

The Great Commission  
**Mathew 28:16-20**

*From the mountain ...*

I. The Apostles' Commission

A. The Task

B. Their Confidence

II. The Christ's Authority

A. Sovereign Reign

B. Ongoing Work

III. The Church's Mission

A. Of Utmost Priority

B. A Formula for Success

*... to the nations.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. If Jesus had been dead and buried, how was He on a mountain talking to the disciples?
2. Where does Jesus say He has authority?
3. What does Jesus tell the disciples they are to do?
4. What does it mean to be a disciple?
5. If Jesus is going up into heaven, how is He going to be always with them?

**More of a Yield than a Full Stop**

It is hard to believe we are at the end of our prolonged series in Matthew. We kicked off the 2018 Advent series with Matthew 1 and here we are in winter 2022. After nearly 140 sermons it is time to move on. I am always a little sad about leaving a book we have immersed ourselves in. On occasion people ask me what my favorite book of the Bible is. My regular answer is, whatever book I am preaching at the time. I love the Gospel of Matthew and I hope you do too. I feel like I have gotten to know Jesus a little better by preaching it, and I hope you have done the same by sitting under sermons from it. From a practical standpoint it is best to move on to a shorter series. But from a preaching standpoint it is hard to stop here, because the narrative does not end with Matthew 28:20, or for that matter the end of the other Gospels. Jesus commissions the disciples to "go," and they do. My inclination is to go right into Acts as it is the chronological continuation of Jesus' work. Luke describes the account in his Gospel; "I have dealt with all that Jesus *began* to do and teach (Acts 1:1)." His second book, Acts, documents the continued work of Jesus through the Holy Spirit and the faithful saints. That work continues to this day. I will have to put to rest the thought of pursuing Acts for now, as it would also prove to be a long series. Perhaps someday. For now, let's rejoice in the fact, and participate in the reality, that the Kingdom is very much alive and disciples are still being made ... and of course, that Jesus is with us always, "even to the end of the age."