

Lesson 35: The Great Commission

Objective: To know that we who *are called* to follow Jesus (disciple) *are also sent* to tell the world about Jesus (missionary). (Please review Lesson 7)

Background: God said the penalty of sin, which means *disobedient* to His Word is death (Romans 6:23). *God hates sin and punishes sin* because He is a *holy and righteous God*. *But*, the good news is that *God loves sinners*; instead of punishing us ("for all have sinned", Romans 3:23), He made Jesus, His only Son, to take our punishment by dying on the cross in our place. Because Jesus became *our substitute*, God can now *freely forgives those who repent and believe in Jesus His Son*.

Instruction: Prayerfully read Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1 :1-11 and hear the command personally from the lip of the risen Lord.

Let's Think: During the 40 days between Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus appeared to the Eleven and many other disciples to prove that He indeed rose *physically* from dead. Then, before His Ascension, being taken back to heaven, Jesus commands the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. This command, known as "The Great Commission," is given to every believer in every age until His coming again in power and glory.

1. What claim did Jesus make before He gave the great commission? (Matt 28:18) What would this knowledge mean to the disciples, and to you, *the sent ones (means missionary)* ? Explain.
2. Where were the disciples sent when Jesus commanded them (and us) "*to go*"? (cf. John 17: 15, 18) Has the church "lost" its audience by insisting "to come" rather than "to go"? Discuss.
3. Did Jesus command the disciples to "make converts" or "make disciples"? Is there a difference between the two? Explain. (Read carefully Matt 28:19f.; also Matt 7:21; John 8:31) How does your church (or group) fare in the light of Jesus' command? Does the priority of your church activities need to be changed? If so, how?
4. Is the power of the Holy Spirit an "option" or "indispensable" in fulfilling the Great Commission in the light of Acts 1:8; 4:1, 18f.? Why? (cf. Acts 26:18) What power(s) do some church seem to rely on today? Or, what do they substitute for the power of the Holy Spirit? Discuss.
5. Where do we begin in fulfilling the Great Commission? Is the concept of "Home missions" vs. "Foreign missions" valid in the light of Acts 1:8? Discuss. Do both missions receive equal emphasis in your church? If not, why? Analyze the causes.
6. Jesus said "as the Father has sent me, so send I you." (John 20:21) In what way is Jesus the model missionary (the sent one) for us to pattern after? (cf. Mark 10:45) List some of the qualities you see in Him for us to cultivate? Why?
7. Do you have to be in a "strange" land to be a missionary? Why or why not? If not, where is your "mission field"? Are you fulfilling your mission? How? By the way, can there be adequate witness without spoken *witnessing*? Think!

Let's Remember: But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1 :8)