

Daily Discipleship

Holy Trinity Sunday (A) – Matthew 28:16-20

Tips of Discipleship: *Go, Baptize, and Teach*

Focus Question: *What opportunities did you have this week to teach someone about Jesus?*

word of life

“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.” Matthew 28:19 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus was crucified and was raised from the dead. He had appeared to Mary and instructed her to tell the disciples to wait in Galilee for him. (See Matthew 28:10) The eleven disciples follow those directions and wait on a mountain in the Galilee region. Yet, when the disciples finally see Jesus, some of them worship him while others doubt.

1. *Why might some of the disciples doubt the reality of Jesus when they finally see him after the resurrection?*
2. *If you would have been with them, what might have been your response?*

Jesus speaks to all his disciples – those who believe and those who doubt. He begins with a statement of his authority, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:18 NRSV) Jesus is not speaking as a ghost, disconnected from God. But rather, Jesus speaks with the authority of God.

3. *Why is it important for Jesus to begin his post-resurrection speech with establishing his authority?*
4. *How does Jesus exercise his authority?*
5. *How does Jesus try to share his authority with his disciples?*

Jesus has the ability to choose to do anything after his resurrection, but he chooses to be with his disciples. He chooses to invest in them and commission them for mission work. Jesus commands his disciples, “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. (Matthew 28:19 NRSV) This is often referred to as the “Great Commission” and can be found in mission statements of many congregations.

6. *What does it mean to “make disciples”?*
7. *How does the commissioning of the disciples relate to the authority of Jesus?*

Although there is no record of Jesus baptizing anyone, Jesus clearly wants his disciples to baptize. He doesn’t clarify if baptism is to be done by sprinkling, dipping, or dunking. Nor does he clarify the age of the one being baptized. He simply instructs to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Yet in the book of Acts, some people are baptized in the name of Jesus. (Example: Acts 10:48)

8. *Is there a difference between baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit compared to the name of Jesus? How so?*

The human desire to name God has been an ongoing desire. For example, Moses asks for God’s name before Moses departs to request the release of the slaves from the Pharaoh in Egypt. Names can assist people to grasp aspects of the identity and functions of God.

9. *What is your favorite name for God?*
10. *What does “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” reveal about the nature of God?*

word among us

While I was writing this *Daily Discipleship*, I heard a knock at the front door. Two nicely-dressed women and a little boy in a stroller were waiting for me to open the door. They introduced themselves and one woman asked if she could read a verse of scripture on hope to me. I consented. She opened her Bible to Revelation 21 and read about a new heaven and earth. She concluded, “Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” (Revelations 21:4 NRSV)

I suspect I had a smile on my face as I leaned against the door, listened to her read from the Bible, and looked across the lawn at the beauty of God’s creation. It was hard to imagine the beautiful creation passing away as God brings something new – a new heaven and earth. Yet, God knows what is needed to bring something new.

When the reader finished, she asked me if I had heard this passage before. I replied, “Yes.” She asked if it gave me hope. I replied, “Yes.” Those answers seemed to suffice and she asked no more questions. She simply gave me something to read and departed. That was all.

I was ready to tell the visitors about using that passage at funerals to comfort grieving loved ones. But, I did not need to do that. Maybe she could see hope in me. Maybe she could see God in me. Maybe she just needed to hear those words for *herself* today. All in all, it was a pleasant interruption of hope.

1. *Share a time when your day was interrupted by a word of hope.*
2. *Share a time when people invested their time and energy to teach you about Jesus.*
3. *Who in your life might need a word of hope? How might you be an ambassador of hope to that person?*

Jesus told his disciples to “Go!” That is not a very complicated instruction. We *go* all the time. In actuality, we *go* most of the time. But Jesus wants his disciples to *go* with a purpose – not any purpose, but with the mission of Jesus.

4. *What does Jesus want you to go and do?*
5. *How are you to partner with Jesus in mission during the coming week?*

Jesus adds two other commands to “go” – baptize and teach. Pastors are ones who most often place the water on the newly baptized, but the entire body of Christ can be active in encouraging people to consider getting baptized or to live out their baptism. Likewise, all of us have opportunities to teach others about Jesus Christ, especially when we realize teaching does not always occur in formal settings such as a classroom. The Spirit can give us the words to use in teachable moments which occur throughout the week.

6. *What is a teachable moment?*
7. *How might you learn to look for those teachable moments to share about Jesus?*

Prayer

Gracious God, you have commissioned your disciples to go, baptize, and teach. Help me to see opportunities to be your missionary in the course of my week. Amen

Dig Deeper

Psalm 8

last word

Be on the alert for teachable moments about Jesus.



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