



## MOUNTAINS

# THE MOUNTAIN OF COMMISSION

MATTHEW 28:16-20

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### MAIN IDEA

Christians are to accept the commission Jesus gave His followers and live our lives accordingly.

### INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.*

Have you ever noticed how “last words” carry extra weight? These might be the last words a coach speaks before his team takes the field, the last words of a military commander before a big battle, or the last words of a loved one before they pass from this life. Last words are important, and we tend to give them extra attention.

- **What are some famous “last words” that come to mind for you?**
  
- **What made those words so special?**

**UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

> **Have someone in your group read Matthew 28:16-17.**

Today, we are reflecting on the last words of Jesus to His disciples before His ascension to heaven. Imagine yourself in the place of the disciples as we study today and think about all they might have been feeling and experiencing as they gathered with Jesus for the last time on earth.

- **What are some emotions the disciples may have been feeling? How might you have felt? Why?**

Regardless of how they felt, Scripture tells us that some responded in worship and others in doubt. Before you judge those who doubted, notice how Jesus responded to them—He did not chastise them or tell them to leave. Jesus can handle all the emotions and feelings we have; we don't have to hide anything from Him.

Doubt that is taken to Jesus can be used to strengthen our faith and that is apparently what happened with these eleven, because as you read the rest of God's Word, you see that they carried out the commission He gave in these verses.

- **How can doubt strengthen your faith if you take it to Jesus?**
- **Why is worship the best response to Jesus's presence? How do you need to worship today?**

> Have someone in your group read **Matthew 28:18**.

As He did on some of the other “mountains” we’ve studied, Jesus restated His authority. Think about the difference it makes when you know the person assigning or commissioning you to a huge task has the authority to back up his or her command. If someone who is unknown or lacking credibility gives a command, most people will ignore their instructions.

However, when you know and recognize the authority of a person, you are far more likely to receive their instructions and obey them. A person with a badge or a whistle and striped shirt can command just about anyone and be obeyed. This result is from an awareness of the power behind the badge, whistle, or uniform.

- **How do you react differently to people who give you instructions based on their level of authority?**
  
- **How do you think being reminded about the authority of Jesus affected the way the disciples received His commission?**

The reminder of the authority of Jesus may have also been to inspire confidence in the disciples. Consider the position they were in and where their lives would go from this point. Their leader had been crucified and then raised from the dead. Now, Jesus was about to be gone for good and leave them behind to continue His work. These eleven disciples were going to lead out in the same mission that got Jesus killed. Further confidence in their calling would have been welcomed.

- **How much do you think the disciples needed their confidence reinforced? Why?**

- **What role does confidence in Jesus and His authority play in the way you live out the Great Commission?**

> Have someone in your group read **Matthew 28:19-20**.

Jesus was clear and specific about the Great Commission. He told the disciples what to do, how to do it, where to do it, and then promised to be with them anywhere and everywhere they went. As believers, we are also to obey this Great Commission. It was not just given for the disciples of that day but for all who would follow Jesus.

In commissioning them to go and make disciples, Jesus gave us the “what.” There was no confusion—the instruction was simple. “Go and make disciples” and He added of “all the nations” so there was no doubt about who or where Jesus wanted His followers to make disciples. Jesus said to baptize the disciples we make in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to teach them everything we have learned. This is the process of discipleship streamlined: Get to know people everywhere. Introduce them to Jesus and help them learn to live like Him.

Jesus ended this moment with the disciples with the reminder that they would not have to go out and make disciples in their own strength or power. He promised that He would be with them always. The disciples could have confidence in the promise because Jesus had shown His faithfulness to fulfill everything He said, including rising from the dead.

- **How do we sometimes complicate the simple instructions Jesus gave?**

- **Who are we supposed to be making disciples of? Why all nations?**
- **What are we supposed to be teaching the people we disciple?**
- **What difference does the promise of Jesus's presence with us make to living out the Great Commission today?**

#### **APPLICATION**

- **Make plans to meet up with someone you know who needs to place their faith in Christ. Share your story and invite them to become a disciple of Jesus also.**
- **Where have you been unwilling to go to reach people with the gospel? Confess your hesitancy in prayer and make a plan to overcome those obstacles and go wherever God calls you.**
- **How well are we living out the Great Commission and what should we be doing differently?**

#### **PRAY**

Thank Jesus for His presence with you. Ask for renewed boldness in the knowledge that He is with you. Pray for sensitivity and obedience to be more effective in carrying out the Great Commission.

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## MATTHEW 28:16-20

**28:16–17.** The lingering confusion among them about Jesus’s resurrection undermines the skeptical theory that the disciples shared a hallucination of Jesus’s resurrection because they all expected him to arise.

**Notes:**

**28:18.** Before the resurrection, Jesus had authority (7:29; 9:6, 8; 11:27; 21:23). However, through the resurrection, the Father granted him all authority over heaven and ... earth, an authority far greater than that which Satan had vainly promised him.

**28:19.** The command to extend their mission worldwide brings to a climax Matthew’s repeated theme of Gentile participation in God’s salvation. The inclusion of four Gentile women in Jesus’s genealogy and the summons of the magi to worship the infant Christ foreshadowed the disciples’ mission of making disciples of all nations. Baptism marked a person’s entrance into the faith community. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is a reference to the Trinity. Matthew’s language shows that a clear understanding of Jesus’s nature and identity as God was required before baptism.

**28:20.** The Great Commission (vv. 19–20) is preceded by a reference to Jesus’s authority and followed by the promise of Jesus’s spiritual presence among us. Both are necessary if we are to fulfill our God-given mission.