
 - Christianity is a faith on the go.
- The early church did not have church buildings, so going was perhaps more natural for them than for us.
 - Our primary task is not to go to church, it's to go to those outside of the church.
 - This is all of our jobs, not just the pastors.
- Making disciples starts with evangelism.
 - If you are a follower of Jesus, your job is to make other followers of Jesus.
 - And anyone, “all the nations,” can become a follower of Jesus.

The gospel moves disciples inside the church.

- “... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
 - Jesus links baptism and disciple-making.
 - Every person in the New Testament that decided to follow Jesus was baptized.
 - You make disciples, then you baptize them and then you teach them to obey.
 - Everyone who claims to be a Christian should be baptized.
- In Baptism You are saying, “I’ve entered into the family of the Father, through the sacrifice of the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Baptism is linked with incorporation into the people of God, the Church.
 - The point of entry into the Church is believer’s baptism.

The gospel matures disciples within the church.

- “... teaching them to obey”
 - Don’t evangelize and baptize people and then drop them.
 - A student learns truth; a disciple lives truth.
 - We are not merely learning truth, but we are learning how to “obey.”
 - And we are learning to obey “all things.”
- Our beliefs determine our behavior.
 - In our current world, you can learn things about the Bible from any online source, but life change happens by learning to obey in the context of the local church.
- Evangelism is the root of discipleship, and discipleship is the fruit of evangelism.
 - Jesus is not looking for decisions; He is after disciples.

Conclusion

- Jesus gives us the power and the presence to do what He's commanded us to do, and it's a thrilling life that's lived caught up in His mission.
- Key Takeaway: "People who find Jesus will find people who need to find Jesus."