

February 4, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Matthew 28:16-20 – “Baptism and Discipleship”

- A. During Andrew’s baptism, you heard this reading from our Directory of Worship: “In our baptism, the Lord puts His name on us, claims us as His own, and summons us to assume the obligations of the covenant. He calls us to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior, to renounce the devil, the world, and the flesh, and to walk humbly with our God in devotion to His commandments” (III, B.2, b.(3) – p. 149).
- B. **Mat 26:31-35** gives context as to why the eleven apostles met with Jesus on the mountain in Galilee according to **Mat 28:16**.

You are to remember your baptism and your commitment to follow Christ.	I. <u>YOUR WORSHIP OF THE DIVINE CHRIST</u> II. <u>YOUR BAPTISM AND COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP</u>
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I. YOUR WORSHIP OF THE DIVINE CHRIST → **vv16-17**

- A. The eleven worshiped Jesus because they believed He was the divine, eternal Son of God.
- In **Jn 17**, John the apostle recorded the glorious high priestly prayer of Jesus when Jesus said, “**Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was**” (**v5**).
 - The eternal Son of God had perfect fellowship with the Father from all eternity.
 - He left paradise to take on flesh as the second Adam to be our new representative because our first representative failed.
 - Phil 2:6-7** says, “**Although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**”
 - The eternal, divine Son of God veiled His glory by taking upon Himself a human nature yet without sin.
 - WSC 21 says “the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.”
 - Jesus humbled Himself not by losing His divine nature but by the addition of His human nature. The lawgiver placed Himself under the law to perfectly obey and fulfill it.
- B. While the eleven apostles worshiped *Jesus*, **v17** says that “**some were doubtful.**”
 - What did they doubt? What about Jesus did they lack faith in?
 - There is one among the eleven that once doubted yet later came to profess Jesus as His Lord [Master] and God! → **Jn 20:24-29**
- C. A further evidence of the deity of Christ is found in His divine authority. → **v18**
 - Jehovah’s witnesses blasphemously say that Jesus is not God yet instead a powerful, first created angel through whom God created the world.
 - How is it that an angel could be given “**All authority... in heaven and on earth.**”
 - They are in great, damnable error. Jesus here has divine authority because He is divine!
 - Based upon His divine authority over heaven and earth, Jesus gave His Great Commission or marching orders for His church until His return in glory.

II. YOUR BAPTISM AND COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP → **vv19-20**

A. Christ told His eleven apostles that they were to go and make disciples of all the nations of the world.

1. The scope of this Great Commission was so huge that it would last for many generations after their death. It even extends to use in the year 2024. This mandate extends to **“the end of the age”** – until His return in glory to judge the living and the dead.
2. The Great Commission should make us interested in evangelism here in Louisiana yet also throughout the whole world.
 - a. We should support foreign missions with our prayers and with our giving.
 - b. Some are called to support foreign missions with their very lives as missionaries.

B. First, what is a **“disciple” (v19)**?

1. The Greek word for **“disciple”** here can also be translated as a “learner” or “pupil” — a student of the school of Christ. Disciples are to adhere to or earnestly believe in and follow their Master.
 - a. As consistent Christians, we may be students yet not be true disciples of everything we learn in secular or atheistic education.
 - b. Jesus said disciples are to be taught **“to observe all that I commanded you.”**
 - 1) A disciple is not merely one who can repeat or recite a teaching.
 - 2) A disciple is to **“observe”** or endeavor to keep or live in the way Christ taught.
 - a) None of us can do this perfectly, yet that is the calling of our lives.
 - b) All that Jesus **“commanded”** includes not only what Jesus said in the gospel accounts.
 - i. All the OT and NT are given by Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ.
 - ii. Jesus is the eternal Word who was with God in the beginning with God. **“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” Jn 1:1-4.**
 - iii. **2 Tim 3:16: “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”**

C. How does the church **“make disciples”**?

1. The primary means is through preaching. → **Rom 10:9-15**
2. God uses and continues to use personal witnessing and Bible studies outside of the church walls.
 - a. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch, he found him reading **Isaiah 53**.
 - 1) Philip witnessed Jesus as the fulfillment of this glorious prophecy.
 - 2) The Ethiopian eunuch was then baptized after he professed, **“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37)**
 - b. Foxe’s Book of Martyrs and many other history books tell of Christians being introduced into the kingdom by means of the witness of everyday Christians.
 - 1) Those who came to saving faith joined themselves to local churches.
 - 2) Speaking of John Foxe and becoming a disciple, that means being willing to die for one’s faith in Christ if ever called to do so. Your willingness to die for Christ may not be there unless you first commit yourselves to live for Christ here and now.

Review, further application, and conclusion: