

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

King Jesus, He Shall Reign, Living Hope

WELCOME

How does celebration of anniversaries encourage us in life? Is there a downside to celebrating anniversaries?

WORD

MATTHEW 28:18-20

***18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

BLESSED HAPPY 36TH ANNIVERSARY, CCF!

While we have ended the month of August with a joyous celebration of the CCF anniversary, we are also reminded of the positive and negative effects of such: while we get reminded of all that God has done through the years and what He continues to do within and through our ministry, we might also begin to focus on *our* accomplishments, which leads to misplaced glory given to man instead of God alone. People may enjoy the too much the church's achievements, that we, like so many institutions experience a **MISSION DRIFT**.

In 1636, Harvard's mission was stated this way: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the end of his life and studies *is to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning*."

Today, their mission statement goes like this: "... to educate the citizens and citizen-leaders for our society. We do this *through our commitment to the transformative power of a liberal arts and science education.*"

A mission drift exists not only in schools, but also in businesses, and more often, churches. CCF leaders and members should never forget the reason why God has called CCF to exist. What is our mission statement?

To honor God and make Christ-Committed Followers who will make Christ-Committed Followers.

It is lifted from what many scholars call The Great Commission mentioned in **Matthew 28:18-20**. What are **CONVICTIONS** we should hold onto as we fulfill the Great Commission?

1. THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS

Jesus tells us first and foremost about His authority. This is something we cannot comprehend---He has ALL POWER! No one is higher than HIM. Nations have powerful presidents,

but they only have power in their country. Here, Jesus says He has power and authority over ALL... He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, the dead to come back to life. For our mission to spring from the authority of the One giving it means that since it is anchored on who Jesus is, then its fulfillment and accomplishments will all result in His glory and praise.

2. THE COMMAND TO MAKE DISCIPLES

There are different verbs in **Matthew 28:18-20**, for example – "go", "make", "baptize", and "teach" – but the primary verb is **MAKE (disciples)**. Why is this so important?

Making disciples is more than just talking to people about Jesus... it is also helping them become **COMMITTED FOLLOWERS of JESUS**. To make disciples means you help somebody not just come to know Jesus, but also help the person become more like Jesus (Christlikeness), so the person can bring honor to the Lord – in love, compassion, humility, etc. When this happens, you will attract people to Jesus, and the result is SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION.

Matthew 7:22-23 also shows why this is very important: the evidence for authentic disciples we should be looking for is the **transformation of the heart**. Intellectual assent without transformation of the heart is useless. Discipleship must result in the right attitude towards the **LORDSHIP OF JESUS**.

3. THE LOSTNESS OF HUMANITY

We must keep in mind the power of **spiritual MULTIPLICATION** in discipleship; gospel-sharing alone is simply **spiritual addition** – we must aim for the **greatest reach** since the gospel is to be preached to the entire world! The magnitude of the command is worldwide because all people are lost apart from Jesus. Until you realize that the whole problem of humanity is that we are lost according to Jesus (**Luke 19:10**) and that is why He came, to seek and to save us, you will not take the Great Commission seriously. **John Ortberg** said, "*Sin is, somehow, at*

WORD (cont'd)

the root of all human misery. Sin is what keeps us from God and from life..."

The root problem of SIN is present in every human being (*Romans 3:23*), and the wages of sin is death (*Romans 6:23*).

The Bible talks about two kinds of death: physical death and spiritual death. Jesus illustrates this in **Luke 16:19-31** with the story of Lazarus and the rich man. When both characters died, they went to two separate places, and one cannot move to the other nor return to the world of the living. This emphasizes that after we die, there are only two places where we could go: either in the presence of GOD, or away from His presence forever. The rich man was in agony in the place he had gone to, but Lazarus was in a very comfortable, peaceful place. Pay attention to the resolve of the rich man in his suffering-- he did not complain or make an appeal to be rescued anymore. He knew that the judgment given was fair and final. However, he wanted water (relief), and when denied of it, he wanted someone to be sent to his family to warn them of the destiny that awaited them if they continued on the same path he took in life. His perspective was changed, and his priorities changed, but too late to change anything. This is the effect of SIN in our lives. The gravity of sin is met with the **ONLY** cure: God's good news for us!

4. THE LOVING CURE

Acts 4:12 says, "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men

by which we must be saved." It is through Jesus Christ alone – the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

Notice **Colossians 1:13-14** – we have **FORGIVENESS** and **REDEMPTION** in Jesus Christ! This is the greatest need of humanity! We hear about this almost every Sunday through testimonies of God's people. As **1 Peter 2:24-25** says, we are set free by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We must develop the conviction deep in our hearts, that God loves us, commissioned us, and **He promised His LASTING PRESENCE** to us.

5. THE LASTING PRESENCE OF JESUS

Why did Jesus give that promise in **Matthew 28:20**? When you love someone, you always want to be with that person because you **love** the person. God loves you and me, He wants to be with us, and His presence is our greatest security and comfort. Even in the midst of life's greatest disappointments and heartbreaks, we can still stand strong and weather the storms because of the confidence we have, as we cling on to Jesus' promise, that He will be with us until the mission is fulfilled—until the end.

We can look forward to being active workers in the great harvest field of souls. As we trust God for more years for CCF to and participate in the Great Commission may we live by these convictions and fix our eyes on Jesus who has promised that He will be with us to the very end!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Self-Check.** What conviction hit your heart the hardest? How did this message impact you?
2. **Setting It Right.** How do you grow in these convictions? What can you do to develop these convictions in your heart?
3. **Living It Out.** How will you obey the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will work in our hearts and the hearts of the people we pray for. Show care by asking how people are coping in these difficult times. Share about Jesus, our greatest hope, and how through His sacrifice, God provided His loving cure to the pandemic of sin that plagues us all.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Effective and righteous implementation of COVID19 response by different government agencies
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends