

Sermon Discussion Guide

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the World

Matthew 28:18–20

Jesus' authority (18)

Phil. 2:5–11; Eph. 1:20–22; Daniel 7:13–14

- Why was the risen Lord Jesus given authority by the Father? Hasn't he always possessed all authority as the eternal Son of God?
- What does Christ commission his church to do in light of his universal authority? See the "therefore" in verse 19.
- A columnist writing for an online publication argues that Christian evangelism is oppressive? How would you answer that claim based on what Jesus says about his authority in verse 18?

Jesus' command (19–20)

Gen. 12:3; Acts 2:38, 41, 42; John 14:15; Acts 14:19–23

- What is the primary command in verses 19 and 20? Does that mean going is not important?
- Why are we tempted to isolate ourselves from non-Christians?
- Do you have any significant relationships with non-Christians? Are you seeking to share the gospel with them?
- If you don't have any significant relationships with non-Christians, how could you seek to establish some?

Jesus' promise (20)

John 14:16–17; Luke 24:48–49; Acts 1:8

- How is Jesus present with every one of his followers throughout the world at all times?
- Why is the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit essential to the task of evangelism and disciple-making?
- Does evangelism intimidate you? How could remembering Christ's promise to be with you by his Spirit help you overcome your fear of sharing the gospel with others?