

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**MATTHEW 28****Matthew 28**

Matthew twenty-eight opens at the empty tomb as the Marys make their way to check on the body of Jesus! At the tomb, they had a heavenly visitor announcing that the Lord Jesus was no longer in the tomb but had indeed risen from the dead, just as He said He would. It is interesting that after greeting the women, the angel told them to go tell His disciples that He was alive and that the disciples were to go back to the Galilee and meet Him there in a place that He had chosen while He was with them there. Why Galilee? Because that is where it all began. That is where their relationship started, and the Lord had taught them about His work and mission. Matthew also records in this chapter the story concocted by the religious elders to say that someone had stolen the body. A bride was given, and so the story goes. The guards did this to protect themselves from the governor, Pontius Pilate.

Beginning with v. 18, Jesus met with His disciples on the mountain where He had instructed them to meet Him and announced that **"all authority is given to Him in heaven and on earth,"** and because of that, they were to be His witnesses of what He had accomplished through His substitutionary death, burial and now

resurrection. This is called "the Great Commission" by followers of Jesus down through the centuries. What exactly is the command and commission? *It may not be what you think!*

Jesus said, "Therefore," that is, on the basis that all authority is given unto Me, I am giving you a commission...

"Disciple!" There is one imperative, only one command in v. 19, and it is *not* "go." It is an imperative to disciple people! The command is to make disciples, and then the Lord gives them a series of how, when, and where to do that. Go is a participle, a verbal adjective. The word go in this sentence is telling the disciples that they are to make disciples when they go, wherever they go, to whomever they come in contact with, they are to make disciples! They are to be on mission anywhere, everywhere, and at any time! They are to baptize those who become followers of Jesus. Baptize is a participle as well, modifying how they are to accomplish the mission of disciple-making! The next step is to teach them to obey! The command is not to go! The command is not to teach! The command is to teach them to "observe, keep," that is, "obey" whatever Jesus has commanded!



ON THE WAY

Prayer and Action Steps

Jesus commands all who are His followers to be on mission everywhere we go and whenever we go! We are to look for opportunities to disciple people. That is not merely getting them to make a commitment to become a follower but teaching them to live daily in obedience to the way and will of God! Lord, please help me to be obedient in every area of my life, including making disciples.