

## An Up-close & Personal Focus on

### The Foundation Of Our Faith

Easter Season 2023

#### ***Options, Opportunities, & Obligations***

—Matthew 28:16–20

—“To be a disciple is to be committed to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and committed to following Him every day. To be a disciple is also to be disciplined in our bodies, minds, and souls.” —**Billy Graham**

—“Fortunately, God made all varieties of people with a wide variety of interests and abilities. He has called people of every creed and color who have been hurt by life in every manner imaginable. Even the scars of past abuse and injury can be the means of bringing healing to another. What wonderful opportunities to make disciples!”

—**Charles R. Swindoll**

—**Matthew 28:16–20** But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples of all people**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and **take notice! I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

#### The EMPHASIS of Today's Study

The \_\_\_\_\_ of every \_\_\_\_\_ who is a

\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ is to \_\_\_\_\_ !

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is to

\_\_\_\_\_ ! This is both a \_\_\_\_\_ &

a \_\_\_\_\_ ! The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ us to fulfill this responsibility!

#### —Observing the Biblical Context Introducing Our Study:

—1) Matthew's account of Christ's life:

- emphasizes the authority & authenticity of Jesus;
- revolves around 5 of Jesus' sermons, but not upper room;
- strongly focuses attention on prophecy.

—2) Matthew gives careful analysis of:

- Jesus' betrayal/arrest, His trial, high priest, Peter's denials, & Pilate;
- details of mocking/ridicule while Jesus was on the cross;
- the security put in place by the *government*;
- the attempt to *cover up* the fact of the resurrection.

#### —Observing the Biblical Content Included in Our Study:

—1— Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His friends to meet Him {28:10-17}

- His disciples came to the designated place.
- They recognized Jesus & worshipped Him.
- Some of His followers were confused & doubtful.

—2— Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His friends. {28:18}

- He ***defined*** His **authority**.
- He ***described*** His **absolute** power.
- He ***deserves*** our **allegiance** to His ***right to rule***.

—3— Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ an ***essential*** command. {28:19-20}

- Jesus' emphatic exhortation: ***"Make disciples of all people!"***
- A ***disciple*** = (literally) \_\_\_\_\_
- Make disciples*** is the main verb & central idea in this passage.
- Discipleship is a ***life-long commitment for genuine believers***.

—There are three requirements involved in making disciples.

—The first step is going out to reach others who don't believe, haven't trusted, or don't know Jesus as Lord **and** Savior.

—Next, the second step (after they place genuine faith in Christ), they should be baptized.

***Baptism is a formal initiation & an outward sign of identity!  
It demonstrates one's personal commitment to being a faithful follower who represents Christ to the world around us.***

—Finally, every faithful follower of Christ should be trained to obey the truthful instructions of God's Word.

—**Action/Attitude: to be teachable/receptive & willing to listen**

—**Result/Responsibility: to become an obedient follower of Christ**

—4—Jesus *steps in* to **remove** our ..... ! {28:20}

—The Lord used an *attention grabbing* statement: "**Take notice!**"

—He promised His **constant & continual presence!**

—He wants His followers to be **confident & comfortable** in His **compassionate care & concern!**

—Observing our **Biblical Conclusions** from This Study:

—1} Following Christ requires faithfulness!

Faithfulness involves:

—total trust in God's provisions & promises;

—personal desire & devotion to obey God;

—complete commitment to God's will & His Word!

—2} The instruction to make disciples is a corporate & collective command for everyone in the Church!

This involves:

—being a disciple!

—&—

—making disciples!

—3} Discipleship isn't an option —it's an obligation!

—4} We should recognize that discipleship is both a privilege & a priority.

—5} The Lord's promised presence in our lives empowers this responsibility to energize, enable, & equip us.