

'The King's Commission' - Matthew 28:16-20

Trinity Baptist Church, 16 June 2019

I. The Church worships the risen King (vv. 16-17).

- The King is Risen.
 - 27:32-54 records the bodily, physical death of Jesus on the cross
 - 27:57-60 records the physical burial of Jesus in the tomb
 - 28:1-10 records the historical eyewitness account of Jesus' resurrection
 - Resurrection account is seen also Mk. 16:1-8, Lk. 24:1-10; Jn. 20:1-10
 - Paul records in 1 Cor. 15:5-7 that Jesus was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses
 - The Lord Jesus, the one who died as our substitution and propitiation, is alive!
 - Application: Requires faith
- The King keeps His Word.
 - Three times that Jesus 'must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised' (16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19)
 - The King keeps His word: c.f. Mt. 26:31-32, 28:10
 - Jesus is, Himself, the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel
 - Direct application — we must know His Word
 - Pastoral Comfort — never forsaken, comfort in suffering, surety of His return, surety of His judgment, assurance of pardon for those who are in Him
- The King is to be worshipped.
 - Jesus is God the Son; the Second Person of the Trinity, coeternal and glorious
 - Jesus is our risen Saviour King
 - The Church celebrates His resurrection each Lord's Day

II. The Church worships the sovereign King (v. 18)

- The Lord Jesus has all authority everywhere for all time.
 - The Lord Jesus is the Son of Man recorded in Daniel 7
 - Matthew 11:27, 'All things have been handed over to me by my Father'
 - Paul's witness in Ephesians in 1:21
- This is the Christ revealed in Scripture, Whom we worship and proclaim
 - Christ is all sufficient for our justification (righteousness imputed), sanctification (righteousness imparted), and glorification (righteousness consummated)
 - Is your view of the Lord Jesus in such an alignment with the Scriptures?

III. The Church must obey the King's commission (vv. 19-20a).

- 'Therefore': Imperative is rooted in the foundation of the indicative
- 'Go': intentionality; we are a people commissioned with God's benediction (Num. 6:27)
- 'Make Disciples': The object is not just converts, but mature believers
 - Colossians 2:6-7
 - Carried out by the church, saints being equipped for the work of the ministry
 - Continuing work of local church
 - Context of mature, growing believers coming alongside of younger believers

- Devotion to the ordinary means of grace, private Scriptural disciplines, community
- Exhortation to be involved in one another's life
- Enforced by Church Discipline
- All Nations: The Context of Discipleship
 - Begins in the home and spreads throughout spheres of influence
 - Ultimate end from the garden to the New Jerusalem is God's covenant people from all ends of the earth bowing before the Lamb in unceasing worship
 - God has accomplished their redemption through His Son, grants faith in His appointed time by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and is advancing His reign through the saints, the Church, as we have gone and continue to grow and advance throughout the nations
 - He will finish this work through the appointed means of the [local] Church
 - Call for prayer and obedience
- Baptizing: Mark of Identification with the Triune God and His Church
 - An act of discipleship, (Romans 6:3-4)
 - Baptism is not the cause of regeneration, but the confession thereof
 - The centrality of the local church
 - Baptism is a part of the King's Commission to His Church
- Teaching: Faith and Righteousness
 - We must first teach the commands
 - The source of our teaching: Truth and teaching that is revealed in Scripture alone, guided by the creeds/confessions, witnessed to by the communion of saints throughout the ages; the whole counsel of God ('all that I have commanded')
 - Charles Spurgeon: 'We are not to invent anything new; nor to change anything to suit the current of the age; but to teach the baptized believers to observe all things whatsoever our Divine King has commanded.'
 - Then we must seek to obey the commands: prayerfully and actively
- Exclusivity of the command

IV. The Church's King is Emmanuel (v. 20b)

- The Lord Jesus is Emmanuel, mean God with us.
 - Echoes of Mount Sinai (Exodus 19)
 - The Gospel of Matthew begins and ends with the promise of Emmanuel (1:23)
- The Lord Jesus is with His Church always until the end of the age.
 - Movement from Christ as the Temple to the Church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor. 3:16-17
 - Best illustrated in the Spirit's working through Word and Sacrament
 - The Holy Spirit sanctifying and empowering believers
 - Until the end of the age: the return of Christ, at which point we shall be before His very presence, if we are truly in Him, and our faith shall be sight