

# FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Bobby D. Hamilton, Th.M.

## Dedicated to Discipleship Series

### Sermon Notes

#### Part 1

What Are We Supposed to be Doing?

Matthew 28:16-20

The weakness of the church today is not that it is not doing anything. In fact, the church today is doing a whole lot of things. (i.e.-clothing, feeding, housing, raising money, singing, building) The weakness of the church today is that it is not consistently doing the main thing, which is making disciples. Being a disciple results in us helping the disenfranchised, helping the disgusted, helping the down and out, as well as the up and coming because that's just what disciples do.

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus gave His disciples their final marching order before He departed back to His father. This marching order was not a suggestion, it was a command. Which tells us 2 things: First, in order to make disciples you must be a disciple. Secondly, not to be engaged in making disciples is disobedience. (i.e. – sin)

In the Greek text, one imperative verb “make disciples” (Gr. Matheteusate) modified by 3 participles “going” “baptizing” and “teaching”. What is a disciple? A learner, a pupil, a student, an apprentice in that culture. But based on Matthew 4:19 a disciple is one who is *a follower of Christ, being changed by Christ, and committed to the mission of Christ*. Being a disciple impacts one's head, heart, and hands.

#### 3 Reminders

##### I. **Claim your authority (v.18)**

Jesus told the disciples that all “exousia” not merely power or might “dunamis” because He wanted to communicate that this authority was resting in the right hands. (Psalm 2:9, Daniel 7:14, Revelation 2:26-27). Post resurrection, Jesus' sphere of authority became broadened to “all” in every realm/sphere of existence. (Phil 2:5-11) We too as believers have authority in Christ. (See Ephesians 1:18-23, 2:6)

This new knowledge was given to comfort the fearful and doubting disciples as they went forward in carrying out Jesus' great commandment. A universal mission demanded universal authority.

##### II. **Commit to the process (v.19-20)**

Jesus was intentional in His disciple making process as evidenced by the 3 participles “going” “baptizing” and “teaching”. The participle **going** does not suggest a circumstantial idea of “as you are going”. Instead it has an imperatival force to it that means to reach out beyond where you are. Leave with the intent of reaching those who are unsaved. All the nations are not told to come to them, they are told to go

“A Place to Begin Again”

## FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Bobby D. Hamilton, Th.M.

to them. **Baptizing** (Gr. Baptizo) connotes the idea of submerging or dipping a cloth into a dye so that the cloth is now identified with the dye by taking on its color. Thus, a new identity. In the same way, we are baptized into Christ and our entire spiritual identity has instantly changed. (See Romans 6:3-4) We must know whose we are to rightly understand who we are. We have also been placed into a Trinitarian community. Jesus placed himself on the same level as the Father and the Holy Spirit. With respect to God's essence, God is one. With respect to God's personality, God is three, and we must never divide His essence or confuse the Persons within the Godhead. As there is relationship within the Trinitarian Godhead, we too were meant to exist within the context of community. (Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Peter 2:9-10)

You can't be a lone ranger saint. You've got to come into connection with the body of Christ.

**Teaching** (Gr. Didasko) (present/active/plural) teaching them consistently at all times. A disciple of Christ must not only understand what Jesus says, He/she must do (obey) what Christ says. At the end of the day, discipleship is about more than just getting to know the text, but also getting to know the one whom the text points to – Jesus. Jesus wants us to be relationally growing in Him through obedience and not just head knowledge. (Luke 6:46) Jesus' teaching was authoritative then and remains equally authoritative today.

The outline of Matthew's gospel showed that Jesus was systematic in His teaching and discipleship process. He had a plan and He worked His plan.

(See Matthew 1-7:28, Matt. 8-10:42, 11:1-13:53, 13:54 – 19:1, 19:2 -26:1)

What's your plan? What's your process? The FCBC model involves determining what spiritual stage the person is in and meeting the needs of the stage through a relational Biblically based Christ centered approach to trust the Lord to move them from spiritual death to spiritual parenting. We also use corporately the Life Group Ministry based on 1 Thess 2:8.

### III. **Celebrate Him for having our back** (v.20)

Jesus concluded His command with an encouraging word of comfort. Jesus will always be with His disciples as they carry out His will. Immanuel (Matthew 1:23) is still God with us. Always (Gr. Pasas tes hemeras) means the whole of every day forever. He promises His abiding presence with us all day, every day, until He physically comes back again. Jesus gives this word of comfort because making disciples is warfare, it's hard and it can be discouraging along the way. But He promises to be there with us no matter how rough or tough things get. Give Him praise.

In conclusion- what are we supposed to be doing between Jesus' departure from earth and Jesus' return to earth as a church? Make disciples! So, there are 2 questions you must answer individually:

1. Who am I discipling?
2. Who am I allowing to disciple me?

“A Place to Begin Again”