

JESUS' COMMISSION – JESUS PASSED THE BATON

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

His commission is not just about making disciples and baptism but it encompasses all Jesus commanded the disciples. What did Jesus command them?

When we consider what Jesus commissioned us to do, it is important that we consider what he came to do. Jesus' ministry was all about restoration.

What did he come to restore?

1. Our relationship with God
2. Our dominion – "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven"

Jesus basically came to restore us back to the position of Adam & Eve before they sinned.

GENESIS 1:28

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Man was created for intimacy with God, and he was created to have dominion (to be God's delegated authority) over the earth, even exercising that dominion over Satan and the angels that fell with him.

It's important that we realise, we empower those we are in agreement with. In the case of Adam and Eve, when they became in agreement with Satan and ate of the fruit, they empowered him and forfeited their authority to rule. The earth became Satan's dominion. That is why when you read of Jesus being tempted by Satan, Satan can quite rightly offer Jesus the kingdoms of the world.

MATTHEW 4:8-9

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Satan could offer him the kingdoms of the earth because at that time they were Satan's dominion and Jesus has come to take them back.

Satan knew Jesus had come to take back dominion over the earth and offers Jesus a shortcut to get it. But that was only one half of what Jesus came for. Jesus also came to restore relationship between God and man.

So coming back to the great commission...

MATTHEW 28:18-19A (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore....

A little tip when you read the bible, when you see a "therefore" in the bible, find out what it is there for!

Jesus said, I've got the dominion back, I've defeated Satan, I've taken the domino from him and I'm giving it back to you, now go and use it to reclaim mankind back!

Where did Jesus' power come from?

Jesus was powerless in himself.

PHIL 2:5-7

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

He made himself nothing, other translations say, "he emptied himself". He emptied himself of his own power. He said of himself

JOHN 5:30 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own.

Though he was God, he chose to live in the same limitations as us. In himself he had no supernatural abilities at all. So what were the distinctions of his humanity?

1. He had no sin to separate him from the father
2. He was completely dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit working through him.

What are the distinctions of our humanity?

1. We are sinners cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Jesus has dealt with the power and effect of sin, sin no longer separates us from God, therefore there is only one issue:
2. How dependent on the Holy Spirit are you willing to live?

In being dependent on the Holy Spirit Jesus became the perfect model for us because if he did things in his own power, then the things he did would be unobtainable for us. But because he did things in the same power that he has given to us (the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, Romans 8:11), then not only are the things Jesus did obtainable for us, but....

JOHN 14:12 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

¹²*"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*

This is only possible because we are empowered by the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus to do everything he did. It makes you realise, how little we tap into in comparison to what's available to us. It also makes you realise the potential that is just in this room alone. 1 Jesus turned the world upside down, imagine 20 of them.

Jesus was the model for what he has called his church to be like. We were born to rule. Just like Adam before the fall, in relationship with God, exercising dominion as God's delegated authority.

1 JOHN 4:17 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

as he is so also are we in this world.

This is why we are referred to as ambassadors of Christ.

When you think of an ambassador of a country, he will be placed in a foreign land and the land which the embassy is built upon is considered the territory of the country that embassy represents. Now the bible says we are citizens of heaven, that we have the privilege of representing heaven. As ambassadors of Christ we are promised, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses". Wherever we go, we have dominion.

An ambassador's income is based on the standard of living of the country he represents, not the nation he serves in, likewise, all of our Kings resources are at our disposal to carry out his will. The standard of living in heaven should be the standard we strive to live out. That is why Jesus taught us to pray "on earth, as it is in heaven".

We need to constantly remember who it is we represent, and because we represent Jesus, it is him who has commissioned us, we must not take this responsibility lightly or casually.

We need to live by faith. Faith is confidence in who we are in God, and who he is in us. Its being able to look at situations from heavens perspective. The bible doesn't tell us what heavens like just to give us something to look forward to, but we need to know because heaven is what we have been commissioned to release on earth.

I find this challenging, and when you realise the potential in everyone of us in God, it can be a little bit daunting. Most of us love our comfort zones, we love to be in a familiar place, because its comfortable, but do you know another reason why Jesus gave us the comforter? Because the life Jesus commissioned us to live makes us uncomfortable often. We are called to live our lives as a sacrifice to God. There is no sacrifice unless we step beyond what is convenient for us. And that's a challenge. It takes faith.

This isn't just about theology, or head knowledge. Unfortunately we live in a culture where we emphasise concept and principle over experience. That is why I can go to university and leave with a business degree and never be taught by anyone with any experience of running a business. Our world teaches that if I can recite something

then I know it. But the Hebrew/biblical way of learning is that the truth should lead to experience and experience to a better understanding.

With every bit of revelation of God's word comes the responsibility to pursue the encounter with God and the anointing to display that truth. We often stop short of a divine encounter with God because we are satisfied with good theology. But we must move to experience.

EPH 3

That you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

Its not enough that I read about the love of Christ if I never experience it. In fact, we need to realise that we can know things in our experience that we may never even get our heads around. We can know the love of Christ that is beyond our comprehension.

At the end of the day, we should not be satisfied with God as the healer until we know him as my healer! We must realise that truth isn't to make us smarter but should always lead us to a divine encounter.