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Reengaging The Great Commission
Matthew 28:16-20
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In a few days, Donald Trump will take the oath of office to officially become the next President of the United States. Hopefully, with his hand on the Bible, he will repeat these words, "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." He cannot be the president if he does not do these things. The oath of office defines what he should or should not do.

In our scripture for today, we find the oath of office for the church and the Christian. It is no different from the office that the President of the United States takes. Who we are as the church and Christians is inextricably, intimately, and inseparably tied to the Great Commission. If we do not engage ourselves in the Great Commission, we are derelict of our duties. One day, we will have to give an account unto God for how we exercise the duties and responsibilities of the Great Commission.

The importance of the guiding principles contained in the Great Commission are the last words that Jesus left on record for the disciples back then, and for us on today as we live out our lives. Based on how we are living in the world today, the world needs the gospel. When people would rather worship the flag and not kneel at the foot of the cross, the world needs the gospel. We need to let people know about Jesus and how they can prepare for His return.

The challenge in 2017 is to reengage the Great Commission. As we do, the Lord will honor our commitment and we will see souls saved. Lost people were so important to Jesus that He was moved with compassion because of the number who were lost and had no shepherd.

As the church, we have a mandate from Jesus to "go." In the original language, go means "as you go." We cannot go if we continue to sit. We cannot go if we refuse to move and stay where we are. As we go through life, we must fulfill the Great Commission. As Christians, many of us have reduced the Great Commission to sitting rather than going.

As you go, for the Christian, means that you never stop being a Christian no matter where you find yourselves. We are to be the light of the world; we are to let our lights shine before men and women so the world can see our good works as we glorify God. As we go, we are to teach and to tell.

Our Mandate Is To Teach

We are to teach the world the Good News that God loved us so much that while we were still sinners, He sent Jesus to save us through His life, death and physical resurrection from the dead.

The good news about the Good News is if we trust Him, our sins are washed away, and when He comes back, we are going with Him and have eternal life through Him.

Our Mandate Is To Tell

Tell your story, tell someone how the Lord saved, rescued, healed, transformed, changed, and renewed your life. Even though we have different stories, we must tell our stories to anyone who will listen. If Jesus has done anything for you, you have a mandate to tell it.

Our Mandate is to Work Our Mission Field

Jesus said to go, and as we go, we are to make disciples. In order to make a disciple, you must first be a disciple. We must be willing to adhere to the disciplines and teachings of Jesus Christ. We must do our best to act like He says act and be what He challenges us to be. This is not always easy because the Lord teaches some things that are very hard to do such as: Love and pray, turn the other cheek, walk the extra mile, be the good Samaritans to everyone, and forgive 70 times 7.

In the text, Jesus gives us our mission field. He says, make disciples of all nations. Jerusalem was close to home for the disciples, Judea was the largest surrounding area, Samaria was more distant, and the ends of the earth meant reaching all humanity. Jerusalem was the place where the early Christians were not accepted and Samaria was the place where people were considered half-breeds. In the outlying areas of the city, the people were considered to be gentiles and barbaric. Therefore, our mission field will not be found in comfortable places with comfortable people.

We have the Good News that a bad world needs. We cannot come to worship on Sunday morning and act like we are doing God a favor by showing up. Our sanctuary is not a social club but a preparation station to get what we need to share with those in need. We must not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes.

The challenge for us in 2017 is to reengage the Great Commission and strive to live it out in our lives.