

Message Theme: **Let's Go!**  
Message segments:  
**Purposefully** – John  
**Together** – Stephen  
**From generation to generation** – Paul  
**Expectantly** – Janet  
Date: Sunday, September 9, 2018

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Purposefully – our essential purpose or mandate as a church is to ‘make disciples’  
Scripture Source: Matthew 28:16-20

‘Church, I am your mission’...

Jesus makes a bold **PROCLAMATION**: Matthew 28:18 “All authority...given to me.” God has authorized and mandated me to entrust you with a singular mission or purpose.

On the basis of his authoritative ‘status’, one of unrivaled lordship, communities of Christ followers are given a sacred **PURPOSE** to fulfill in the flow of everyday living. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28: 19-20 ‘As you go’, as you are doing life, let the purpose of Jesus be your driving and directing motivation. In all you do, in every relationship, in all your activities be mindful of opportunities to reveal the love, grace and truth of Jesus to others, in words and actions.

‘Church, I am your mission.’ Jesus directs you to walk with me and help me learn how to be a follower of Jesus...so that I can help another become and mature as a follower of Jesus.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? It means that I accept the sacrificial death of Jesus on my behalf as the basis of being forgiven my sins and enabled to be in a relationship with God as my Father. It means that I choose to be a learner, an apprentice of Jesus, submitting to his authority and leadership in my life. I ‘mark this moment and choice’ by being baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It also means that I commit to being an obedient follower of Jesus in everyday living.

Do we grasp what it means to be a disciple? It is far more than being a nice person, a good person, a religious person...it is to be Christ’s person. We are to help each other become ‘little Christs.’

The **PATH** forward is personal engagement in the Table (relational connection), the **TEXT** (biblical learning) and the **TOWEL** (service). Friends, making disciples of Jesus is hard and rewarding work. Why is it hard? Because each of us has been born with a ‘bent to badness’ even though we created in God’s image originally. Sin messed us up at a fundamental level. Left to ourselves we gravitate towards self-rule and self indulgence. Disciples of Jesus aren’t born, they are made, over a lifetime, one unique person at a time. Becoming a follower of Jesus changes us from the inside out in ways that mark us now as people marked increasingly by love and service, in Jesus name. Loving service that is rooted in submission to Jesus and obedience to him. Not an easy task! But, a mission we are sent by Jesus to engage in. Church, do we grasp the singular mission Jesus has entrusted to us...and do you see you have contributions to make?

An invigorating **PROMISE** is clearly stated, for us. Matthew 28:20 “*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” Jesus promises to be with us, indeed within us by his strong and wise Spirit, (Romans 8:11) guiding and empowering us, comforting and cheering us on as we engage in the sacred purpose of ‘making disciples’...**TOGETHER!**