

THE GREAT PURPOSE

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Acts 1:6-11 (ESV)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-19 (ESV)

Three things that we are assured of in these final instructions from Jesus:

1) He gives our lives PURPOSE.

"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8b (ESV)

"Go therefore... make disciples of all nations... baptizing... teaching..."

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...

Revelation 7:9 (ESV)

2) He assures us of the POWER to carry it out.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

Acts 1:8a (ESV)

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:18 (ESV)

3)

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

What do we do?

- 1) SHARE the Word.

"Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15 (ESV)

- 2) SHOW the Word.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us...

Ephesians 5:1 (ESV)

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- 3) SERVE the World.

"Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28 (ESV)

The So What...

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

Acts 1:11 (NIV)

- 1) What are you looking at?
- 2) Are the words you speak and share Gospel Words, drawing people to Jesus?
- 3) Is God's heart for the world reflected in how you live your life?