

Know Before You Go

The *What & How* of the Great Co-Mission

1. When you read what's known as the *Great Commission* in Matthew 28:18-20, how do you understand it? What does it mean for you and others who confess Jesus as Lord? Specifically, what is Jesus commissioning us to do - the nature and activity of our mission?
2. First, please make note of the nature and activity of Jesus' mission as it's characterized in Matthew 4:23-24 and again in Matthew 9:35.
 - a) In Matthew 11:1-5
 - b) In Luke 4:18-19.
3. Beginning with Mark 3:14-15 let's look at *each* of the New Testament references where Jesus commissions his disciples in order to understand the content of their message and the nature of their activity in carrying out the Great Commission. What observations can you make about Jesus' commission in these two verses?
4. What observations can you make in regard to Jesus' instructions or co-mission to his disciples in the sections of Scripture listed below? Also make note of similarities, themes, and differences as you observe them.
 - a) In Matthew 10:1-8
 - b) In Mark 6:7-12
 - c) In Luke 9:1-6
5. In Luke 10:1-12. What implications might this co-mission, now given to the *72 others*, have in that it occurred prior to Pentecost?
6. Finally, in the Gospels we come to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus, the now resurrected Lord who's been given all authority in heaven and earth, universalizes His commission to include all disciples both present and future. After considering all of the Gospel accounts that describe Jesus mission and the nature of the co-mission he gave the 12 and the 72 *others*, to what extent does this shed light on the specific nature and content of the Great Commission as it now applies to us?
7. Perhaps the most important consideration regarding the nature, activity, and content of what it means to carry out the Great Co-mission can be understood from the Book of Acts and other NT references. Here we can see how the early believers understood Jesus' commission by how they carried out his instructions to "go into all the world and make disciples."
 - a. In Acts 1:8 is Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit's empowerment. What can be observed in regard to the nature of that empowerment? For example:

- 1) The difference between being “filled with” and “coming upon” (cf. Acts 2:4)?
- 2) In regard to the purpose of the empowerment?
- 3) What kind of “witnesses” is he talking about—the nature & activity of their witness?

b. Please observe and comment on the nature of both the Apostles’ and other believer’s witness and implementation of the Great Commission in the following biblical texts:

- 1) Peter’s activity in Acts 2, specifically verses 36-41.
- 2) Peter & John in Acts 3:1-10.
- 3) Acts 4:8-13
- 4) As reflected in the *Believer’s Prayer* (Acts 4:29-31).
- 5) Acts 5:12-16 and in reference to all believers in Mark 16:15-20.
- 6) Acts 5:29-33; 42
- 7) Stephen (a deacon, table waiter, not an “Apostle”) in Acts 6:8.
- 8) Philip (not an “Apostle) in Acts 8:4-8; 12-13; 34-35. Also, is there a distinction between in the reference to preaching “the good news of the kingdom of God” and “the name of Jesus Christ”?
- 9) Saul’s (Paul’s) conversion and subsequent commission & activity as recorded in:
 - Acts 9:20
 - Acts 22; 26:15-18;
 - Acts 28:31 and again please note and comment on the dual reference to “the good news of the kingdom of God” and “the name of Jesus Christ”
 - Acts 13:9-12. Please observe and note the context, manner in which the situation is addressed and the outcome of this intervention.
 - Acts 13:38-39
 - Paul with Barnabas in Acts 14:3; 8-10; 21
 - Acts 16:16-18
 - Acts 18:31-33
 - Acts 17:2-3;18b, 30-32

- Acts 18:4-5
- Acts 19:4-11; 18-20
- Acts 20:9-12; 20-27
- How does Acts 22:14-16 identify Paul's purpose as a "witness"?
- Acts 28:7-9

10) Peter in Acts 8:32-43

11) How did Peter summarize Jesus' ministry in Acts 10:38?

12) According to Acts 10:36-48, how does Peter understand his own co-mission and role as a "witness"

13) The Church in Antioch characterized in Acts 11:19-21.

8. With the above observations, how would you characterize the nature and activity of the Great Commission for us today?

The Now & The How

If our commission is consistent with the message and ministry of Jesus, the Twelve, the seventy-two and the early church including both Apostles and non-Apostles to:

- a) Preach this message: "The Kingdom of God is at hand."
- b) Heal the Sick
- c) Cast Out Demons

1. What is the content of the message we should preach in regard to proclaiming the Good News that the Kingdom of God is at hand? In other words, what is the message we are sent to communicate? Please provide a summary outline of that message:
2. If we've been given authority to proclaim and preach the message of the Good News of the Kingdom of God being at hand, and to heal the sick, and cast out demons, what is the methodology or means of implementing Jesus' authority in order to actually do these things? In other words:
3. How then does one go about "healing the sick" in a manner consistent with Jesus and the activity of those represented in the New Testament?
4. How does one practically engage in freeing the oppressed or "casting out demons" as part of our co-mission?
5. Finally, how do we measure the fruit of that activity or have some assurance that the Kingdom of God is really among us and is being advanced as Jesus' intended?

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