

09-23-12

Series: The Great Commission

# The Great Commission (3)

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Matthew 28:16-20

(Continuation from 09/16/12)

## The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

You go all the way back to [Genesis 12:3](#) you read there that Gods promise came to Abraham and said, **“Out of Abraham’s loins would come a nation, the nation Israel, of course, and through that nation all the families of the earth will be blessed.”** (See [Genesis 12:1-3](#)).

From the very beginning, God wanted to redeem all the families of the earth. It was never His intention to select and isolate Israel as if they were the only people that He cared about. Israel was never to be the only redeemed people, they were merely to be the missionary people to reach the world. In [Isaiah 49:6](#), it says to Israel, **“I will also give thee for a light to the nations that thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth.”** God’s desire was always to glorify Himself by reaching the lost around the world.

That’s why Paul in [2 Corinthians 4:15](#) says, **“We desire at any price to win you to Christ, that it might redound to the glory of God.”**

In other words, every time you bring someone to Christ, you add another voice to the hallelujah chorus. You have another person who can now be to the praise of His glory.

So the motive, then, is to glorify God. And the mission that does that is to win men and women to the Savior. And as they come to know Him and their sins are forgiven, and they are transformed from death to life and darkness to light, God is glorified in the miracle of that transformation. The glory of God is manifest in His loving desire and in His power to redeem lost men out of the world. So God loves the world and thus seeks the world to Himself and to accomplish that, He sacrificed Himself. He paid the ultimate supreme price to do what He desired to do to fulfill His glory.

Now here’s the point. Get it very clearly. Here’s the point. The person who desires to glorify God, who wants to honor God’s will and God’s purpose and God’s desire, must then love the lost world the way God loves the lost world and give his life for the sake of winning that lost world. That is the pattern. God loved a lost world and sought to win it to Himself for His own glory. Christ came into the world, loved a lost world and sought to win it to Himself for the Father’s glory. We are sent into the world to love the lost world, to seek to win the lost world for the glory of God the Father. Our mission is the same mission Christ had, it’s the same mission God the Father had...no different...identical.

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When Jesus came into the world, He wanted to glorify the Father. In [John 17](#), this is outlined for us so beautifully, turn to it for just a moment. In [John 17:3](#), it says, **“And this is life eternal that they might know Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”** And then Jesus said, **“I have glorified Thee on the earth.”** That was His mission. I came to glorify You. And how? To reconcile man back for that is the single greatest way that God is glorified. That’s what Christ came for. That’s why He came. I have glorified You. How did You do that? **“For the Son of Man is come to seek and to...what?...save that which was lost.”** ([Luke 19:10](#)) Yes, Christ came to glorify God. How did He do that? By seeking and saving that which was lost.

Now that is precisely, beloved, that is precisely what the mission of the church is. It’s no different because we are an extension of God the Father. We are an extension of the ministry of God the Father. His desire to be glorified by the salvation of lost sinners, Christ's desire to glorify the sinner through the salvation of lost sinners, our desire is to glorify the Father through the salvation of lost sinners and that is our purpose.

And in [John 17](#), it comes through so very, very clearly. He says in [verse 6](#), **“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world.”** I told them about You, He said. I conveyed to them Your desire, Your motive, Your mission. (see [John 17:6-7](#)). In other words, they know that I’m doing what You desire to be done. You see the flow? He says to the Father, **“Father, I've glorified You, I've told them exactly what Your intention is, what Your mission is, they've gotten it. They understand it. They've kept Your word.”** [Verse 8](#),