

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 17 Feb 2023
Services: *Across the diocese*
Series: SEEK SHINE GO
Title: Go and make disciples
Passage: Matt 28:16-20 and 2 Cor 5:11a; 14-21

Outline:

1. Why?
2. Compelled by love? (vv11-15)
3. Charged as Christ's ambassador? (v16-6:2)

- We've had a great time over the last two weeks – remembering that we are to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness – he is to be our first passion and priority - and the everything else in life will fall into place...
- AND last week we saw that we are to let our shine before others so that people may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven...!
- Which brings us to the third and final in our year launch series... to go and make disciples of all nations... - and the passage goes on in Matthew 28 - *go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*
- The passage occurs right at the end of Matthew's gospel...
- And Jesus declares that he is now the RISEN and glorified Jesus Christ, and that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to him.
- God has granted to him – handed to over to him – all authority.
- And what does he do with all the authority which has been given to him?
- He gives one command... a command to all disciples of Jesus from that time forward...
- **To make more disciples....**
- All authority given to him and his command is to his disciples to make more disciples – that is, people who are live long followers of Jesus... absolutely devoted to Jesus... lifelong learners from Jesus...
- Disciples of rabbis in the ancient world – gave up everything in life in the devotion of their rabbi... to learn from their rabbi – to mimic their rabbi... to live with and for their rabbi...
- ...precisely what disciples of Jesus are called on to today...

And so when our rabbi Jesus gives a command – we follow – we take notice.

Go and make disciples... so that Jesus has more and more people utterly devoted to him – living with him and for him...

But I want to do something a little different this morning... I'm not going to unpack that passage from Matthew 28 so much... because I want to speak about the subject of making disciples from another angle – from another passage – from – 2 Cor 5...

Because I want to ask the question

Why?

Why make disciples (apart from the fact that it's a command of Jesus!)???

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

- What should be our driving factor to make more disciples.
- Why would we want to do that today? Why wouldn't we just leave people alone in their rebellion or in their ignorance?... or in the party lifestyle they live... why disturb them? Why tap them on the shoulder to ask them to follow Christ? Why not just leave them to it?
- Why bother people?
- Why risk making a nuisance of ourselves?
- Why risk being taunted or ridiculed or rejected – or even persecuted because we want to make disciples, because we want to share the news of Jesus?

WHY??

- Well we see the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5 explain three **simple points**....
- ..that Paul was
 - **Driven by fear**
 - **compelled by love**
 - AND **charged** with being an **ambassador** for Christ.

1. DRIVEN BY FEAR

- And first of all you might say to me 'hang on Mark, driven by fear, that doesn't sound like a great reason?
- But if you think about it for a minute, fear CAN be a good motivating factor...
- Fear will keep you from getting too close to the cliff and falling over
- Fear may cause you to drive more carefully and not speed recklessly...
- So fear can be a life saving factor
- The motivation of fear is not always a terrible thing... despite what we might first think...
- Let me read 2 Corinthians 5 v10: *For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad*
- We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ...
- Not to determine whether or not we have eternal life – that's a settled matter isn't it?
- ...because Jesus has died for us – our sin is taken – we are his now and forever... through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
- That's entirely because of his mercy... the riches of his grace... SO: eternal life is not in question.
- But we will appear before the judgement seat of Christ to give an account for how we've lived out life.
- ...even to given an account for what we've done with Jesus' command to go and make disciples...
- Remember that we're not saved **BY** good works... but we are saved **FOR** good works...
- This fear (you may have heard me explain this on another occasion), is not a cowering in the corner type scared stiff... I describe it as a **reverential awe of God!!**
- Knowing who HE is and who we are by comparison.
- And Paul says – have a look with me at v11 – that because he has a reverential awe of God – he tries to

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

persuade others....

- That makes **sense doesn't** it?
- He is that his reverential awe of God – this fear of God... and he knows that he's accountable and that others are accountable for their lives!
- So he comes before God who has the power to separate those who love and trust him from those who don't...
- That drives him to persuade others...
- Knowing that there will be some who have not yet turned to Christ... so they are not saved by Christ – because they've not repented...
- We want to persuade others so that they find the forgiveness and life we have been so blessed to find in Christ...
- Does the fact that you will have to give an account, ever motivate you to persuade others?
- If you take God **lightly**... you won't care what others think of Christ..... oh – doesn't matter!
- But if you believe God's **word**... and you'll be **convicted** that those who **do not love and trust Jesus** are in a very **serious position**... and **you'll want to act!**
- We will give an account for what we've done with Jesus' command to go make disciples!
- That should be sufficient **motivation**, to try and **persuade** others... that Jesus is **Lord**... and that he's ready to **forgive** all who turn **back to him!** ///
- But it's not only reverential **awe** of God that drives Paul... but – he also says that is:

2. COMPELLED BY LOVE

- He's compelled by **Jesus'** great love for **HIM**...
- v14 – have a look with me – *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all...*
- Paul says he will try to persuade others about Jesus – not only because God ought to be **feared**... but because of the **awesome love** of the Lord Jesus...
- What love is **THIS LOVE**...! that he loves us so much that he should lay down his life for us...???
- That HAS to be a compelling reason!
- It's **simply wonderful!**
- Paul says – we're **compelled** by that love... it **drives** us into **action**... it **urges** us **along**...
- And what's more – we know that he died for all (v15) *that those who died should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*
- So our whole life is no longer lived for us, it's lived for Christ who died for us.
- He realises his life is no longer his to do with what he wants.
- it **belongs** to **Jesus** – for **him** to do with what **HE** wants!
- SO /// when you've grasped **Jesus'** love for you – such great love that he **laid** down his **life** for **you** – then you will want **others** to know that love as **well**...
- **Driven by fear, compelled by love** and third:

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

3. CHARGED WITH BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

- Jesus laying down his life for us was for a very specific purpose and outcome.... (You've heard me on this before)... v19 **God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's sins against them.**
- that is – in the words of v21 - *God made him who had no sin (Jesus – perfect – sinless) to be sin for us...* Our sin transferred to him... so that his right-ness with God might be transferred to us!!
- **Imagine!**
- That because Jesus took my **sin**, I am **right** now with God now and for all **eternity!**
- Can we **grasp this!**?
- That's why Paul says (v17).. that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation!
- The old is gone, the new is here!
- We're new people
- That's **YOU** – if you are a Christian!
- A **new creation!**
- That **old** you – dominated by **YOU**, lived for **YOU**, destined for **death**, has **gone...!**
- The **NEW** you – **you** for whom Christ **died**; **you** who by the means of the death of Christ have been **relieved** of your **sin**; have been **reconciled** to **God**... you are **NEW!**
- Your life now dominated by **Jesus**... **lived** for Jesus as his disciple.
- And because of that, you have a **new** distinct **role** and **purpose**...
- ...because – have a look with me at the second half of v19 *He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*
- You see, we've been reconciled to Christ, AND we have a ministry of reconciling others to Christ...
- *We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us!*
- Listen carefully...
- Christ **died** for **you!**
- He loves you **SO much**...
- And you're now his... you live for him
- You are **accountable** for how you live your life
- And in that, you have been appointed an **ambassador**... for Christ.
- You **represent** Jesus now!!
- That is why we are to seek first his kingdom...
- That is why we are to let our light shine as his people...
-because we represent Christ!
- Where ever you live – you Christ's ambassador!
- And in that role, you have one clear message: **"BE RECONCILED TO GOD!"**
- That **neighbour**, that **friend**, that **family member**; that **colleague**, that fellow Rotarian - **you have the**

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

best NEWS possible for them....!!

...That Jesus loves them so much he died for them...!

- **AND** you have an urgent **EXHORTATION** for them... **BE RECONCILED TO GOD!...**
- **That** is what the **world** needs to hear – this broken world – needs to hear... it's what **Australia** needs to hear... what this whole **greater area of central and western NSW need to hear...**

"BE RECONCILED TO GOD!"

While it's still possible... while the invitation is still open... **BE RECONCILED TO GOD...! ///**

- Now it may be that that there are some listening today... who are not yet reconciled to God...
- You may be here because you've been urged along by your spouse... or a friend...
- you're accompanying your spouse because you love them and it's become your habit...
- ... but you've been holding out on God if you're honest...
- Your thinking has been – well – it's nice for them, but it's not for me...
- Or it's **true** for them – **but it's not for me...**
- Or it resonates for them, but it doesn't work for me.
- Or you might even think – we're all completely **mad...///**
- I don't really care **what** your position has been – I'm here today to tell you – that you are **deeply loved...** Jesus has **died** for so that you might not have to die for yourself...
- And you're **warmly invited** to have your **sin dealt** with and be **reconciled** to **Christ...**
- And in fact I want to **urge** you right now - to be reconciled **TO GOD!**
- Tomorrow – Jesus may **return** or your life may be **required** of you... and it will be too late!!!
- **PLEASE** – be reconciled to **Christ** right **NOW...! //**
- **How you may ask?**
- **Simply by saying** "I'm so **sorry** for pushing you out of life and ignoring you... and doing my own thing..."
- **Please forgive me...**
- **And he will!!!!**
- On the basis of Jesus' death for you your sin will be lifted off your shoulders, your slate wiped clean and you'll be **welcomed** and **embraced** by God who **loves you!!**

- **because** the Apostle Paul knows that he will be held **accountable...** he has a **reverential awe** of **God...**

and because he is **so moved** by the **love** of Christ who died for all... he now lives entirely for Jesus and tries to **persuade others...** //

- **Do you share those CONVICTIONS?**

Are you driven both by your reverential **awe** of God and compelled by his great **love** for **you?**

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

- And **because** he knows that through the death of Christ, God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to **himself**... he knows that he has been called to the **ministry of reconciliation**...

And he has **fully embraced his commission as Christ's ambassador**... and spends his **life** urging **others** to be **reconciled** to **God**.

- **Do you share that understanding – that sense - that COMMISSION?**

Have you embraced that?

Has that resonated with you?

Have you taken that on board?

That's **YOUR** calling **too friend!!**

Is it your strong sense that you are Jesus' ambassador where you go??

I trust it is... or that you will seriously consider what we've seen in God's word today... //

- For the charge to GO and make disciples – is for **all** of us...
- we need to be about the **business of making disciples** – or in the words of our Diocesan strategic plan – **SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE...!!**

and now at the end of what I've called our 'year launch' series...

let me point out...

- if we are people who
- **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...**
- if we are people who
- **let our light shine through our good works**
- if we are people who
- **go and make disciples** – because we are driven by fear, compelled by love and take seriously our commission as Christ's ambassadors...
- ...then we **will not help but see a difference in our lives... in a churches... in our communities...!!**
- we will see growth in ourselves... as disciples
- ...and we will see others become disciples....
- So brothers and sisters...
- **SEEK _ SHINE _ GO**

Lenten studies

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

LENTEN STUDIES 2023

JESUS CHRIST

DEATH

RESURRECTION



Erica Hamence



Mike Paget



LENTEN STUDIES 2023

Feb 26 - Lk 22:1-23 - Last Supper/Passover	Erica Hamence
Mar 05 - Lk 22:39-53 - Mount of Olives	Mike Paget
Mar 12 - Lk 23:26-49 - Crucifixion	Erica Hamence
Mar 19 - Lk 24:1-12 - Empty tomb	Mike Paget
Mar 26 - Lk 24:13-52 - Appearances	Mike Paget
Apr 02 - Acts 2 - Pentecost	Erica Hamence