

# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SHARING OUR FAITH

### MATTHEW 28:18-20

#### *Sharing Your Faith Still Matters Today*

**Matthew 28:18-20 NLT** <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- This passage is some of Jesus' final words before He ascended to heaven
- Jesus is not speaking as a suffering servant but as the risen King
- Jesus says:
  - *All authority is given unto Me* – Evangelism rests on Jesus' authority, not our confidence
  - *“Go”* – Evangelism happens as we live our lives, not just at special events
  - *Make disciples* – The goal of sharing our faith is spiritual transformation, not just persuasion alone
  - *Teaching them to observe* – Evangelism includes ongoing spiritual development, not just the moment of conversion
- This passage is commonly called the Great Commission, it is a *universal* call for all believers to participate in sharing the Gospel, not pastors, evangelists, missionaries, etc.
- We live in world where many treat their faith as “private”, Jesus commissions us *to speak*
- For the unsaved to become believers we must speak
- **Romans 10:13-15** *13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” 14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”*
- Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, meaning salvation is available to everyone
- How can the unsaved believe without if they never heard about Him?
- How shall they hear without someone telling them?
- God could save without us, but He chooses to save through us
- We must not only share our faith, it must be our mission **Luke 19:10** *10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”*
- Jesus was saying His mission was seek and save the lost
- This was Jesus' mission statement, and it must become ours

#### *Overcome Your Fear of Sharing Your Faith*

**2 Timothy 1:7** *7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

- When it comes to sharing our faith, fear is a common response
- But fear is not to control our lives
- Instead, God gives us power love and a sound mind
- For many it is the fear of

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- Being labeled as a Bible thumper
- Consequences in family or work settings
- Saying something wrong
- Not knowing enough Bible
- Unfortunately, we allow our own fears to silence us
- The Bible calls us to trust the Spirit and not our abilities
- God gives us
  - Power – divine enablement
  - Love – the right motive
  - Sound mind – the ability to think under pressure
- The Holy Spirit is our source of courage to share our faith
- We can share our faith because we have confidence in the gospel ***Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.***
- Paul is not ashamed of the gospel because shame can cause silence
- The gospel is the power of God
- The gospel saves all who believe
- We are not responsible for the effectiveness of the Gospel, we are responsible for the delivery of the Gospel

#### ***Courage and Boldness are Spirit-Given***

***Acts 4:13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus***

***Acts 4:29-31 29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. 30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.***

- Peter and John had been arrested by the Sanhedrin and the Sadducees for healing a lame man and preaching the gospel
- But Peter and John did not back down because of their arrest and the threats they received because they were filled with the Holy Spirit
- Peter and John were ordinary men, but they spoke with boldness they had been with Jesus
- When Peter and John were released from prison, they went to church where other believers and the prayed
- The world does not need “angry believers”, they need *anchored believers*
- Peter and John and the congregation prayed for *more boldness* to do the work of the Lord
- To reach the unsaved world, we must pray for the Holy Spirit’s boldness

#### ***Handling Reject Without Losing Heart***

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***Matthew 10:14 If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave.***

- Jesus prepared His disciples for rejection
- Rejection is not a sign of failure, it is often evidence of faithfulness
- Because of the results-driven world we live in, rejection seems like failure
- Rejection really is just a part of being obedient
- People did not reject you, they rejected Jesus
- Jesus said if people don't welcome you or receive your message shake the dust off your feet
- Rejection does not end the mission
- Don't internalize what God told you to release

#### ***Recognize and Seize Gospel Opportunities***

***Colossians 4:5-6 5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.***

- God open door for gospel conversation through everyday life
- These opportunities to share often happen in times of stress, grief, disappointment, or need for direction in life
- Listening often opens doors that preaching may not open
- When you listen to others, they may say something that is an opportunity to share the gospel
- Opportunities require attention because the opportunity may not last long
- Paul tells us to:
  - Walk in wisdom
  - Make the most of every opportunity because they are limited
  - Have the right response to everyone or speak the truth attractively where they want to hear more
- In Acts 8, the Holy Spirit told Philip to go and he obeyed and it lead to the salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch
- God set up the eunuch's salvation, but Philip had to recognize the opportunity
- It pays to be prepared ***1 Peter 3:15-16 "... And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ***
- Readiness intentional preparedness
- Speak with gentleness and respect
- Speak about the hope that within you