

HERO MAKING

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Matthew 28.16-20 | September 30, 2018

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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue Hero Making, engaging a fourth essential trait of raising up those around us: Commissioning.

II. Connecting with One Another

Is there someone in your life who not only saw in you (I C N U!) but pushed you to use your gifts? If so, who? And how did they do so?

III. Study the Text

a. Read Matthew 28.16-20.

Mountains have a special significance throughout Matthew's gospel. For instance, read the first few verses of Matthew 5 and 17. What is revealed about Jesus in these two settings?

b. Return to beginning of Matthew 28. What is revealed about Jesus here?

c. Back on the mountain in verse 17 we read, "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." The Greek word for "doubted" might be better translated "were hesitant" or "were indecisive."

How do these words change the overall feel of the passage?

Have you ever felt hesitant or indecisive in your spiritual journey?

How does Jesus' interaction with and commissioning of the original disciples help you understand your own hesitancy or indecisiveness?

d. One commentator explains verse 17 this way: "It is natural to believe that the eleven disciples would have been in a state of hesitation and indecision. Too much had happened too fast for them to be able to assimilate it. They did not doubt that it was Jesus whom they saw and gladly worshiped. If their faith was too small in measure, that was because they were in a state of uncertainty about what the recent events meant and what might happen next."

Imagine you were in their sandals. What would you think might happen next?

How would it impact you?

e. Verses 18-20 are known as the Great Commission. Imagine you're reading it for the first time: What do you find interesting about Jesus' command?

Why did Jesus want his disciples there, despite their having deserted him at his crucifixion and despite their being hesitant and indecisive?

- f. Why don't you think Matthew records the ways Jesus reassured his doubting disciples as other gospel writers did?
- g. One author explains, "Disciples of rabbis normally made disciples of their own when they became rabbis, but Jesus is more than a normal rabbi and summons us to make disciples for him alone and not for ourselves."

How would making a disciple of yourself look different than making a disciple of Jesus?

- h. We often quote the Great Commission by starting with verse 19, "Go and make disciples of all nations..." Reread verses 18 and 19. Why do you we need to remember verse 18 with 19?

What difference would it make if verse 18 weren't there?

- i. Why is it important that Jesus' disciples baptize others "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"?
- j. When you think of the Great Commission, which of Jesus' commands do you first think of? Circle that word below before moving on:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

The first of Jesus' commands, *go* is a participle, meaning it could be rendered, "as you go." The strongest command, then, is *make*. So you don't have to *go* somewhere far away to fulfill Jesus' command, you could do so right in your neighborhood!

- k. Why do you think Jesus instructs his disciples to make *disciples* and not *Christians*? What's the difference?
- l. How does Jesus' promise, that "surely He is with us always, to the very end of the age" bring you comfort?
- m. Why do you think Jesus includes *us* in his mission?

IV. Pray

- a. Lift up those who have not yet received the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in your neighborhood and around the world,
- b. Ask God to inspire and equip you to join His commission in making disciples,
- c. Pray for our Elder and Deacon Nominating Committee as well as our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue their work to find Hero Makers to serve and lead Good Shepherd.

