

## FAQs: Matthew 28:16-20

For the message, "Realigned for the Mission" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 26, 2025

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*Here is a fun AI generated FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions (edited) — that can be used to review the study on this passage.*

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. What is the central idea of the "Great Commission" in Matthew 28:16-20?** The central idea is that Jesus, having been given all authority, commands his followers make disciples. This involves baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything he has commanded.
- 2. Who is included in the call to participate in the Great Commission?** The original command was given to the 11 disciples, but the call extends to all of Jesus's followers. It is not about having special abilities, but about being available to the mission. All Christians are called to live as disciples of Jesus and engage in this mission.
- 3. What does it mean to "make disciples," and how is it more than just converting people to Christianity?** Making disciples involves more than just getting people to profess belief in Jesus. It's a process of learning from Jesus' teachings and example and then living according to that. It involves baptizing new believers as a sign of the Gospel's truth, and continuously teaching them to obey all of Jesus' commands. Discipleship is described as a lifelong apprenticeship, requiring continuous growth and transformation.
- 4. What are the key components of the Great Commission according to the passage?** The core components of the Great Commission include: going (actively engaging the world), making disciples (a process of life transformation), baptizing (a symbolic act of cleansing and identification with Christ), and teaching (instructing in all of Jesus's commands). The mission is comprehensive, encompassing both evangelism and ongoing spiritual formation.
- 5. What is the significance of baptism within the context of the Great Commission?** Baptism is a sacrament signifying the central truth of the Gospel—the cleansing of sins made possible through Jesus' shed blood. It's a public entry into his community—the church. Baptism symbolizes both the washing away of sin for all those who trust in Christ and the start of a new life as a disciple of Jesus.
- 6. How does the concept of Jesus's authority relate to the Great Commission?** The Great Commission begins with the statement that "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." This is the foundation for the command to make disciples. Jesus' authority underscores that the mission is not merely human effort but divinely commissioned, empowered, and governed. It is this divine authority that compels the mission and gives the disciples confidence in its success.

7. **What does it mean to say that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords, and how does this relate to the Great Commission?** The titles "King of kings" and "Lord of lords" emphasize Jesus' ultimate authority and sovereignty over all creation and rulers of the world. These titles were in sharp contrast to the Roman Emperor who was also given these titles at the time the Gospel was written. This means that the Gospel is not just another philosophy, but the good news of Jesus' reign, which calls all to faith and allegiance to him. The Great Commission, therefore, is an act of extending this reign to all nations, bringing them under his loving Lordship.
8. **What is the connection between the Gospel, community, and mission, and how do they interrelate?** The provided material suggests that the Gospel is the foundation for both community and mission. A community centered around the Gospel is crucial for supporting discipleship and fulfilling the mission, meaning mission is not an individualistic endeavor but rather a shared one. These three elements—Gospel, community, and mission—are interconnected and should be pursued in unison. The Gospel message motivates the mission, and community support enables disciples to live it out faithfully.

## Glossary of Terms

- **The Great Commission:** The command given by Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 28:16-20, instructing them to make disciples of all nations.
- **Discipleship:** The process of learning from and following a master; in the Christian context, this refers to following Jesus and learning to live according to his teachings and example.
- **Ethne:** A Greek word meaning tribes, nations, people groups, or ethnic groups bound together by various customs; emphasizing the universal scope of the Great Commission. It is often translated as "nations" or "Gentiles" in the English translations.
- **Baptism:** A Christian sacrament symbolizing the cleansing of sins, spiritual purification, and new life in Christ.
- **Gospel:** The good news of salvation through Jesus Christ; the foundational message of Christianity.
- **Apprenticeship:** A process of learning a skill or trade by working under a master; in this context, refers to the lifelong journey of discipleship in following Jesus.
- **Mission:** The task or purpose for which a person or group is sent; for Christians, this refers to the mandate to share the gospel and make disciples.
- **Availability:** The state of being ready and willing to be used for a specific task, regardless of abilities or skill level. In the message, it was said that "God doesn't ask about our ability or inability, but only our availability."
- **Authority:** The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. In the context of the Great Commission, this is the power Jesus was given by God.