

Go and Preach the Gospel

“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, ²⁰**teaching** them to **observe (obey)** all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt 28:19-20 ESV

I command to you what Jesus said to the disciples that we call the Great Commission.

Today’s group: The Celebrant Singers believe in this commission. I was on the other side of the world when they came to Lebanon twice and shared the Gospel with the local people. They went to Armenia and shared the Gospel there as well. As you read about them, they went all over the world to preach the Gospel. For almost 40 years now this group has been going around the world. Why? It is the command of our Lord.

I see four verbs in the commission:

Go; Make Disciples; Baptize; Teach them to obey, observe.

We should all believe in mission work. It is not just the Mission Committee or Celebrant Singers.

1. When we hear the verb **go**: I looked at the Greek word, **it means go!** It means take action; get off your donkey; from your comfort zone here in Fresno and outside Fresno. Get out of the boat. Walk on water, places where you are not comfortable. Some of my pastor friends in the ME went to Irbil in Iraq to minister and help the local church. Some will wonder why go to these places? All creation is God’s creation. We have the Good News and it is not for us to put it in a box and seal it. No, the treasure should be shared.

2. **Making disciples** is a longer job. One has to spend more time with the individual one on one to disciple them. If it is outside our city, it means local missionaries will make disciples. Someone disciplined me 30 years ago, and

that is why I am where I am today. I have disciples all over the world. I am in touch with them. They now disciple others.

This last week, I called Beirut, Lebanon. There were several major fires. One of our disciples that my wife and I spent time with is now in the area, working with Syrian refugees. God is using her in those areas.

3. **Baptize them**, which means they have accepted Christ their personal Savior and are ready to acknowledge Christ as their Savior and King. Dying in the water and coming out of the water as a new person. Asking the Holy Spirit to be in their heart reminding who Jesus is in their lives.

4. **Teach** them to obey, observe the law. Surrender to God everyday to shape us and make us like Jesus. The process of sanctification.

Go, disciple, baptize, teach, care and attend over them so that they will grow in faith.

I pray that today's service helped you to see where you are in your walk with God.