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Series: [The Great Commission](#)

# The Great Commission (7)

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[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

(Continuation from 10/14/12)

## The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

The point is this, and I want you to get it, there is only one reason we are here and one reason alone, and that is that we may seek and save those who are lost. It is as the Father sent the Son that the Son sends us. If the Father wanted fellowship with the Son, He would have kept Him in heaven. If the Father wanted perfect knowledge with the Son, He would have kept Him in heaven. If the Father wanted the perfect praise that was His, He would have kept Him in heaven. He wouldn't need to send Him to earth. But if the Father wanted to redeem fallen men, He had to send Him to this earth. That's the only reason we're here. There is no other reason.

Now I hope that simplifies it for you. That's it. So when you evaluate your Christian commitment and you evaluate how you're using your Christian life, ask yourself one question: am I involved in winning lost men and women to Jesus Christ? Is that where my time and energy and effort and talent and money is going? To do that? That's the only reason you're here.

**So unless you're committed to the fact that we are here for the responsibility of winning a lost world to Jesus Christ, then you better reexamine why you are existing.**

**Fellowship, teaching, praise are not the mission of the church.** They're part of the preparation and the training for the mission. I mean, a great athlete does a lot of things in training, but the training is not to be confused with the competing and the winning. It is not to be confused with running the race. All the exercise and preparation you go through in your education is not to be confused with succeeding in your profession. And when the church meets for fellowship, teaching and praise, all that is only preparation for the running of the race and winning of lost people to Christ. That's why we're here, that is it.

Now, to understand that is to be able to come to the passage in [Matthew chapter 28](#) and I call your attention back to it, with understanding. Here is the purpose of the church. So simply stated. Everything Christ did when He was here on earth was for this, everything we're to do is for this, and what is it? [Verse 19](#), and the verb should read, **“Go ye therefore and MAKE disciples.”** That's all I want you to grasp for a moment. That's the main verb in the last two verses, **MAKE disciples...MAKE disciples.** That's our calling. That's our calling. That's why we're here. And the only reason why we're here. We are left here to make disciples...to bring people to Christ...to cause people to become followers of the Savior...to seek and to save those that are lost.

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The verb “**make disciples**,” (*matheteusate*) is an imperative command. From a verb “*matheteuo*,” the noun form is “*mathetes*,” we get the word “**disciple**” or “**learner**” from that. It means one who is a learner, one who follows, to make a disciple of to make a learner of, to make a follower of. We are to make followers of Christ, disciples of Christ, learners of Christ out of men. We are to bring them to Christ. It is a common term. It is a term used even in the Jewish culture in [Matthew 13:52](#) to describe the training process of a scribe.

**Matthew 13:52 (NASB)**

<sup>52</sup> **And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."**

It speaks about a person coming to one and being trained by that one, learning from that one.

Jesus did it.

In [Matthew 27:57](#) it says, “**Joseph was discipled by Jesus.**”

**Matthew 27:57 (NASB)**

<sup>57</sup> **When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.**

He was one who followed Jesus, who knew Jesus Christ by faith and walked after His precepts. In [John 4](#), a very important passage, [verse 1](#) gives us insight into the preoccupation of Jesus' ministry.

**John 4:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> **Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John**

Jesus made and baptized disciples. That's His ministry. Even though “*matheteusateis*” not used in [John 4:1](#), the expression there with the noun “*mathetes*” and the verb form “*poieo*,” to do or to make, makes the same point. Jesus makes disciples. Jesus is involved in bringing to Himself men and women to follow Him. Its reference is to initially salvation, as we shall see in next week's study. And then to all that follows that.