Series: Established

Message: 06 Sharing God Matthew 28\_16-20

Text: Matthew 28:16-20

Theme:

Date: May 24, 2020

Location: Christ Community EFC

**If you would, please turn in your Bibles to Matthew chapter 28; that is page 835 in the pew Bible.**

At Christ Community, we describe ourselves as a community of authentic followers of Jesus Christ who seek to glorify God by:

* Knowing God the Father in an ever-deepening and personal relationship as we are
* Growing in Christlikeness through the transformational work of the Holy Spirit
* And who are intentionally showing the love of Christ to others through our message and our actions. (Ephesians 1:17; 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 5:16)

This is summed up in our mission statement: Knowing Growing and Showing the Love of Christ.

This morning, as we are coming to the end of our sermon series Established, I want to make sure you see the connection between our mission statement and what we have been covering these last six weeks.

First, knowing God the Father in an ever-deepening and personal relationship.

To be established means to be rooted and grounded in the love of God. To be established starts here with a personal relationship with God.

It is not enough to know who God is or even to know about what Jesus did on the cross. After all, Satan and all the demons know these facts.

We have been invited into a loving relationship with God, a relationship that is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ.

It starts here, and everything else comes out of and builds on this relationship.

Growing in Christlikeness through the transformational work of the Holy Spirit.

This transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit of God will not work apart from our engagement.

When we listen to God, through His Word the Bible, when we speak to God in prayer, when we serve God by serving those around us, and we learn to walk with humbly with God as we walk with the godly people in our community we put ourselves in a position where the Spirit of God can do His transformational work in us.

This morning we are wrapping us this series as we look at Sharing God. In other words, we are talking about sharing your faith—showing the love of Christ.

Our text here in Matthew 28 is a familiar passages the Bible. I have preached on this passage many times before.

In Matthew Chapter 28, beginning in verse 16, we find what is known as the Great Commission.

Following the resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to His followers and met with them in different places and at different times.

Now He is standing on a mountainside and is about to return to heaven. These are the last words He is going to say to His disciples.

So these words represent the most important message Jesus could leave with His disciples.

Look here, Matthew 28:16: “**Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.**

**17 And when they saw him** **they** [what? They] **worshiped him...**

Then Matthew adds this little detail…**“but some doubted**.”

Let that sink in for a moment. Who is Jesus talking to? The eleven disciples.

Remember, Judas had hung himself after he betrayed Jesus. And the disciples had not yet appointed someone to replace him.

Jesus is talking to the eleven disciples. These men who had followed Jesus for three years, watched as he healed people, fed thousands, cast out demons.

They had front row seats as Jesus taught in synagogues, in the temple, and before the crowds.

Some of these men saw the empty tomb on Easter morning. They all have seen him in their presence since the crucifixion.

A few even ate a breakfast that He had prepared for them. And Thomas put his hand in the wounds of Jesus.

These men looked at Jesus and worshiped Him. For the eleven, there was no doubt that Jesus was who He said He was, the Son of the living God.

They knew that Jesus died on the cross to pay the debt we owe for our sin and that He rose again on the third day.

I mean, they are standing there looking at Him.

Of course, there were no doubt more than just the eleven there. Other followers would have been there too. But like the eleven, they also were looking at the resurrected Lord.

So I don’t think anyone there was doubting the resurrection, doubting who Jesus is or what He did on the cross!

I think that some there doubted what Jesus was commissioning them to do. They doubted that **they** could do what Jesus was calling them to do.

This is why Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 28:18, “…**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**”

In essence, Jesus is saying, look, I am not asking you to do this on your own, in your strength and power.

I have all authority and power in heaven and on earth, and you will do this in my power, under my authority.

Then he gives them this command in verse 19. “**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**.” Go and share your faith!

Make disciples. What’s a disciple?

A disciple is an authentic follower of Jesus Christ who seeks to glorify God by knowing God the Father in an ever-deepening and personal relationship as they are growing in Christ-likeness through the transformational work of the Holy Spirit and who is intentionally showing the love of Christ to others through their message and actions.

In the Great Commission, Jesus gave us our mission, our purpose. This is what we do as the church.

Let’s read Matthew 28:19, “**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 all that I have commanded you.**

**And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”

If we were to diagram this command, we would see the subject of this is command is the implied you. You do these things.

In the immediate context here Jesus is talking to the eleven disciples and many others who were there that day.

But from the broader context, we understand that Jesus speaking to the collective you. He is giving this command to all believers, all who would follow Him.

He gives this command to you and me today!

Though the emphasis is on make disciple, there are four main verbs in this command; go, make disciples, baptize, and teach.

As we go about our daily lives, we help people meet, know, and follow Jesus, which is another way of saying, our goal is to make disciples by sharing our faith.

Baptism is a public act that signifies that a person is now identified as a Christ-follower, a disciple connected to Jesus and His church.

We are to help people become established in the love of God and in His community the church.

To teach is not limited to classroom lectures or leading small group studies. The apostle Paul puts it like this when he says that we are to follow him as he follows the example of Christ.

As we live out our Christian life in community, in life on life connections with each other, we model before others what it looks like to an authentic follower of Christ—a disciple.

Ok, the subject in this command is you. The verbs are go, make disciples, baptize, and teach.

What do you think is the object of this command? It’s the word “them.”

Pop quiz. Who is Jesus telling the disciples to go to? Them.

Who are they supposed to make disciples out of? Them.

Who are they supposed to baptize? Them.

Who are they supposed to teach? Them.

So…who are them? If you’re a Jesus follower, “them” would be anyone who is not currently in the category of “us.”

If you are a Jesus follower, in the context of this passage, you would be in the “us” category.

But remember you used to be in the “them” category because all of us used to be one of them until we put our faith in Jesus and became part of us.

Wherever you go, at home, at work, when you are out shopping, the people around you, if they don’t know Christ they are the “them” in your life.

They are the “them” you have been called to share your faith with.

A lot of times, when we think about the church, we don’t think about “them” because, as church people, we’re usually thinking about who? Us. The music, the building, the fellowship.

Which are all good and important. But, the last thing our King tells us before He ascends into heaven is for all of us to go after who? Them!

Baptize them, make disciples out of them, and teach them, and by the glory of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, “them” will become part of “us.”

Share your faith. This is our mission.

If you have this idea that church is for church people, that’s not biblical.

The church is not for church people because if you’re a follower of Jesus, **you** are the church.

And as the church, you’re called to reach who? Them.

The church is not a building where you come in and sit.

It’s a movement that you called to be part of and are sent out to help people know, grow, and show the love of Christ.

Don’t get me wrong here. I love our church building. I am committed to the importance of believers gathering together for worship, edification, hearing the Word of God, and being equipped.

But what are we being equipped for, mission—the work of the ministry, reaching them! Sharing our faith.

When you think about missions and missionary work, missions is both across the world and across the street.

Those of us who are in the “us” category are called us to reach who? The “them.”

And I think it is this thought that some of them doubted. Because let’s face it, this sounds a bit overwhelming.

But, take a deep breath and listen, because it is not overwhelming or at least it shouldn’t be.

Look at what Jesus promises at the end of Matthew 28:20 where He says as you go, make disciples, baptize, and teach “…**behold,** [Jesus says] **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”

Remember, you are never alone and Jesus will always be with you no matter where you go or who you go to.

God has called you and me, as Jesus’ followers, to reach whom? Them.

Listen, there is no Plan B.

If you are a Jesus follower, you are the hope of the world. You are God’s plan to change the world one life at a time.

When you look around and when you watch the news and when you see all these horrible things around us, what’s God doing? What’s His plan?

It’s you.

If you are a Jesus follower, you have got some work to do. I understand that this kind of heavy, but here is the beautiful thing.

The Bible says you and I are in the sharing business. We are not in the saving business. We are not called to be the next savior. We are not called to be a salesman for Jesus.

Do you know what we’re called to be? Witnesses! A witness is someone who just talk about what they have seen and heard.

If you are established in the love of God, if you are in a living relationship with God than talk about this love.

As you are reading God’s word share with others what He is saying to you.

When you talk to God, pray for the “them” in your life. Share with them how God has answered your prayers.

As you humbly walk with God and other believers your life, you priorities and values will align with God’s will. The Spirit of God will transform you into the likeness of Christ and you will share your faith just by living a faithful life.

Missions is across the world, and it’s also across the street. You and I are called to be missionaries. We’ve got some sharing to do.

Who in your life do you know that doesn’t know Jesus? Who are the “them” God has put around you?

Could it be that God in His mercy and His grace and His truth, and quite frankly, in His sense of humor, that He’s put you in their life to be a witness and to give them an opportunity to respond to His love, mercy, grace, and truth?

Share your faith. You never know what God might do through a simple invitation.

Now here’s the power of planting seeds. Someone has said, you can count how many seeds are in an apple, but only God knows how many apples are in a seed.

It could be that you think you just planted one seed, but in reality you planted an orchard, and you don’t even know it.

You might make an invitation but have no idea what God will do with that witness.

Just be established. Some doubted. But remember, it only takes the faith the size of a mustard seed to move a mountain.

Know grow and show the love of Christ—be a witness and share your faith.

Let’s pray.

**Benediction “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)**