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THE ULTIMATE MOTIVE FOR MISSIONS

Matthew 28:18

You do not motivate missions by oughts, but rather by a larger vision of Christ.

3 motives for missions:

1. Command: Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8
2. Compassion: Matthew 9:36-38
3. **Compulsion**: irresistibly driven by a larger vision of Christ

Matthew's Gospel: Jesus' compassionate authority ch 8-9

Then 28:18 is climax: ALL AUTHORITY is **given** to Me!

- Acts 2:33-35: quotes Psalm 110 (most quoted psalm in NT; e.g. Jesus in Matthew 22:41-45)
- Acts 2:36: His Messianic work complete—His Resurrection triumph confers incarnate Lord and Messiah
- Acts 13:32-33: declared the Son in power (Romans 1:4)
- Ephesians 1:19-23 His authority & majesty fills the universe

Our salvation is ultimately not about us, but for the praise of His glory and grace (Eph 1:5-6a, 11-12, 13-14)

So we focus not on what God has done for us (God has a wonderful plan for your life), but on what He is doing for the Son (God loves His Son and has given Him authority to head up ALL THINGS—and He is including US in that plan!

See then the link between His authority (Matthew 28:18) and the mandate of missions (28:19): **therefore make disciples**

The larger your vision of Christ, the more you are compelled to join Him in His loving conquest of the nations!

The more you **exult** in Him, the more you want to **exalt** Him. Your life will not simply be Purpose driven, but Person driven. Jesus is making little impact on our nation because He is making so little impact on the Church. David Bryant: He has become our mascot to inspire us, rather than our Monarch to rule us!

Is your vision of Christ growing? Is He larger to you now than He was a month ago? A year ago?

We need to help each other have a larger vision of Christ. That is what compels us to exult in Him, obey Him, want to participate in His conquest of the Nations.

How much do we speak of Him after worship service?

We have just praised Him, and heard of Him.

If we do not speak to each other of Him then, why would we think we would speak of Him to unbelievers during the week?

We need to move from seeing Christ as the Center of all (the center of my life: to satisfy my needs and lead me) to being the Center of ALL (the center of the Cosmos: where is **He** going and how do I shape my life to follow Him?)

Matthew 28:18 (He is ALL) → 28:19-20: I am participating in that Reality.

It simply swallows up my petty ambitions not tied into Him.