

From Death to Life (6)
“The Journey of Redemption”
The Mission Continues
Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1:6–8

I. From celebration to commission: (Mt. 28:18-20)

The celebration of the resurrection of our Lord leads to a commission from our Lord.

A. The stage:

1. Between the resurrection and the Great Commission, there were 49 days
2. The Great Commission was originally delivered to those who had been personally trained by Jesus for at least three years.
3. Let’s pause and really think about what those forty days with Jesus since the resurrection must’ve felt like for the disciples.
 - a. They must’ve thought, “*This is it! He’s going to restore Israel, fix the world, make everything right!*”

B. The statement:

1. But instead... Jesus looks at them and says, essentially: “*Now it’s your turn.*”
2. He gives them a mission. *A great commission.* (Mt. 28:18-20)
3. That had to be a jarring moment — from celebration to responsibility.
4. **Go make disciples** – *which is the mission of the church in the world today!* (*Listen church...*)
5. We don’t just experience Christ — we express Him.
6. Here’s the message in one sentence — and it’s for all of us, especially those of us who’ve walked with the Lord for a while:

If the resurrection proves Christ is alive, then the Great Commission proves that His Church must be active.

II. The great commission – A call to every follower:

A. Jesus’ final words on earth were not a *farewell*, but a call to action. *Jesus didn’t say, “Go sit in a pew and wait for heaven.” He said, “Go make disciples!”*

B. The first call – (Mt. 4:19)

1. *Jesus’ first invitation was to follow Him and become fishers of men. That call becomes a commission to go make disciples!*
2. He called them to follow — *not to simply learn, but to become something.*

C. The final call – from fishers to disciple makers -

1. Jesus gives them the fulfillment of that original promise.
2. The calling to follow naturally becomes a commission to go
3. The invitation to come fish becomes the instruction *to go make disciples.*
4. He says, in essence: “*You’ve walked with Me. You’ve learned from Me. Now go and teach others to do the same.*” (Ps. 92:14)

Follow Me → Be changed by Me → Go and invite others to follow Me.

Jesus gave two great promises that guarantee the success of those He commissioned that everyone of us would be...

III. Empowered witnesses – Not on our own strength

Jesus gave us two promises:

1) “I am with you always” and... (Mt. 28:20)

2) “You will receive power.” (Acts 1:6-8)

(additional scriptures, Acts 1:8; Isa. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 4:7; Heb. 13:5b)

IV. Where is God calling you?

God may not be calling you across the world — but He may be calling you across the room or across the street.

- A neighbor –
- A grandchild-
- A younger couple
- Another Christian-
- A ministry at church

God doesn’t need your youth – *He needs your “YES.”*

God doesn’t issue retirement papers — *He offers reassignment orders.*

If you’ve got breath in your lungs, He’s got a role for you in His mission.

V. Call to action – Step into the mission:

What’s one specific action you can take this week to further the mission of Christ?

Let’s live like the resurrection recommissioned us to be part of something bigger.

The mission continues — and you’re still part of it.

The tomb is empty, but our hands are full with work that matters.

As Paul said, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” — *1 Corinthians 10:31*