

Cleaning the house for guests and FiFi...

- **All authority ... Go!** (Because He loves us, He includes us)
- **Make disciples**
 - The thrust of the entire text is the command to “**make disciples**”
 - The way we do that is by (1) **going**, (2) **baptizing**, (3) **teaching**
 - What is a **disciple**? (not merely a convert)
 - A disciple is a learner... but not simply one who has been taught, but one who continues to learn
 - I.e. Progressively learning to bring the whole of her or his life under the Lordship of Jesus
 - A disciple follows Jesus
 - So, we are to engage in the work of helping other people followers of Jesus
- **All nations**
 - World-wide mission that includes every people group in the world (no one beyond scope)
 - Next week...
- **Baptizing**
 - Why is baptism so important here?
 - Return to definition of a disciple: A follower of Jesus progressively learning to bring her or his entire life under the Lordship of Christ
 - Baptism is meant to be, an initial act of obedience and allegiance (cf. believer's baptism)
 - An act of obedience that both **reveals** something and **reclassifies** someone
 - Reveals: Brings visible attention to our salvation
 - Reclassifies: Change of authority and allegiance (**in the name of....** Trinitized)
 - Disciples (followers) are baptized and followers obey
- **Teaching them to obey**
 - Our teaching is not meant to convey information but rather to induce transformation
 - Making disciples is teaching people to **live** under the authority of the Trinity
 - For the glory of God and for the good of humanity

Two Questions one must ask his or her self in light of the text:

1. Am I a disciple of Jesus? (**Definition:** living under Lordship; in allegiance to; an eye toward obedience)
2. Am I making disciples of Jesus?
 - #1 requires perhaps some deep, honest introspection (or get saved!)
 - #2 is perhaps more straightforward and rather empirical (observable; deliverables)

I suspect that for many of us the work we have to show for making disciples is a bit vague

- So, what does a preacher do? (make you feel bad or make you feel loved)
- What will ultimately motivate us to be engaged in the mission of making disciples? (3 options)

1. A sense of duty

- I think part of what Scripture teaches us and what the Gospel answers is the fact that we are **not very good at obedience** and **not that faithful to duty**
 - Cf. Adam and Eve as co-regents
 - Cf. Israel as a light/witness to the nations
 - Jesus comes as the New Adam (the true King)
 - Jesus came as the New Witness (the true light)
 - Us: There are none who are good, no not one (we know this)
- So, if we think about the GC merely in terms of, “I will obey; I will fulfill my duty” = we will not get far enough

2. A love for the lost

- Similarly, our compassion and our love for people falls short (at least eventually)

3. Because He loves me

- See the Biblical motivation for mission (Turn to [John 21](#))
 - **The set-up with Peter**
 - “I will never leave you...” (Peter’s sense of duty failed him)
 - Jesus felt compassion for people (the disciple usually did not... “[Shall we call down fire?](#)”)
 - Read [John 21:15-19](#)
 - “do you love me?” = Do it for me and because of my love for you
 - Why did Peter love Jesus? Because Jesus so loved Peter!
 - “more than these” = Jesus saying, “**Am I better than this other stuff you are committed to?**”
 - [Philippians 3:7-8](#), NLT
 - I.e. [Am I worth it? Is what I have done for you enough?](#) (not reciprocity—but joy)
 - Think if the joy of Peter in [Acts...](#)

God wants us to know the joy of His love

- Apart from anything we do or fail to do ([Romans 5:8](#), NIV) (Cf. Jesus’ baptism)
- **This is the gospel—God loves us, apart from what we do, have done, or fail to do (and perfectly!)**

It is not that those other motivations play no role... they are also important:

- Paul was motivated by a sense of duty and obedience: [2 Corinthians 5:11a](#), NLT
- Paul was also motivated by compassion and love for the lost: [Roman 9:1-3](#), NLT
- We should [obey](#) Jesus (and His commandments are not burdensome) (joy and freedom)
- We should have a sense of [compassion](#) and [love](#) for the lost
 - And though we find we fall short in those things, we do not abandon them (we pray)
 - They are important facets in heeding the call... important, but not ultimate
 - **Christ and His love are ultimate**

Paul’s ultimate motivation was the love of Christ and His surpassing value: [2 Corinthians 5:14a and 15](#), NIV

- **Grace was transformative for Paul**
- [1 Timothy 1:12-14](#), NLT
 - Realizing the amazing grace that is Christ’s invitation to us to join Him in His work
 - As always, the **invitations** of God are invitations to greater joy than we could ever possess otherwise

Through the entire book for Matthew, Jesus has been decidedly for His followers

- Now, with [all authority](#), He sends us... because He knows that living in sent-ness will be better than living in selfishness

God did not save you because He needed someone to do His work

- He saved you because He loves you. You. Just as you are—He loves you. ([Romans 5:8](#))
- And if you never lift a finger to make a disciple, He will still love you all the same (not performance)
- **Just know this, it is because He loves you that He has invited you into His work**
- He knows, in His love, that your existence will be most **rewarding** and **fulfilling** by engaging in His mission.

Let me read something to you (NLT) [Ephesians 1:3-14](#) (saving the last sentence as the kicker)

The Great Commission saves is from thinking that salvation is merely about us... That Jesus came simply that we might be saved and that is that. But that is not that... Jesus came to fulfill the purposes of God... that their would be people who know and love him and live in His love and under His rule and that rule with Him on the earth.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age –Jesus in Matthew 28:20

Jesus came as [Immanuel](#) (fulfillment of [Isaiah 7:14](#))

- This is how the story begins ([John 1:14](#))
- Jesus calls His disciples to be with Him ([Mark 3:13-15](#))
- At the end He sends them into the world with His message of love and he says at the last, “I am with you [always, even to the very end](#)”