

“Fully Prepared for Faithful Proclamation”
Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction:

Clearly, our role & purpose –

- As the church
- As a local gathering of Christ-followers
- As individual Christians . . .

. . . Is to proclaim the Gospel – the good news of God’s provision in Christ for the redemption of sinners. Made clear through . . .

- Matthew 28:18-20
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8 & the Acts storyline
- Teachings of Paul, Peter, etc.

- Each of us who serve Christ as Lord, were on the receiving end of that proclamation at one time
- We live in a needy world – a world full of people in need of redemption through Christ and, therefore, in need of our proclamation of the Gospel.
- Hence, **the text, Matthew 28:8-20**

In this passage, what points of application might we find for being “Fully Prepared for Faithful Proclamation?”

I. Acknowledge the Authority of Jesus (28:8-18)

A. Note the movement of the disciples in the direction of acknowledging Jesus’ authority (28:8-17).

- Resurrected Jesus appears and the women at the tomb head out to tell the disciples (28:8)
- Jesus engaged them along the way and they paused for worship (28:9)
- Jesus instructs them all to meet Him in Galilee (28:10)
- Enemies of Jesus scheme to concoct the story that “His disciples came & stole His body” (28:11-15)
- BUT – the disciples obediently met Jesus at the location He specified, and they worshiped Him, some doing so to overcome any lingering doubts (28:16-17)

B. Note Jesus affirmation of His authority to these disciples (28:18)!

C. We CANNOT underestimate the importance of acknowledging the Authority of Jesus – in every aspect of life – but particularly for proclaiming the Gospel! Note . . .

1. The NATURE of His Authority

- a. Often, the language of the NT plays an important role in the meaning of Bible passages, and such is the case here (“exousia” versus “dunamis”) = authority!
- b. Jesus’ “Power” had been demonstrated many times before the eyes of the disciples, via miracles & healings.
- c. At this point, Jesus is affirming for them the authority behind that power, and the authority that would be behind His commissioning them to go forth and proclaim!
- d. In doing so, He references . . .

2. The **ORIGIN of His Authority** – “**all authority has been given to Me**”

a. Note:

- John 1:1-3
- Colossians 1:15-20
- Hebrews 1:1-4

b. Note, too, that Jesus had presented this truth to the disciples on previous occasions:

- John 10:30 – “I and the Father are One”
- John 14:7-11
- John 15 – 16, numerous references to the work of the Father through the Son
- John 17 – Jesus’ prayer, with numerous references to the oneness of Himself & the Father
- John 17:20-21

c. Here, Jesus affirms that authority.

3. The **IMPLICATIONS of His Authority**

a. Jesus’ Authority should **EVOKE** our **AWE & REVERENCE**

- In our day, we need more simple “awe” toward God & His work through Christ!
- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Job 38-39
- Jerry Bridges’ book, *The Joy of Fearing God*

b. Jesus’ Authority should **ELEVATE** our **TRUST**

When things look bleak, we know that we can trust God!

- Joseph
- Jeremiah
- Nehemiah

c. Jesus’ Authority should **ELIMINATE** our **FEARS & HESITATIONS**

- The disciples at Matthew 28 / Acts 1 – seemingly on their own now.
- But, no, the authoritative Jesus is the one commissioning them – LORD OF LORDS / KING OF KINGS

d. Jesus Authority should **ENERGIZE & EMBOLDEN** our **PROCLAMATION**

- Jesus’ promise in Acts 1:8
- Promise fulfilled, Acts 4:31 – then Acts 1:8 carried out in Acts 5 – 28!

II. **Accept the Assignment from Jesus (28:19-20)**

This is not “rocket science.” Very straightforward – simply do as instructed; follow the checklist:

A. The “**Transition**” to the assignment

- “Therefore,” = based on what you have just experienced & heard . . .
- Examples = Romans 8:1 / Romans 12:1
- “Pause & think about what you have just heard; Now . . . pay attention to this . . . “

B. The “**Context**” of the assignment

? “Go” = *participial form of “go”, but with an imperative case verb!* = “Go, and as you are going . . . ”

C. The “**Goal / Objective**” of the assignment

? “Make Disciples” = *imperative case verb, thus mandatory!*

? *An inclusive, comprehensive, all-encompassing process, thus . . .*

D. The “**Details**” of the assignment

? “Baptizing” =

- *introducing / confronting sinners with the Gospel*
- *eliciting a response / commitment to Christ*
- *providing a public platform for declaration of faith in Christ*

? “Teaching” = *with a view toward “Observing”*

- *Information / Doctrine*
- *Instructing / Outlining / Detailing*
- *Modeling / Exemplifying / Inspiring*
- *Jesus to the disciples, e.g., John 13 – 16*
- *Apostles & the early church, e.g. Acts 2:42*

III. Affirm & Appropriate the Accompaniment of Jesus (28:20)

? *Bold, courageous, passionate proclamation of the Gospel – a challenging, daunting task*

? *But imagine – God’s Son, the prophesied Messiah, the One through Whom and for Whom all was created, will be IN you and WITH you as you carry out the task.*

? *Nurture His presence with you on a regular basis . . .*

- *Spend **time in the Word***
- *Commit significant passages of **Scripture to memory***
- *Spend **time in prayer***
- ***Encourage one another** in Christ*

Conclusion:

Let’s make certain we are fully prepared & equipped for the task we have been called to carry out: proclamation of the Gospel to our world