Sunday, January 8, 2023 Mark Moser

Make Disciples!

Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:46-49

About 20% of the budget of New Life Glenside goes to missions

- *Gee, why this obsession with missions?* Well, for a very good reason: The Great Commission.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." –Jesus (Luke 24:46-49)

[1] God's Role: the Divine aspect of the Great Commission

- God's fingerprints are everywhere:
  - Divine Plan: "Thus it is written…" (Luke 24:46)
  - Divine Authority: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18)
  - Divine Name: "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19)
  - Divine Salvation: "the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:46)
  - Divine Power: "you [will be] clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49)

- What if the president called you with a special mission? What an honor!

[2] Our Role: the human aspect of The Great Commission

- "Go"
  - To support this mandate to the church, **we all must be goers or senders**
- "Make disciples"
  - Evangelism, yes! A proactive *go* is involved here.
  - But making disciples <u>must extend beyond evangelism</u>: "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"
    - Evangelism turns into long-term discipleship… thus, church planting is necessary!

Tough question: *Go. Make disciples.* What stops us from doing this?

- Weaknesses in us, the church
- Opposition from the world

[3] Christ's Role: the Divine-Human aspect of the Great Commission

- "Thus it is written, that <u>the Christ</u> should suffer…and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed <u>in his name</u> to all nations…"
- To Lord's Supper!

<u>Questions for Reflection and Application</u>

1. Why is important to note that Jesus commanded missions?
2. In Matthew 28:18-20, how does "make disciples" entail both evangelism and helping believers grow in Christ?
3. Pastor Mark listed some reasons why we believers might be sluggish to obey the command "Go and make disciples."
   - What were these reasons? What would you add?
   - Any of these reasons particularly reflect you? Is it time to bring your heart to the Lord about this, beginning with a prayer right now?