



DISCIPLES OF JESUS
“The Disciples’ Marching Orders” Matthew 28:16–20

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Jesus began his ministry by calling a handful of disciples and spent a disproportionate amount of time training them for Kingdom ministry, so it's no surprise that he concluded his ministry by giving them their marching orders. We, too, should know what they are.

I. The Risen Christ Calls a Special Meeting. vv. 16-17

- A. Numerous post resurrection appearances. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- B. Mixed reactions to his appearance on the mountain – “worship,” “hesitation.”
- C. Jesus’ authority over “all” in “heaven and earth.” *cf.* Ephesians 1:19f; 1 Corinthians 15:24f
- D. Jesus’ promise to be “with them” until “end of age.” *cf.* Matthew 1:23; John 14:17-18

II. The Risen Christ Outlines the Disciples’ Mission. vv. 18-20

- A. The initial call incorporated being “fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19
- B. Their early training had included a brief mission. Matthew 10:1f
- C. Now they were being “sent” (John 20:21), so “going” was expected.
- D. Their mandate was perfectly clear – “make disciples of all peoples.”
- E. This would include “baptizing” into (*eis*) Triune name.
- F. And would require “teaching everything” with a view to “obedience.”

III. The Risen Christ Points to the Church’s Role.

- A. He clearly has “the end of the age” in view – far beyond the disciples’ day!
- B. His presence promised till then presumably the commission obtains till then!
- C. So some relevant questions for the modern church can be asked:
 - 1. Is our worship mingled with hesitancy?
 - 2. Is the church confident in Christ’s sufficiency?
 - 3. Is our *modus operandi* to go fishing or wait hopefully?
 - 4. Is our goal to “make disciples” individually/ collectively?
 - 5. Is our vision universal or personal “my salvation” or “all peoples”
 - 6. Is baptism seen as evidence of a relationship with the Trinity?
 - 6. Is obedience to commands adequately emphasized?
 - 7. Is “teaching” evangelism a priority in all of our ministry?