

**Passage:** Matthew 28:16-20

**Big Idea:** The Church's mission is to make disciples

**Aim:** For people to recommit themselves to the mission of making disciples

**Structure:**

1. Local Church
2. Universal King
3. Universal Mission
4. Unending Assurance

- I love being comfortable.
- There are people in this world who like to push boundaries, push themselves to the limit, do really either amazing or stupid things.
- But for me, I enjoy being comfortable
- There's nothing I quite like more than
  - sitting in front of the cricket for 5 days with the family, especially if we are winning,
  - Or being in a cafe, enjoying a nice coffee and having a read,
- I like being comfortable!
- I wonder if you're the same?
- I wonder if your thoughts about church are the same?
  - Do you like being comfortable?
    - Maybe we come along to a Sunday service, sit in the same pew
    - Throughout the year we may come to the occasional event
    - Maybe we just compartmentalise our lives to see church as something we just go to?
- Well Jesus says differently.
- Jesus doesn't say that the church's role is to be comfortable
- Jesus doesn't say that the church is to be a social club, NO.
- Jesus says that the church is important and is on a mission
- And He has written our mission statement for us!
- And this is what we're going to be looking at today.
- Our mission as a church, given by Jesus, is to make disciples.
- When we look at this mission statement, it's important to know who it's for.
- Our passage today says that Jesus gave this mission to the 11, formally 12, disciples.
- So let's remind ourselves about who these 11 were.
- They were normal people. Fisherman, tax-collectors amongst others.
- These people who were about to be leaders of the first churches were everyday people.
- Everyday, sinful, broken people who have been called by Jesus to be his church..just like us.
  - The only difference is that they got to see Jesus!
- Now you may be thinking, 'well if they got to see Jesus then that would be a lot easier for them to follow him!'
- Well apparently not.
- Look with me at verse 17, "When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted [or hesitated]."
  - To put this in context, Jesus had just been killed by the Jews, dead, buried and he has risen again.
    - The response to seeing the risen king Jesus is *worship*

- But it seems that some still hesitated even after seeing him.
- Why is this important?
  - Three things:
    - Firstly, it means that they are just like us! - they sometimes have hesitations
    - Secondly, it's important because it means that doubt isn't directly opposite to worship
      - It's okay to have questions!
    - Thirdly, Jesus still included these people who had hesitations in his mission.
  - This is the first church.
  - Filled with unremarkable people who weren't experts in theology but who were called and used by Jesus despite their failings and doubts.
  - The Anglican Church of Noosa, is likewise filled with people who have been called by God despite our sinfulness.
  - This challenge set by Jesus is set for you and me. The local church.
- But who is this Jesus? Why should we listen to him?
  - Well, he is the Universal King.
- At the start of verse 18, Jesus approaches his disciples..
  - The same people who fled when Jesus was arrested
  - In his love and mercy, he doesn't reject them..
- Rather, comes to them and he says 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'
  - This person who is fully man and fully God has been all given power and control.
    - At my school in Sydney there was a deputy headmaster.
    - Now this was a boys school full of boys who were in grade 7-12 and I remember in school assembly we would go in to the auditorium, creating a fair bit of noise
    - But when this teacher walked onto the stage, everyone became dead quiet almost instantly.
    - If it was anyone else, the noise would have kept on going
    - But when the deputy stood up everyone knew to be quiet.
    - He had quite the authority.
  - In the USA, the President is always accompanied by someone carrying a briefcase.
  - Although, this is no ordinary briefcase.
  - It's nickname is the the 'football' and it contains the launch codes by which the president can authorise a nuclear attack on another country.
  - That's extreme authority!
- But none of these compares to the authority of Jesus!
  - Jesus has all authority, not just over things on earth but of things in heaven!
  - He has authority
    - Over the angels
    - Over Satan's schemes
    - Over Satan himself!
  - He's the real, universal king!
  - People on this earth may claim to have control over everyone and everything.
  - Our politicians may claim to have all authority
  - NO Jesus does.
  - He's the real king
  - Not only that, but he's the king who we all once rejected!

- He's the one whose ways we constantly fall short of!
  - But he's the merciful king, who offers forgiveness for all who ask for it.
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- We have an amazing, UNIVERSAL king- THEREFORE!
  - Go and make disciples of his of all nations.
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- Because Jesus is the universal king, he gives us a universal mission.
    - To make disciples of all people.
    - To make people followers Jesus, to make people trusters of Jesus
    - However, before we do this we first have to GO.
  - You don't go anywhere without putting in effort. You didn't come to church today without putting in some kind of effort;
    - unless you have some sort of teleporting, auto-cleaning, instant-clothing device
  - Newton's 1st law of motion says that,
    - An object at rest will stay at rest unless it is impacted by some kind of force.
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- Similarly,
  - As a church we have a choice to make.
  - We can stay at rest, or we can GO.
  - It will be so easy to stay at rest.
    - As a church, we can just keep things ticking over!
      - Church on Sunday,
      - maybe a couple of extra services at Easter and Christmas,
      - rinse and repeat.
    - Or individually
      - Attend on Sunday,
      - keep to ourselves; as long as we are happy with the way things are done;
      - Give of ourselves whenever it's convenient.
    - How nice would that be?!
  - BUT, the church isn't supposed to be in a state of relaxation!
    - The church isn't on this earth to have a holiday!
    - No! INFACT,
      - We have all eternity relax!
  - But while we are here, we are to GO! We are to be active!
    - We are commissioned by Jesus, the universal king! To GO! To be actively making disciples of all nations!
  - We learnt last week that Israel was formerly meant to be a light for the other nations so that the nations may be drawn to them.
  - But now, that's only part of the church's mission. We need to be active!
  - Don't take my word for it, look at V19 with me,
    - "Therefore, Go and make disciples of all nations" more literally 'after going, disciplize all nations!'
  - We can't make disciples unless we go.
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- So what does this making disciples mean?
    - It doesn't mean just evangelising, otherwise Jesus would have just said 'go and evangelise'

- It doesn't just mean doing social justice, otherwise Jesus would have just said 'go and do social justice'
- Although it may include those sorts of things..
- It means making new followers of Jesus, and helping all followers to grow closer to Jesus.
- It means introducing people to Jesus
- It means deepening the personal relationship that we have with Jesus.
  
- We have the best news in the world..in the universe!
  - That humans can be in relationship with God through the death and resurrection and spend eternity with him in the new creation!
  - It's news that we shouldn't be able to keep us quiet!
  - The Gospel should be our engine room, it should drive us to making disciples.
  
- Then we have a couple of things to go with making disciples:
  - Firstly, Baptising them.
  - Look with me at V19, 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them **INTO** the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'
  - We baptise them into fellowship with the father, son and holy spirit,
  - We baptise them into the lordship of the father, son and holy spirit.
  - This is amazing that when we become a disciple and are baptised, we enter into this remarkable relationship with the king of the universe!
  - Secondly, V20, 'and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you'
    - We are to teach people not just to have head knowledge but to obey as part of coming under the lordship of Christ!
    - We teach them, not what we feel like and not whatever axe we want to grind but everything Jesus has commanded.
  
- Are we, The Anglican Church of Noosa, doing these things?
  - Are we going?
  - Are we making disciples?
  - Are we growing disciples?
  - Are we baptising new disciples?
  - Are we teaching new disciples?
  - Do we take Jesus great commission seriously?
  - I mean our Vision 2020 mission statement is:
    - We exist to glorify God by making disciples as we love and serve Noosa.
    - But do we believe this? Are we living this?
  
- I have to admit that I can only think of one or two disciples being made in the last year.
  - I didn't hear of that many new faces at our invitational series last year across all services.
    - Which are the very services designed for us to be able to invite new people!
  - Trust me, I find it hard too to invite people who haven't been to church.
  - But Jesus didn't command us to stay and be comfortable but to 'Go and make disciples'!
  
- So how are you going with this?
  - Are you praying for people to become Christians?
  - Are you prepared to give an answer for the hope you have
  - Are you inviting people to church or to our other events?

- Are you helping out where people are needed for our mission?
- Are we going to be committed to making disciples in this year and into the future?
- We have to be!
  - Not because it's our mission statement for Vision 2020 but because Jesus commands it!
  - All authority has been given to Jesus! And it's because of this that we are commanded to make disciples.
- And thankfully and reassuringly, he doesn't leave us on this mission alone.
- Look with me at the end of V20:
  - And behold I am with you always to the end of the age.
  - We have unending assurance.
  - We have the assurance of Christ's presence with us until the kingdom is complete, when he comes again.
  - This is brilliant news because we don't go and make disciples alone.
  - Each individual day, Christ is with us by the Holy Spirit
  - No matter what trials we go through he goes with us
    - And in fact, he has endured so much more than us!
    - We don't serve and make disciples of a god who is unable to sympathise with our sufferings but we serve the loving Lord Jesus who came down from the glory of heaven to this earth.
    - To be shamed and die on a roman cross
    - But to rise again,
      - To be a mediator between us and God
      - and to be given all authority over heaven and earth
  - The one who is in control is with you all the days of your life.
  - No matter what happens.
- Well what a challenge.
  - But if we seek first the Kingdom of God, we will want his kingdom to grow and for more people to come under Jesus' loving and merciful lordship.
  - If we take up our cross and follow Jesus, we will want to join Him in his mission of making and growing disciples
  - If we love our enemies, then people will already know us for our love
  - If we let our light shine before others and be radically different, then people will be attracted to us and then to the one who we serve.
  - If we do all of the things which Jesus has told us to do, then making disciples will be simple!
    - It will be engrained in our lives and in our DNA.
- We exist to glorify God by making disciples as we love and serve Noosa.
  - You may be thinking, Michael, that's all well and good, but I'm just an ordinary person. I sometimes doubt, I get nervous talking about my faith.
    - Well so were Jesus' disciples. They were no one special;
    - but just like them, God uses ordinary people like you and me to grow his kingdom.
  - But why do we make disciples?
    - Because we have the great news that Jesus is the real king and authority over everything including sin and death.
    - He's the merciful authority who we once rejected but

- he's the one who offers forgiveness.
- So we go and make disciples..
- We have to do the UNCOMFORTABLE thing of actively pursuing the making of disciples.
- But we don't do this alone.
- The one who has all authority is with us all the days of our lives until he comes again.
- So let's ask for his help now.