

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, July 16, 2017

**Our Great Commission
A Study of Matthew 28:16-20**

www.hillcrest.church

The following are the last words famous people have said:

Frank Sinatra: “I’m losing it.”

Steve Jobs: “Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow.”

Nostradamus: “Tomorrow, at sunrise, I shall no longer be here.”

Leonardo da Vinci: “I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.”

Choose one of the following questions to answer: Do you recall the last words of a friend or loved one? What do you hope your last words will be?

Jesus’ “last words” in the Gospel of Matthew are known as “The Great Commission.” Read Matthew 28:16-20.

According to verses 19-20, what are the four things Jesus expects us to do?

Did Jesus command us to “make converts” or to “make disciples”? What’s the difference?

Did Jesus command us to baptize persons before or after they identify as disciples? What’s the difference?

Did Jesus command us to teach others to know all his commands or to teach others to observe all his commands? What’s the difference?

If Jesus commanded us to teach his commandments to those we have baptized, that implies that baptism takes place before a disciple has been fully taught. What are some things you understood better since you've been baptized? If someone hesitated to be baptized because they didn't know enough yet or weren't perfect enough yet, how could you use the Great Commission to help them have a better understanding?

**Do you need to be baptized as a disciple?
Our “Baptism in the Park” is Sunday, August 6.
www.hillcrest.church/outdoor-baptism**

In his sermon, Daniel said we disciple each other as we **encourage, serve, and challenge** one another. List some ways we can...

...**encourage** one another

...**serve** one another

...**challenge** one another

How is your LifeGroup doing at discipling each other through encouraging, serving and challenging one another? Where might you need to grow?

Read Matthew 22:36-40. This is called “The Great Commandment.” How does the Great Commandment relate to the Great Commission?

Someone once said, “When you see a ‘therefore’ in Scripture, you need to find out what it’s there for.” What does the “therefore” in Matthew 28:19 refer to?

So, Jesus **began** his Great Commission with a reminder of his *authority*. And Jesus **ended** his Great Commission with a reminder of *presence*. Read the last sentence in verse 20.

Explain how the *authority* of Jesus and the *presence* of Jesus can help you overcome the following attitudes:

- ❖ “Honestly, I doubt I’ll do anything different after studying the Great Commission today.”
- ❖ “I don’t have enough confidence to practice the Great Commission.”
- ❖ “I would get too much backlash if I practiced the Great Commission in my culture or my family.”
- ❖ “You don’t know my friends or family. No one in my circles is ever going to change their mind about Jesus.”

Though we call it “The Great Commission,” the way we actually practice it we should probably call it “The Good Suggestion” or “The Optional Task for Special Disciples.” After today’s discussion, what will you do to actually accept it as your Lord’s Great Commission?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests