

PP Cornerstone on Purpose: *Making Christ-following disciples*

Part 5 Matthew 28:18-20

10/19-20/2019

Have you heard of ligers and tigons?

A liger is when a male lion mates with a female tiger, and a Tigon is when a male tiger breeds with a female lion

These are called Hybrid animals, but there is another one I know you have heard of: the Mule

You get a mule when a male donkey mates with a female horse

Interesting, right?

Are you glad you came to church today??

Let's talk mules a little more...and enjoy the information

They are athletic like a horse intelligent like a donkey, but pound for pound, stronger than horses

They work hard and around the world still pull plows and wagons and transport people

Mules are great animals but they actually have a fatal flaw...each mule is the end of the line, they cannot reproduce

A horse has 64 chromosomes, a donkey 62, and a mule, their offspring, 63...and an animal with an odd number of chromosomes is sterile

Now, oddly enough, a question for us all is this: **PP** *Are we a church full of mules?*

There are many hard-working men and women in our church serving in all kinds of ministries

The old saying, 20% do 80 % of the work is not true here, so what I'm really asking is this:

PP *Are we obeying our Lord and Savior by making disciples of Jesus Christ?*

When your life is over on earth, will it be the end of the line for you, with no spiritual offspring?

We are in a sermon series that is looking at the purpose Cornerstone Church exists: **PP** *"The Cornerstone family of churches exists to bring glory to God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, grow together, and serve others."*

So open your bibles with me and let's see how we can stop living mule lives: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* **Matthew 28:18-20**

PP 1-Our Commander

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'" **Matthew 28:18**

One of my professors drilled it into my head that *All means all and that's all that al means!*

But did you catch the wording Jesus used...*"in heaven and on earth"*?

Recall the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6: **PP** *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.*

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." **Matthew 6:9-10**

What God wills, we are to pray is done or is implemented on earth

PP *"Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him."* **Hebrews 2:8**

PP *The work of the kingdom is bringing to earth the reality of the rule and authority of Christ*

Jesus has all authority to commission us, to give us a job in His kingdom and He doesn't need to

to a heavenly board of directors
Even more, He isn't sending us to conquer the world, He's already done it, He is the Lord of all
PP *'all authority'* is the same as saying He has all power!

And He's not *asking* His followers to make disciples and teach them, He is *commanding* us

Our Commander has the right to do what He wants, and what He wants is seen in His command

PP 2-His Command

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...teaching them...'

Let me make a brief grammatical statement, and then I'll explain it...don't tune out!

Jesus gave us a command, and then 3 participles, or ways to carry it out

PP The Command is *'make disciples'*, and the 3 participles are *'go'*, *'baptizing'* and *'teaching'*

Notice Christ did not tell us to *make converts*, or *Christians*, but disciples of all nations

If someone asked you to explain what a disciple is, could you definitely do it...rightly?

PP *'disciple'* at its most basic meaning, is a student committed to learn from someone else

A disciple would usually commit to be in a learning relationship with one teacher or school

Learning would occur through question and answer, instruction, repetition and memorization

1st century Jewish disciples entered into a life-long allegiance to their rabbi, choosing Him over family, property and reputation

In time that disciple would pass on what he had learned to others, and the cycle was repeated

Normally, a disciple approached a Rabbi to 'apply', but Jesus chose His disciples

Therefore, a disciple is one who has been chosen by God, placed his/her trust in Jesus Christ and committed to follow Him in continual learning and obedience

Jesus commands Christians all over the world to *'make disciples of all nations'*

This didn't mean nations or countries, but rather tribes, families, clans called *'people groups'*

PP *This isn't just a command to make as many disciples as possible, but a command to specifically make disciples among every people group in the world*

According to the Joshua Project¹, there are **PP** 16,543 people groups on earth, 6,701 of whom haven't heard or accepted that Jesus Christ came to offer salvation by dying for sinners

Jesus said, **PP** *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."* **Matthew 24:14**

The end will come when the gospel is proclaimed throughout the world to all people groups!

Christian, a church of spiritual mules is not obedient to the one mission Jesus gave us

Each of us, urgently, must make disciples of all nations, which is what motivated us to the incredibly difficult work in Dungu, DRC

Every once in a while, I still hear someone say it was a mistake to start Restoring Hope Ministry

I have a lot of responses to that, but I will tell you that RHM is the ways that Cornerstone is

fulfilling this command of Jesus, as we are in a people group that needs to hear the gospel

Christian, there will be a day in heaven when we will see **PP** *"a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands"* **Revelation 7:9**

How is this going to become a reality?

Remember those three participles I mentioned a few minutes ago?

¹ <https://bethanygu.edu/blog/training/unreached-people-group/>

The command is to *‘make disciples of all nations’*, but the commission is how we are to do that

PP 3-Our Commission

PP i. *‘Go therefore’*, which is better translated *‘having gone’*

The authority and power of Christ has filled you with courage and confidence and determination
and you have gotten on mission to take up the job He has given you
Most of us do not quit our jobs and enter seminary, or join a mission agency, but some do
Most of us go to our jobs, our schools, our teams and neighbors to make disciples
In other words, as you already are immersed in these areas, be making disciples...how?

PP ii. *‘...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’*

Baptism doesn’t save anyone, but notice that Jesus views it as a part of becoming a disciple
Jesus commands the Christian to be baptized as a response to salvation because baptism was a
public identification of belonging to Christ and His church
Baptism identifies a person with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
Dead to the power of sin, a new creation given power to live a life that gives glory to God
In the 1st century, baptism often brought the reality of martyrdom, the hostility the world had for
Jesus, now shifting to Christians who declared publicly their allegiance to Him
Disciple-makers walk people into their salvation, and immediately help them make their faith
public through baptism
It means to confirm and cement their new identity, their new relationship with God, their new
life, for they have **PP** *‘passed from death to life.’* **John 5:24**

PP iii. **Teaching** *“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*

Jesus taught His disciples the way the Jews had for centuries
When a Jew became a disciple, he would live with the Rabbi, and learn in real life relationships
Discipleship was duplicating the Rabbi’s life into the pupil’s
Making the pupil think, speak, and act like the Rabbi
And the way Jesus and the Jews made disciples was using every opportunity to teach in the
context of relationship
Not teaching information, but transformation, to *‘observe all that I have commanded you.’*
So successful was Jesus, that even the opponents of the early church said of the disciples:
PP *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were
uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had
been with Jesus.”* **Acts 4:13**

We have looked at our Commander, hear His Command, examined our Commission, but now
look at our Lord’s commitment to us

PP 4-His Commitment

‘And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

Our Lord has given us a job He will help us do, in fact, He will be right alongside us
The church is His blood-bought possession, He is personally invested in its success

He may not bless a building program, or capital campaign, or church Bingo night, but one thing
 He will definitely pour out His blessings on is a church committed to making disciples
 He will personally partner with that church *'to the end of the age'*
 Not every Christian has the same gifts or talents or skills, but we all have the same mission!
 To make disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to guard the commands of Jesus

I have shared this before but I think it's worth sharing again, and it starts with a Sunday School
 teacher named Edward Kimball from Chicago
 Kimball was concerned that some of the boys in his class weren't believers, so he visited them
 One student worked at a shoe store, so Kimball went there and asked him to come to Christ
 He left that store thinking he botched the opportunity
 However, on that day, Dwight L. Moody became a believer, and God called him to become one
 of the most prominent evangelists in America
 Moody traveled to Liverpool, England where he preached in F.B. Meyer's church
 Pastor Meyer was an intellectual, and looked down at Moody's unsophisticated preaching, but
 eventually was transformed himself, and soon came to America with Moody to preach
 Meyer preached at Northfield Bible Conference famously saying to the crowds, *"If you are not
 willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?"*
 A struggling young minister by the name of Wilbur Chapman was changed by that prayer, and
 God used that young man to become a powerful traveling evangelist
 Under Chapman's mentoring, a professional baseball player named Billy Sunday quit the sport to
 take up preaching, and began to dynamically lead thousands to Christ
 In North Carolina, in response to his preaching, a group started praying for revival and invited
 Mordecai Ham to come preach in a crusade
 A young Central High School student came to one of those crusades and it was there that Jesus
 Christ drew Billy Graham to salvation
 And it was in Syracuse, NY, at a Billy Graham crusade that my father came to faith in Christ
 I am very thankful to a little known Sunday School teacher named Edward Kimball, who was no
 spiritual mule, but one who obeyed our Lord and Savior to *'Go...and make disciples'*
 What about you...*Are you obeying our Lord and Savior by making disciples of Jesus Christ?*

We have an opportunity to impact our communities for Jesus Christ...Serve Others Weekend...

Amen? Pray