

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Matthew 28:17-20

Key verse: 28:19a

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” ”

Praise and thank God who blessed this conference abundantly. We have learned that we are so loved by God. And we are commanded to serve the world with God’s love. How can we do that practically? Let’s think about this through Jesus’ last command to go and make disciples of all nations.

Jesus conquered the power of death through his resurrection. When his disciples saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted (17). They still had unresolved problems in their hearts. They were weak and felt unqualified. But Jesus commanded them to go and make disciples of all nations. Who is this Jesus? **Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**

”What kind of authority is this? After His resurrection, Jesus received authority from God to rule over all creation. This Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords who has all authority in heaven and on earth. Those who have authority over one nation exercise great power. But their authority is temporary and limited. They cannot give life. But Jesus has authority to give life and to judge. . With such authority Jesus sends his disciples into the world. Jesus’ disciples were Ordinary people. They did not have religious or academic credentials or social titles. In a word they were nobodies. How could they carry out the Great C, ommission? Their authority would come from Jesus, not. themselves

Here, “all nations” refers to Jews and Gentiles, including the Romans (Ro 1:14) . Currently it refers to Muslim countries, China, North Korea, and 233 countries of the world, among which 138 are not yet reached by UBF. Tre it says toWhy does Jesus want his disciples to overcome all kinds of difficulties and go to all nations? It is because God loves all peoples of the world and wants to save them..

Then, how can we make disciples? Jesus said, **“...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”** (19b). Here baptism means to help people repent and have faith in God, accepting Jesus as their Savior. How can we help people who are wise in the ways of

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the world to repent and believe in Jesus? This is impossible for us to do with our own wisdom and strength. But nothing is impossible when we depend on the authority of Jesus, and preach the gospel. in .

Next, Jesus told his disciples, **“teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”** (20a). People don’t like the word “obey.” So we may be tempted to compromise with them. But Jesus commanded us to teach people to obey everything he commanded us. We must teach the words of God to people until they obey. This takes time and tremendous patience.

God called one person Abraham and bore with him for twenty-five years. Abraham grew to be a man of obedience who offered his son Isaac back to God by faith. God made Abraham the father of all believers and a source of blessing for peoples of all nations. Jesus also called the twelve, taught them the word of God, and bore with them until they were transformed into obedient servants of God.

Our UBF leaders have a prayer topic of raising disciples of Jesus, beginning with one ancestor of faith. With this prayer topic, they have been serving one person wholeheartedly through Bible study. This kind of work is slow and seemingly insignificant. Based on God’s calling of Abraham and Jesus’ calling the twelve disciples, this is God’s wisdom to save the world.

When we simply obeyed Jesus’ command, **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations”** (19a), God blessed UBF. It began in 1961 as a small meeting in Kwang Ju, the Galilee of Korea. It grew to serve world campuses, raising sacrificial shepherds and missionaries. During the past 50 years, God has sent 1,800 missionaries to 95 nations through UBF. For that, we give thanks and glory to God.

What promise does the Risen Jesus give to those who carry out his last command? Look at verse 20b. **“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** Jesus, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, promises to be with us always to the very end of the age. He protects us, guides us, provides for us, and empowers us through the Holy Spirit until we finish our life of mission. Now this conference is over and it is time to go back to our mission fields. Let’s remember Jesus’ promise that he is with us always. Let’s serve the world with God’s love by making disciples of all nations.