

The Great Commission

Week One: All Authority

Ian Graham

Life With Jesus Is Cultivated: Contemplative Communal Congregational Co-Missional

Matthew 28vv16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Authority

Matthew 28v18: All Authority In Heaven and on Earth

Different Kinds Of Authority:

- Political
- Cultural

"You can resolve to live your life with integrity. Let your credo be this: Let the lie come into the world, let it even triumph. But not through me."

— Alexander Solzhenitsyn

- Technological

"I believe the future is going to be so bright that no one can do it justice by trying to write about it now; a defining characteristic of the Intelligence Age will be massive prosperity." He adds that "although it will happen incrementally, astounding triumphs – fixing the climate, establishing a space colony, and the discovery of all of physics – will eventually become commonplace.

Ivan Illich: "once basic needs have been translated by a society into demands for scientifically produced commodities, poverty is defined by standards which

the technocrats can change at will.” “Poverty,” he adds, “then refers to those who have fallen behind an advertised ideal of consumption in some important respect.”

- Temporal
- Theological

Martin Luther King, Jr, Letter From A Birmingham Jail: There was a time when the church was very powerful in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society. Whenever the early Christians entered a town, the people in power became disturbed and immediately sought to convict the Christians for being “disturbers of the peace” and “outside agitators” But the Christians pressed on, in the conviction that they were “a colony of heaven,” called to obey God rather than man. Small in number, they were big in commitment. They were too God intoxicated to be “astronomically intimidated.” By their effort and example they brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide. and gladiatorial contests. Things are different now. So often the contemporary church is a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an archdefender of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church’s silent and often even vocal sanction of things as they are.

Nietzsche: In the end, gods have no other choice: either they are the will to power—in which case they will still be the gods of a people—or they are powerless in the face of power, and they will necessarily become *good*.

Newbiggin

The confession I am making is that Jesus is the supreme authority or, using the language of the New Testament, that “Jesus is Lord.” This confession implies a claim regarding the entire public life of mankind and the whole created world. It is a claim that by following the clue that is given in the story that constitutes the gospel, the believing community will be led to a true understanding of all that is and to a right practical relation to it.”

The confession “Jesus is Lord” implies a commitment to make good that confession in relation to the whole life of the world—its philosophy, its culture, and its politics no less than the personal lives of its people. The Christian mission is thus to act out in the whole life of the whole world the confession that Jesus is Lord of all.”

Kingdom Of God/Heaven [From Last Week]

What? When? Where?

Mark 1v14-15

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." [Mark 1v14-15] se he is working out in everything and everyone.

What? Kingdom- political order with God as king
-Dallas Willard: The range of God's effective will

When? Now

The time is now fulfilled:

Time: *kairos* a specific moment, season, fullness for harvest

Fulfilled: from *pleroo* the unfolding of God's ordained order

Where? Near

NT Wright from Surprised By Hope:

Heaven, in the Bible, is not a future destiny but the other, hidden, dimension of our ordinary life—God's dimension...God made heaven and earth; at the last he will remake both and join them together forever. And when we come to the picture of the actual end in Revelation 21-22 we find not ransomed souls making their way to a disembodied heaven but rather the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven to earth, uniting the two in a lasting embrace.

John Wesley, The Way To The Kingdom

"Blessed is the man" (or rather, happy) "whose unrighteousness is forgiven, and whose sin is covered." He it is that inspires the Christian soul with that even, solid joy, which arises from the testimony of the Spirit that he is a child of God; and that gives him to "rejoice with joy unspeakable, in hope of the glory of God" hope both of the glorious image of God, which is in part and shall be fully "revealed in him," and of that crown of glory which fadeth not away reserved in heaven for him.

This holiness and happiness, joined in one, and sometimes styled, in the inspired writings "the kingdom of God" and sometimes "the kingdom of heaven." It is termed "the kingdom of God" because it is the immediate fruit of God's reigning in the soul. So soon as he takes unto himself his mighty power, and sets up his throne in our hearts, they are instantly filled with this "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. It is called "the kingdom of heaven" because it is (in a degree) heaven opens in the soul.

How does Jesus exercise his authority? How does Jesus reveal his authority?

Make Disciples:

μαθητευω (matheteuo)- make learners/disciples

What is a disciple?

How do we make one?

Key Point:

To mature spiritually is not only to grow in spiritual practices but to go in the authority of Christ seeking to make his Lordship known in and through our lives. We receive this understanding of Christ's authority and then we make it our ambition to live it out.

1. Baptizing

Colossians 1v13-14

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 6v3-11

3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 1v3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you

2. Teaching Them To Obey Everything I Have Commanded You

What did Jesus teach us?

Matthew 5v3-11

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Wendell Berry:

And this then,

Is the vision of that Heaven of which
We have heard, where those who love
Each other have forgiven each other,

Matthew 6v7-13

7 “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 “Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

 may your name be revered as holy.

10

 May your kingdom come.

 May your will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.

11

 Give us today our daily bread.

12

 And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13

 And do not bring us to the time of trial,
 but rescue us from the evil one.

Matthew 7v24-29

24 “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, 29 for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

Philippians 2v5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6
who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
7
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
8
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
9
Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
10
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Lesslie Newbigin:

“The Christian commitment is distinguished in that it is a commitment to a belief about the meaning of the whole of human experience in its entirety—namely, the belief that this meaning is to be found in the person of Jesus Christ, incarnate, crucified, risen, and destined to reign over all things.”

“what has to be shown is that it is truly a work of love to call men and women out of their traditional allegiances, and to invite them to accept—with all the cost involved—the yoke of obedience to Christ.”

The Greatest Commission- John 3v16