

Chapter 5



The Mission of The Ekklesia

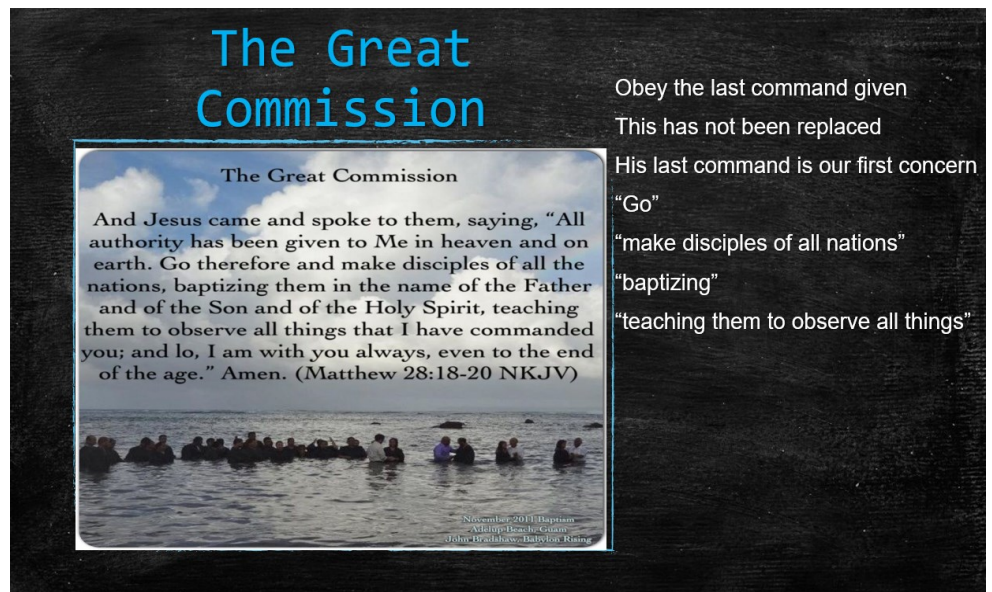
What is the Mission of the Ekklesia? It should be the same mission that Christ gave his first disciples. Here it is:

I'm going to read it from the New King James Version of the Bible. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This is the Commission that Jesus Christ gave to the first disciples. There is a fundamental policy in any organization, ministry, corporation, and especially in the army: Always follow the last

command. Since we are the army of God on earth, this policy applies to us. Obey the last command and keep obeying it until it is altered or replaced. However, this Commission that Jesus gave his disciples has not been replaced. It is still enforced, and it is still what He expects us to do today. This was His last command, and it should be our first concern—the priority of what we do.

There are some words in this Commission that we need to take a look at. They are active words or action words. The first word is, GO! The traditional and institutional church, which we all are very familiar with, is a "come" church: come to church, come to Sunday School with me. Come to the youth group. Come to the revival meeting. Come to the healing meeting. Come to the deliverance meeting. Come to the Easter program. Come to the Christ-



But that's not what Jesus said. He said the opposite. He said that we are supposed to “GO.” We are supposed to go where the people are with his message of love and forgiveness. With His message of grace and salvation and His message of being born again. Everywhere we go, we are to be taking the Great Commission .and the Kingdom of God with us.

Jesus told us to make disciples. We are to be making disciples of Jesus Christ. The church has not been doing that. When someone gets born again and enters a church, the next thing the church starts doing is teaching them how to be a good church member. They are taught how to serve in a choir, youth group, or on a board. They are taught how to be a deacon. Newcomers are taught “how to.” The church is teaching and training them how to be a good Baptist, a good Lutheran, or even a good Catholic. This is not what Jesus wanted His followers to do. We are not to be




making those kinds of disciples of organizations. We are to be making disciples of Him! Training people so that they understand who He is and lives out His life from inside of their heart. They are to be disciples of Jesus.

We are also to be baptizing them. Do You know that you do not have to go to some priest or pastor to be baptized? Every believer is a priest. Every believer has the authority to go and to baptize. It's right there. He gave this Commission to all believers. This Commission was not to some hierarchy. This was not given to the “clergy.” This was given to the disciples—those who are followers of Jesus. When you lead someone to Christ, you don't have to take them to a pastor or a priest and put someone else in between them and the Lord. You baptize them. You are to be their spiritual mentor because you are the one that is meant to be discipling them. Baptize them, and then teach them to observe everything He commanded us to do.

This is the Commission that we are to be operating under. This chapter will share many Bible verses that support what I share here. Search a matter out for yourself and see if what I am telling you is true or not.

When Jesus called his first disciples, it was straightforward. We would do well to keep it simple today. It was so simple that it involved just two words. He said, "Follow Me." When Jesus said, "Follow Me," he intended his disciples to follow Him. Now that sounds strange, doesn't it? But He said follow me, and I'll show you what to do. We would call that on-the-job training or learning as you go. Jesus would demonstrate some-

He said,
"Follow ME!"



And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. Matthew 4:18-22 NKJV

thing, expecting the disciples to be with Him, to observe what he was doing. Then he expected them to do what he was doing. It's that simple. He was saying, "Follow me. Watch what I do, and then you do what I do."

That's a simple call, and it needs to be that simple for us today. How do we become a disciple of Jesus? Simple, we follow him. We don't have to go through all the religious stuff to be disciples. We have to follow Jesus. Hear his voice and follow Him. He said my sheep hear my voice, and they follow Me.

So, what was Jesus's first step after he called those first four disciples? What steps was He expecting them to take? He wanted them to watch him and then do what He did. Right after that, it says, "He went about all of Galilee: teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases, among the people. Then his fame went throughout all of Syria. They brought to Him: all the sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; he healed them. Great multitudes followed Him from Galilee, from Decapolis in Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan." These were the first steps that Jesus took immediately after he called those disciples and said, "follow Me."

Jesus said, in effect, Watch what I am going to do. What did he do? He was teaching and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. This has not been happening in the church. The church has been preaching and teaching the gospel of the Church. Getting people inside the box and then training them how to function in the box.

Jesus did not preach the gospel of the church. He preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God. How to live in the Kingdom. How to be a kingdom citizen. There was no such thing as teaching church membership in the New Testament because everyone was a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Church membership divides the Kingdom up into little groups. I call them chiefdoms where people say, "I'm a Baptist," or "I'm a Methodist," or "I'm a Lutheran," or "I'm a Pentecostal." Those are just little chiefdoms that need to be wiped out. They need to go away so that the Kingdom can fully manifest because we are citizens of the Kingdom, and we are to be preaching the Kingdom of God.

What else did Jesus do besides preaching the gospel of the kingdom? He was healing all kinds of sickness and disease and setting free those in bondage and demon-possessed. He was recovering epileptics and paralytics all over the place from around the countryside, and Jesus was doing this to train the disciples. Jesus was saying, watch me; watch what I do because when I leave here, you will do the things I did. Watch me carefully and follow Me.

How are we doing today? Well, there are many things that we are leaving out. There are so many things that we are leaving out that it almost could be called the Great Omission instead of the Great Commission.



It appears we left some stuff out, like preaching the gospel of the Kingdom.

Do we hear the gospel of the kingdom being preached from the pulpits? Is it preached on the radio and TV? Maybe once in a while, but mostly you hear the gospel of the Church. Do

you hear preaching about healing all kinds of sickness and disease, healing and bringing freedom to those who are demonized? Do you hear about things Jesus would have been doing?

I worked in a factory when I was in high school. It was a factory that made backpack radios and sent them to Vietnam. I was a troubleshooter. Some radios got kicked off the assembly line because they didn't measure up to the standard. They would come to me, and I'd have to repair them. We had a prototype, one of the first ones off the line. We had a model, and every radio that went out of that factory had to measure up to and be compared to that model. If it was out of frequency, out of tune, or had capacitors or diodes that weren't working, I had to repair it so that it would measure up to the model or standard. In this regard, Jesus Christ is our standard. He is the prototype, the first one off the assembly line. He is the model. He is the one we need to be following and comparing ourselves to.

We need to stop comparing ourselves to one another. I often hear intercessors and others learning to pray to say, “I wish I could pray like...”. Don't pray like this or that person; pray like Jesus wants you to. People say, “I wish I could preach like...”. Don't do that. You learn how to preach like Jesus wants you to preach. He is the model. He is the prototype. He is the one that we are to be following.

Here are some more words Jesus said to them: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” The things that He did, He wants us to be doing. He said, “I am sending you.” He didn't say I'm going to gather you up in a cluster somewhere and have you invite people to come to you.

He said I am sending you. In the same way that I was sent. Where did Jesus go? He went to the woman at the well. He went to the lepers. He went to the demon-possessed. He went to the hungry people on top of a mountain that came to hear him teach.

How are we doing?

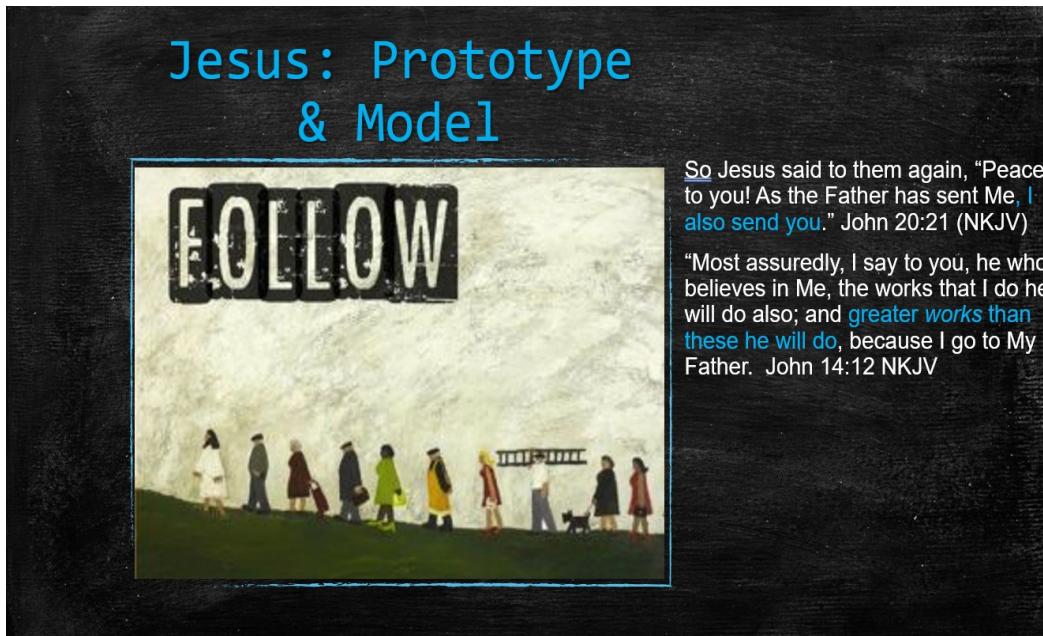


It appears that we left out some stuff:
Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom
Healing all kinds of sickness & diseases
Healing & freedom to the demonized

Where did He go? What did he do? He went and said, “I am sending you.” Go as I sent you. How did he go? “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me the works that I do, he will also do, and greater works than these will he do because I go to my father.”

So, Christ is expecting his followers to multiply the works that he did greatly. Multiply them numerically and also in their notoriety. We are to be doing notable works, even more, extraordinary than His. That's what He is saying, “greater works.” Multiplication is part of this

because Jesus was one person walking around Palestine doing good things. Now He has millions of us, and we are walking around like Jesus with skin on and doing the things that Jesus did. That is what it means to follow



Him.

Follow the example and the pattern. That's all we have to do. “Follow Me.” Watch what I did and do it. It gets really easy. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and He went about doing good and healing all who are oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. He went about doing good things.

When we see someone who is hurting, What are we to do? There's an old saying, WWJD? Do you know what that means? What would Jesus do? That's not a wrong question. When you see someone hurting, ask yourself, what would Jesus do? If Jesus saw an older man who was teetering across the grocery store parking lot when he went to step up on the curb and was stumbling and about to fall, what would Jesus do? If Jesus saw a young woman with two children in her arms, one in each

If Jesus saw an older man attending his grandson's band concert and it was evident that this older man had suffered a stroke, what would He do? If half of the man's body was paralyzed, and he was trying to walk up the bleachers to get to a seat and watch his grandson in a band concert at college, what would Jesus do?

I can tell you that what I just described to you was real. I saw the older man walking across the parking lot, and I could not sit still. I could not stand by and watch. I had to do something. I went up and embraced the older man and helped him. He came up to me in the store later and thanked me. He said, "Not many people would do something like that anymore." I told him that God loved him. I said That Jesus loves him and that I helped him because Jesus loves him.

I saw the woman with two children in her arms trying to push a basket across an ice-covered parking lot. I walked up to her. I knew she wouldn't let me take her children, but I did make the basket and helped her get the groceries in the car.

When I saw the older man trying to walk up the bleachers (I have to be honest with you), I argued with God when He told me to do something. As soon as I saw the man, the Holy Spirit said you have to pray for that man. I said no, God, not here. I'm at my grandson's band concert. I can't do that here, God. He kept bugging me about it. He said you need to pray for him. That's what He would do. He told me He would pray for the man. I ignored God's voice. The concert was over, and I saw the man walking off the bleachers. He made his way; it was pathetic to watch a man with half his body paralyzed by a stroke trying to make his way down the bleachers. And I didn't help him. I realized that I couldn't go home without helping him. I met him out in the lobby area. I walked up to him and said, Sir, I couldn't help but notice, but it appears that you have had a stroke. He told me about it. He said he had a stroke and told me about what had happened to him.

I said I believed in God and that he still heals people through the power of Jesus' name. Would it be all right with you if I prayed and asked Jesus to heal you? He was happy, so he said "yes." He said, "I'd be more than willing." He

said, "I'd be happy for you to do that." After a band concert, I laid my hands on him right there in a university's lobby, and I prayed quietly. I didn't make a big show.



I prayed softly. I said Father, this man has had a stroke. You have put it on my heart to pray for him. I'm praying for his body to be healed and restored in the name of Jesus. I spoke to his body and said, body in the name and by the authority in me, in the name of Jesus, be healed, straighten up. You're in the Kingdom of God. Then I just said Amen. That was it.

I asked him how he felt. He started to move around. He said, "Well, I feel different." His hand had been paralyzed. His hand had been like a claw. I said, did God heal you? He said, "Yes, He did." I said, then shook my hand. He straightened out his hand and shook my hand. He was completely healed in the lobby of a college music hall.

What would Jesus do? He went about doing good. He said, "Follow me." I'm expecting you to do that. I'm hoping you heal people and deliver people. You don't have to make a big show about it; ask them if you can pray for them, and they will let you.

You will

be surprised how many people will allow you to pray for them.

You may be asking yourself,

what if they don't let me? That's just the enemy trying to bring fear into your life. You will be surprised how many people will let you pray for them. It will happen out on the street and in the grocery store. It will happen at some event in your town. Very few people care that much about others to be willing to pray for them. They are going to be touched when you offer.

Jesus said, "These signs will follow those who believe." in Mark 16: 15-18, He said, "Go into all the world." There's that "Go" word again. "Go!" He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned." And "These signs will follow those who believe: In My name, they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them, and they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Follow The Example & Pattern



God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who **went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

W.W.J.D.?

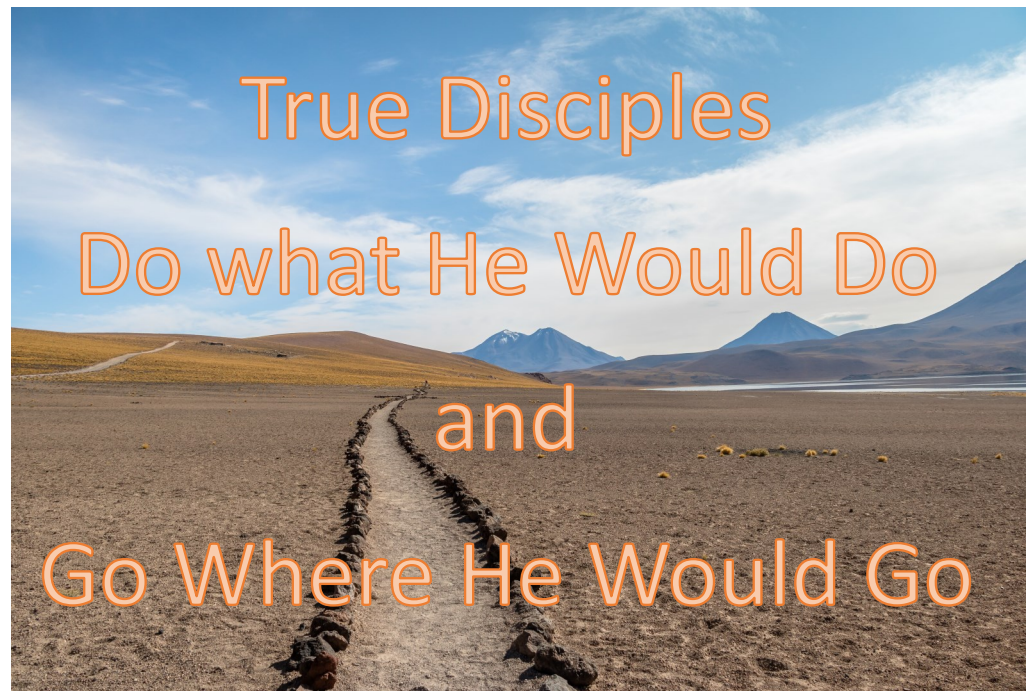
Jesus told his disciples the signs that would follow those who believed in Him. He didn't tell them just to bore them. These disciples went out and did what he said to do. These signs that he's talking about were for those who would believe. These signs and events took place because of the witness in the ministry of those first disciples. If things had kept going as they were supposed to, we would be doing these things today.

If the people at the church you have been attending are not actively going, if they are not casting out demons and speaking with new tongues, if they are not overcoming a bite of a serpent or toxic poison, then they are not following Jesus.

I know some people go overboard with emotionalism. People tend to get hyped up in some service, break out a snake, and start passing it around. That is not what Jesus was talking about. He was saying that we would be protected in our going. Like Paul when he was shipwrecked on an island, and he reached his hand into a wood pile to put wood on the fire, and a snake bit him on the hand. He wasn't hurt. He shook it off. No harm came to him. We'll be protected and will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

If the folks you have been attending church with aren't experiencing and doing the things that Jesus said would happen to those who believe, can it be told that they are following

Christ? If those things aren't happening, I think we cannot claim that we are following him.



So, here's the application and the activation for this chapter. Again, the warranty or guarantee of these classes is only good if you do the applications and activations because otherwise, we are just contributing to

the problem.

Application & Activation



Go

Find someone who needs help

Do something good to help them

Find someone who needs healing

Ask if you can pray for them

Lay your hands on them

Pray that they be healed in Jesus Name

Be ready to share your story next week

The people in the church come and sit Sunday after Sunday after Sunday, and they never graduate. There should be

a graduation point somewhere, like when you graduate college and get a job. Sunday school has no graduation ceremonies; you sit there for the rest of your life. This is not us! This is not the Ekklesia! We make these applications so that we become doers of the word and not just hearers. The applications are all designed to bring activity and activation so that we will put into practice the things we have just heard.

So, this is the application and activation: First, I'm going to ask you to go this week. Go to the divine appointment. I've been praying for you. It's probably not going to walk into your living room; it's not going to walk into your church and find you. You are going to have to go. You are going to have to get out of the four walls. Go to your neighbors and find something you can do to help someone this week. Go to the mall. Go to the shopping center and see if you see anyone sick or afflicted. They are everywhere. There are hurting people everywhere.

You might go to one of your children's or grandchildren's baseball games, basketball games, or band concerts like I do. Or how about a flea market or a community festival? How about a circus or a parade in town where people gather or a farmer's market? How about a carnival? Carnivals go to almost every city in America. How about the 4H fair? Have you ever thought of that being a mission field? Go to your neighbors. If you see someone needing help, just stop and help them. One of the things I have done quite often here in Indiana is pulling people out of the ditch in the winter. They are stuck in the snow in the winter, and in the spring and fall, they are stuck in the mud. I hook them up with my log chain and pull them out of the ditch. Do something good for someone else. Find someone that needs help. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes so that you'll see people.

The Good Samaritan saw a man along the road. He was all beaten up and damaged and would have died. The priest walked over to the other side, bypassing him. The Levite walked over to the other side, forgetting him. The man from Samaria took action. People might have thought that this dog from Samaria wouldn't do anything to help anyone, but he did. He's the one Jesus chose to set the example of someone who did something to help someone who needed help. He stopped and helped him and was twice called the Good Samaritan.

He did something good to help someone in the act of love. We might call it random acts of kindness. There are many of these: rake their leaves, mow their yard. Help people carry something heavy into the house. These things happen in my experience because I want to see what God brings my way. Is your neighbor trying to unload furniture? If so, help him. Just be helpful. Find someone who needs a helping hand. They are everywhere. I see sick people every day. Open your eyes and see people riding around in the electric cart at Walmart and stop and say, "Hey, I notice you're having some trouble walking today. Would it be all right if I prayed for you?" Just ask them. They'll probably let you pray for them. Ask if you can lay hands on them and pray for them. Let them know that you still believe that Jesus heals people today. Ask the Father, "Father, will you heal this person in the name of Jesus? Be healed!" Pray that they are healed in Jesus' name.