

**Introduction:** Is there any security in this life? Can any of us hope to escape the storms of life? The answer is NO. 'Time and chance (encounters of all kinds)' befall all (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*). \*\*\* So where is God in all this? If there is a God. \*\*\* God gives every person some degree of responsibility to turn to Him or to continue in his or her own selfish pursuits. Anyone who says YES to His gracious gift of His Savior Son will be adopted into His family and become a citizen in His Kingdom. With this comes an obligation to grow as His disciple: to know and to do His will, namely to join with His Son in The Holy Spirit to complete His 'rescue mission' on earth. \*\*\* All who commit to do all this receive His forever promise that goes from the beginning to the end that His presence will be with them, giving them strength, and enabling them to enjoy His LOVE regardless of how tough their circumstances may be. \*\*\* In today's conclusion to the Gospel according to Matthew, all this is communicated to the eleven apostles who remained after Judas killed himself when he saw Jesus allowed Himself to be captured to die. \*\*\* We also heard a portion of a song Jesus' human ancestor David wrote about the qualities of the character of God who is the salvation to all who continuously humbly worship Him. \*\*\* These qualities are enough to make anyone whose heart and mind are under God's influence to endure all for Him with great joy because of the glad 'good news' of what Jesus, whose Name IS Savior, has done. \*\*\* With this, let's examine our Good News passage for today.

**I. The eleven went to Galilee; and, having seen Him, they worshipped but wavered.** (*Matthew 28:16-17*)

A. They go to the mountain which Jesus appointed. (*Verse 16*)

1. But the eleven disciples were departed into Galilee ... (*Verse 16a*)
2. ... to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. (*Verse 16b*)

**From empty tomb:** Both the messenger of God (speaking for God) and Jesus Himself had directed them through the two Marys who had come to the tomb at dawn (*Matthew 28:7, 10*).

B. Having seen Him, they worshipped but they wavered. (*Verse 17*)

1. And having seen Him, they worshipped Him. (*Verse 17a*)

**Worship:** They fell on their knees before Him and pressed their foreheads to the ground in both reverence and joy.

2. But they doubted. (*Verse 17b*)

**Doubt:** The word for doubt means to waver. It recalls the words of Elijah to the Israelites at Mt. Carmel:

'How long are you going to waver between two opinions?' (*1 Kings 18:21, NLT*). All eleven both worshipped and wavered. This is human nature, to have conflicted emotions.

**II. Jesus spoke to them, saying He has been given ALL authority and commanded them to make disciples of ALL; and, He is being with them always: righteous, faithful and true.** (*Matthew 28:18-20; Psalm 40:9-10*)

A. On the basis of the authority He had been given, Jesus commands them to make disciples of ALL: having gone, baptizing and teaching, and He is always with them. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

1. Having come up, Jesus spoke to them saying: (*Verse 18a*)

**Came and spoke:** When they reached the mountain, Jesus came to His disciples and spoke to them.

2. It has been given to Me, ALL authority in heaven and on the earth. (*Verse 18b*)

**ALL authority:** In other words, Jesus has ALL the authority of God given to Him everywhere in all His physical creation.

3. Therefore, having gone, you all must make disciples of ALL the nations. (*Verse 19a*)

**Make disciples:** Over three years, Jesus made them to be His disciples. In the same way they now must make others into His disciples. He gives them three ways they are to make disciples. And, they are to do this for all the nations (literally, 'ethnic groups') on earth. This is Jesus' last commandment.

**Jesus commands His disciples to make disciples**

**Having gone:** The first way is, having gone wherever they have gone, they are to make disciples there.

4. Baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit. (*Verse 19b*)

**Baptizing:** Baptizing is the second way to make disciples. The immersion in water represents the death to self and sin with Jesus on His Cross, and the coming out of the water represents sharing in His New Life to join Him in His Mission of reconciliation. This is done by being disciples who make disciples.

**Jesus commands His disciples to make disciples**

5. Teaching them to keep ALL that I have commanded to you all. (*Verse 20a*)

**Teaching:** The third way is by informal personal instruction and training, they are to bring the new disciples to a place where they know all Jesus commanded.

**Keep ALL commands:** Then, the new disciples are to learn by the example of the teaching disciples how to actually live out the keeping (doing) of ALL the commands of Jesus.

**Jesus commands His disciples to make disciples**

**Kingdom inauguration speech:** In His first speech as King of God's Kingdom (commonly called the Sermon on the Mount) Jesus put forth at least three dozen commands. In the interest of time, we will now consider the essence of ten commands He gave in His Kingdom Inauguration speech.

- i. When they are persecuted for His sake, they must rejoice and they must be exceedingly glad (*Matthew 5:11-12*).
- ii. They must let their light shine before people so their good deeds are seen and they may glorify the Father in heaven (*Matthew 5:16*).
- iii. If while offering a gift at the altar they remember their brother has something against them, they must leave their gift, they must go and they must be reconciled to him (*Matthew 5:23-24*).

- iv. To the one asking, they must give (*Matthew 5:42a*).
  - v. They must love their enemies, they must bless those cursing them, they must do good to those hating them, and they must pray for those persecuting them (*Matthew 5:44*).
  - vi. They must not store up for themselves treasures on earth, but they must store up for themselves treasures in heaven (*Matthew 6:19-20*).
  - vii. They must seek first The Kingdom of God (*Matthew 6:33*).
  - viii. They must first cast out the 'beam in their own eye' (sin) before dealing with their brother (*Matthew 7:1-5*).
  - ix. In all things they may want men to do for them, they must be doing likewise to them (the 'Golden Rule' *Matthew 7:12*).
  - x. They must enter in through the narrow way that is leading to life (*Matthew 7:13-14*).
6. And lo (behold!), I am being with y'all all days until the end of the age. (*Verse 20b*)
- Eternal presence:** Jesus grabs their attention with an interjection – behold! Then He emphatically tells them He is going to continually be with His disciples to the end of the age. The one Word from God that goes from beginning to end is that He will always be present with His faithfully obedient people.
- Until He returns at end:** This age started at Pentecost and will continue until Jesus returns bodily to cast the deceiving accuser into the lake of fire and sulfur, to judge all people, and to inaugurate the new heavens and earth with His wedding feast (*Revelation 19-20*). Until then His disciples must be about His work of making disciples of ALL people.

### ***Jesus commands His disciples to make disciples***

- B. A worshipper gladdens with good news the great assembly: speaking of Yahweh's faithfulness, salvation, loving-kindness and truth. (*Psalms 40:9-10*)
1. I have gladdened with 'good news': righteousness in the great assembly. (*Verse 9a*)
 

**Glad 'good news':** This is literally from the best Hebrew lexicon. In the Psalms it often refers to a messenger bringing news of Yahweh's victory over His enemies for His people.

**Great assembly:** The leader of worship is bringing this news to a great assembly. When David wrote this song, it was for all Israel. Now that The Messiah has come, it is all people in every nation.
  2. Behold, I will not restrain my lips / Yahweh, Thou have known. (*Verses 9b-c*)
 

**Speak:** With emphasis – Behold! He says he will not hold back his lips. He will speak up.

**Yahweh knows:** He acknowledges The Covenant God (Yahweh) has known everything about him.
  3. I have not hidden Thy righteousness within my heart. (*Verse 10a*)
 

**NOT hide His righteousness:** He began with the 'good news' of righteousness. As he begins to speak up, the first thing which speaks he from his heart is Yahweh's righteousness.
  4. Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation, I have spoken / I have not hidden Thy steadfast LOVE and Thy Truth from the great assembly. (*Verses 10b-c*)
 

**Speak of faithfulness and salvation:** One thousand years before The Cross, The Empty Tomb and Jesus' last command, David was inspired to speak of the faithfulness and salvation given from The God of Israel. God's faithfulness keeps His relationship with His people. Because Jesus submitted in faith to His Father's will, He died on The Cross for our sins. We are feeble. We waver as Jesus' disciples wavered. The faith that saves people is a gift of God's faithfulness so The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, The Savior's righteousness, and that Jesus judged the enemy by His death and resurrection (*John 16:7-11*). People committing their lives to God on this basis, are saved.

**NOT hide LOVE and Truth:** God saves because of His steadfast LOVE and Truth. God's disciples need to both live and proclaim these qualities in whatever assembly they find themselves.

*Let's proclaim the righteousness, love and truth of Jesus to all*

**Conclusion:** The eleven go to Galilee, see Jesus and both worship and waver before Him. Then He speaks to them saying He has been given ALL authority, therefore they are to make disciples where they have gone, baptizing them in The Name of The Three-IN-One God, teaching them to obey ALL His commands; and, He, The Savior who is righteous LOVE, Faithfulness and Truth will always be WITH them.

***Jesus commands His disciples to make disciples***