

THE CALL TO DISCIPLE-MAKING

Three Actions: Go, Baptize, and Teach
Matthew 28:18-20
September 23, 2018

Summary: As we've been journeying through the Great Commission, we've discovered the *One Goal* that Jesus lays out: Make Disciples. We also focused in on the *Two Assurances* that bookend this text: All authority has been given to Jesus and He is with us always. Today we come to the *Three Actions* we find in these passages: Go, Baptize, and Teach. These three words are the actions that we "do" in order to Make Disciples. They support the one goal. In order to engage in the one goal, you have to participate in these three actions! But what does that mean?

When we're told to *Go*, we have to realize that it calls us to action. There is definitely a call to go to "all the nations" (more on that next week). But this is also a call to make disciples "as you are going". When we're invited to *Baptize* it means that we need to enter into the mission knowing that we want people to make a life-changing decision to follow Jesus. We can figuratively baptize people in God's presence as we interact with them, but we can also have a part in physically baptizing those God has entrusted to our care. *Teaching* means that we teach what Jesus has commanded – not whatever we want. Do you know what Jesus commanded? We also have to realize that we teach not only with words but also actions. The hope is that we will live in such a way that people will ask and give us the chance to "make the most of every opportunity" (Colossians 4:5-6).

This is not an easy task. A large portion of our world rejects religion as a whole. They may not have a background or basic understanding or they may have a background and understanding but have chosen that faith is pointless. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit to give us opportunities and to make us sensitive to the real-life situations we are facing. The fact is, there is not another way to reach the world. We cannot look at our friends, neighbors, and family members and just shrug it off like they don't matter. There are eternal implications for the decisions that people will make and each of us are a part of that mission as we go, baptize, and teach.

Discussion Guide:

1. Read through Matthew 28:18-20.
2. Jesus tells us to GO. For some of us, this may mean to go to the all the nations. For the rest of us, it means that “as we are going” we are to make disciples. How does mindset of “as you are going make disciples” make this call more difficult for us? How does it make the call to make disciples easier? Take some time and think through your daily routine. Now rethink of that routine with an “as you are going” mindset. How does this change the way you look at your day? Name some specific changes you might make or need to embrace.
3. Jesus tells us to BAPTIZE. When you read baptism, think “being a part of someone making a decision to follow Jesus.” All too often we can think the call of the “lay people” is to get others to church so the real pastors can do the baptizing. As you think of being a part of helping someone come to know Jesus, how does that responsibility change the way you approach your current relationships with non-believers?
4. Baptizing can also look like immersing people in God’s presence before they ever get in the water. What are some ways that you as an individual or you as a group/family can be a part of showing people who don’t know Jesus what He is like before they every step foot in a church?
5. Jesus tells us to TEACH. We’re called to teach what Jesus commanded, not just our own thoughts and opinions. The biggest wakeup call with this command is that we are teaching people all the time by the way we live our lives. Think about your daily routine again and the people you interact with. Name some of the things that you think you’re teaching them by the words that you use and the way you live. Are you communicating what Jesus commanded or are you showing them something else?
6. When you look at these three actions (Go, Baptize, Teach), which one is the easiest for you to engage in? Which one is the hardest? Why do you think that is?
7. How does this mission change when you realize that everyone’s eternity hinges on how they react to Jesus? What does that mean for the people around you?
8. Take time and pray together for wisdom and sensitivity to Go, Baptize, and Teach the world around you.