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Series: [The Great Commission](#)

# The Great Commission (11)

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[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

(Continuation from [12/09/12](#))

## The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

So it was for the eleven, it was for the women and presumably it was for all the other believers and disciples in Galilee who were to be commissioned for this responsibility of reaching the world, the 500 at one time who saw Him as recorded in [1 Corinthians 15:6-7](#).

There's no reason for Jesus to go all the way to Galilee to have a meeting with just the eleven disciples, He had met them twice in Jerusalem. If He wanted another meeting with them, He could have done it. The command here given to go and make disciples of all nations doesn't know any hierarchy, that's a command given to everybody, whether you're an apostle or not, it fits all those who love and follow Jesus Christ. And certainly our Lord would have wanted to give this commission to the largest group possible and the largest group possible would be the 500 gathered in Galilee because there were so many more believers in Galilee than in Jerusalem.

You say, "How do you know that?" Because in [Acts 1:15](#), when the believers in Jerusalem met to wait for the Holy Spirit, there were only 120 of them in the upper room. The number of disciples in Jerusalem was much smaller, the hostility was much greater and the dominance of Christ's ministry had occurred in Galilee where the hearts were more open.

He came in [Matthew 4](#) as a light to the Gentiles, to the Galilean area known as Galilee of the Gentiles. He came to that region first of all to present His message. And so the bulk of believers were there. Also, Galilee would be a fitting place, not only because of the number of believers but because of the seclusion of it, away from the hostility of Jerusalem and because there could be so easily found a place where they could have privacy on the many hillsides around the sea. So it provided the largest group of disciples, the greatest seclusion, the greatest safety and the right setting because it was a place where many nations lived surrounding it, the right setting to tell people to go to reach all those nations with the gospel.

And so, the eleven are there and I believe the women were there and I believe all the rest of the disciples of Jesus who believed in Him in the Galilee region were there also. And they were in the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. We don't know what mountain it was. It may have been the Mount of Transfiguration; it may have been that the mount of glory became the mount of resurrection and the mount of commissioning. It may have been the mount where He taught the Sermon on the Mount. It may have been the mountain where He fed the crowd, or the mountain that He went to so often to pray. It could have been any mountain. We really don't know. But it becomes a sacred mountain

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because of what happens here as over 500 of them with all their weaknesses and confusion and doubts and misgivings and fears and questions and bewilderments are gathered together. They're not the greatest people in the world, they're not the most capable or the most brilliant, they're not the most experienced, but they are there and that is to be commended. They are available. And that's what I love about this verse. That means "ready for service."

Everything at this point focuses on the fact that they were there. Jesus said be there, and they were there. They're reminiscent of the availability of Isaiah who after the vision of God in [Isaiah 6:1-7](#) says, "**Here am I, Lord, send me. I may not be the best, I'm a man with a dirty mouth, but I don't see anybody else volunteering, I think Your choices are limited. Here am I, send me.**" They were not the great and the noble of the world but they were the available and that's all God ever wants. And, beloved, may I say to you this? That you will never begin in your own life to fulfill the reason you're not in heaven if you're not, to begin with, available. And by that I mean your time and your talent and your gifts and your finances and your resources are set in availability before the Lord to be used as He would desire for the purpose which He has called you to fulfill. Because they were there, they were commissioned. Because they were there, they met Christ. Because they were there, they received a promise of presence and power.

You see, just being there was critical. You know, little people with puny plans never show up at great events, they're too busy with trivia. Church for them is a whimsical thing. The place of the Word, the place of prayer, the assembly of the people of God is negotiable to them. It doesn't matter that the Bible says, "**Not forsaking our own assembling,**" that doesn't matter to them. And the problem with them is not that they don't go to reach the world, the problem is they don't even come to get their orders. I guess it's part of the plight of every preacher to realize, every time he comes into a pulpit like I do, I have a message that's not only from the Bible to the people, but comes from my heart. I know in the back of my mind that there are many people who aren't going to hear that message because they're not here. They're just not here. And as I believe in my heart that every passage in the Word of God is vitally important, I look at Christian people even in our church who have big gaps in their understanding of the Word of God because they're not here.

I was so thrilled during my last mission and teaching trip to have someone come up to me, a young man that I have a great deal of respect for, and he said to me, "I want you to know that I've heard every message you've preached in your entire series in Daniel. I've never missed one." Well, I suppose that would be a preacher's dream, not because the preacher wants the people to like what he says but because he understands how important it is that they understand the Word of God. These people were available. They were there. You have to ask yourself that question to begin with. I mean, are you even in the place where you're getting the orders? Are you available? Are you willing to say no to whatever you possess and whatever time you think is yours if the Lord says it's His? I've really been searching my own heart on this. And I trust you will, as well.