

# *Serving Jesus*

Emily Jones' baptism and Deacon Ordination / Installation of Kevin Goodman, Bill Goosie, Chris Ogle and Jeff Jennings

Today is a very special day in the life of our church...

We witnessed the baptism of a new believer. We have installed deacons who will help and lead us in serving our Lord better... And we will share in the celebration of the Lord's Supper... These are things we don't get to do every week...

If this is your first time here – there is something you need to know – and that is that this is a very short message... which is not the norm – and won't become the norm...

Our subject today is Serving Jesus ...

In Matthew 28 Jesus gave a clear command to His disciples – and it is a command that is to be carried out by His church today.

The setting is post-resurrection...

Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

## **1. The Declaration**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

In this passage, Jesus clearly declares His Authority! He has the right to take command, because He is the Supreme! Though this authority has been rightfully His for all eternity, we also learn that God the Father has affirmed His only begotten Son's authority after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection:

Phil. 2:9-11

<sup>9</sup>... God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those

who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Authority is a matter that we all must face. Many people are being deceived into thinking that they are their own authority in determining their own truth and “reality” as they may like... But the truth is – we have each been given life by the One and Only Creator and each of us will one day stand before Him and give an account for how we have lived the lives He has given us...

In this passage – Jesus lays claim to having supreme authority, and therefore has the right to give instructions to His followers who are to live their lives under that authority...

## 2. The Assumption

<sup>19</sup> Go (Gr aorist part – “*Having gone*”)

The tense of the verb is *aorist* – which speaks of an action started and completed in the past. But it has a present participle which connotes an ongoing action... So the literal translation is “*Having gone*”...

Jesus assumes you are going into the world... You are going about the experience of living life – but here He is stating that – as you *go* – carry out His commission:

## 3. The Commission

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...

There is a three-fold commission in this commandment... The first is:

### ➤ *Make Disciples*

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,

The word disciple comes from the Greek word, which means to be or become a student or learner... So the basic meaning of *disciple* is a *learner*, which could also be called a follower or an apprentice...

In ancient culture, a person would follow a “*master*” teacher or craftsman in order to become like him (Matt. 10:25; Luke 6:40)...

Notice – that in order to be a disciple – there must be a certain commitment on the part of the follower...

Becoming a follower of Jesus begins with the experience of being born again. There is a beginning point in our relationship with Christ – and that is initiated at the point when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see our desperate need for the Savior and draws us to Christ with the realization that He – and He alone is the One who can save us... That is – He is the One who rescues us for the wrath of a Holy God – Whom we have all offended with our treasonous heart...

Yet – though discipleship begins at the point of one’s salvation – discipleship is an ongoing process in your growth and maturity in that relationship:

In fact – it has been rightly said the “Disciples are Made – not (merely) born”.

<b>SALVATION</b>	<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b>
Free gift	Costly
Received through faith	Demonstrated in commitment and obedience
Not by our works	Involves our works
Instant justification – declared right with God	Life-long sanctification – living right for God
Jesus paid the price	The Christian is purchased by that price
Trusting Jesus	Following Jesus
Believe the gospel	Obey the commands

[ ] Walter A. Henrichsen’s book Disciples are Made, Not Born...

### ➤ *Mark Disciples*

baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

This is what we just witnessed this morning...

Did you pay attention to the two questions I asked Emily?

*“Have you in fact – and in faith – trusted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life?”*

*“Is it your desire and determination to follow Him all the days of your life?”*

### ➤ *Mature Disciples*

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;

In order for one to be a true follower of Jesus Christ, a Christian must meet certain conditions given by the Lord... These include such things as:

- obeying His Word (John 8:31) and
- denying one's own desires,
- being willing to suffer for identifying with Him, and
- actively pursuing His will (Luke 9:23).

These are just a few of the things Jesus calls His followers to do...

And why would we do that?... What would motivate anyone to obey God's Word? What would be a greater passion than pursuing personal passions?... In fact – why would anyone be willing to suffer the rejection and ridicule of others for the mere fact of being a Christian?...

The answer is – Because we love Him!... If you know Him – you will love Him!... If you love Him – you will follow Him!

Jesus said:

John 14:15

<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:21-25

<sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him (make Myself known to him).”

<sup>23</sup> ... “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. <sup>24</sup> He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

In John 16, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of truth”... You and I desperately need TRUTH – and God is not only the source of Truth – He is the only One Who can guide you to that truth...

John 16:13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

And finally – notice:

#### **4. The Exhortation**

<sup>20</sup>... and lo, I am with you always (Lit *all the days*), even to the end of the age.”

What an encouragement!...

Take to heart the Lord exhortation – the promise of His presence in the lives of those who follow Him. Be encouraged to know that there is nothing a child of God faces – alone!... Jesus is with you no matter what you may face as you go about your life – loving – following – and serving Him...

In this time of meditation – is there:

- Something to confess and repent of?
- A burden to surrender to the Lord?
- A relationship to intercede for?
- A matter of obedience to commit to?

## Questions to consider in Community Group:

- Where does Jesus get His authority to command?
- The second major point in the message was entitled “The Assumption”. What assumption?
- A point was raised in the message that “Disciples are made – not born”. What does that mean?
- There were several contrasts made between “*salvation*” and “*discipleship (sanctification)*”. Which ones stood out to you? What other contrasts can you identify?
- What are the two questions Pastor asked Emily before she was baptized? (At least the gist of those questions.) Do you think that they are too much to ask of one who desires to be baptized? Why or why not?
- Why are we baptized “In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”? What significance about each Person of the Trinity should we understand in relation to our salvation? (In other words – what “part” of our salvation does each Person perform in our salvation?)
- What are some practical things that we can, and should do, as followers of Christ that can assure that we mature in our relationship with Christ?
- What should motivate our obedience to Christ? If, and when, we lack such motivation – what can, or should, we do?
- What was the final exhortation – the final word of encouragement in the message?
- Have there been times in your life with the reality of Christ promise of His presence was especially helpful to you?
- How can we be sure that Christ is “with us” – when we may not “feel like He is”? What can we do when we lack the assurance of His presence?