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Series: [The Great Commission](#)

The Great Commission (9)

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[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

(Continuation from 11/25/12)

The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

Now after you're done checking through your checkbook, check through your calendar and find out where you're spending your time. And what occupies your mind. Well, we're great at fellowship, fellowship stimulates us. We're great at teaching; teaching sort of entertains us and assists us in growth. And we're great at praise, that gives expression, but we're sure not so good at sacrificial living or sacrificial giving to reach the lost. And, friends, I'm trying to say what Jesus said and what the Scripture indicates is that that's the only reason we're here. Every other purpose could be better accomplished in heaven. Now we've got to come to grips with this. The sad part is most Christians are content with the trivia of this life to amass the junk of this life to pad their own case, fill up their lives with all the accessories they can possibly enjoy while the world is going to hell and we're not there to reach them.

S.D. Gordon has written a lot of little books years ago called **Quiet Talks, Quiet Talks on Service, Quiet Talks on Prayer**, I read them as a young man. One of them is called **Quiet Talks on World Winners** and in it he has a marvelous, marvelous illustration. He says a group of people were preparing for an ascent to the top of Mount Blanc in France in the Swiss Alps. On the evening before the climb, a French guide outlined the prerequisite for success. He said this, "You will only reach the top by taking just the necessary equipment for climbing and leaving behind all unnecessary accessories. It's a difficult climb."

A young Englishman disagreed and proceeded along the following pattern. In the morning he showed up and he had a rather heavy brightly colored blanket, some large pieces of cheese, a bottle of wine, a couple of cameras and several lenses hanging around his neck. And also some bars of chocolate. The guide said, "You'll never make it with that. You can only take the bare necessities to make the climb." But strong willed as he was, he set off on his own in front of the group to prove to them he could do it.

The group then followed under the direction of the guide with just the bare necessities. And on the way up toward the summit of Mount Blanc, they began to notice certain things left behind. First a brightly colored blanket, then some pieces of cheese, a bottle of wine, camera equipment and some chocolate bars. Finally when they reached the top, they discovered that he was there...having jettisoned everything in the process.

S.D. Gordon then makes this application to the Christian life. "So many people when they find that they can't make it to the top with all their accessories let the top go and pitch their tent in the plain and the plain is very full of tents." You understand that? It is very full of tents. And the question comes to you and to me is: do we understand why we

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exist? Can we say to the Savior, “I know why the Father sent You into the world to glorify Him by winning the lost...I know why You send me into the world to glorify Him by winning the lost...but You don’t understand, I can make it with all my accessories.” No, it’s not so. “Too many people,” said S.D. Gordon, “let the top go and pitch their tent in the plain.”

Now what is necessary for effective evangelism? If we’re going to make disciples of all nations, if we’re going to reach the world, what is necessary? First, what I’ve given you in this introduction must be understood. But now I want you to look at five explicit or implicit elements. We’re only going to examine two of them and the rest next time. These are in the text of [Matthew 28:16](#) to [20](#) and they are those things which are essential to effective fulfillment of the purpose for which the church exists: **availability**, **worship**, **submission**, **obedience**, and **power**.

First of all, let’s look at **availability**. This is implied in [verse 16](#) in a very, very wonderful way. By the way, someone once said, “**The greatest ability is availability.**” I like that. It doesn’t matter how talented you are if you’re not available. The greatest **ability** is **availability**. And we see that here. There’s going to be a great commissioning on this day and they’re going to be people sent out into all the world with the promise of the presence and the power of the living Christ. But if you weren’t there, you weren’t going to be a part of that. The ones who were available were the ones who received the privilege.

[Matthew 28:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

We’ll stop at that point. Here’s the **availability**. The word “**but**” should better be translated “**so**”. It’s a simple connective reflecting the response of the believers to Jesus’ instruction. Back in [Matthew 26:32](#), He said, “**When I’m raised from the dead, I’ll go before you into Galilee.**” After He was raised from the dead, notice [Matthew 28:7](#), “**The angel said to the women, He goes before you into Galilee, there you will see Him.**” When Jesus appeared to those same women later on in [Matthew 28:10](#), Jesus said to them, “**Go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee and there shall they see Me.**”

In other words, before and after the resurrection, Jesus said He would meet with His disciples in Galilee. He was calling together a great conclave there for the purpose of commissioning them to reach the world. They were told then before His death and after His resurrection that they were to be there. And no doubt the word spread beyond the disciples to all the others who believed in Jesus Christ and they were all gathered, as we shall see, on that mountain on that appointed day.

Now we have no specific knowledge as to how Jesus communicated to them the time and the place...what day and what mountain. We don’t know, it just says here that they went away into Galilee into THE Mountain, the Greek text says, the specific mountain which Jesus had Himself appointed. The verb form indicating there that it was by His

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own discretion and His own will that He appointed a certain mountain to meet them. We don't know how that message was conveyed to them, but it was.