

# The Challenge From The Mountains

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:3-11

# Dialogue between Gabriel and Jesus

- Story ends with Jesus saying:  
*‘I haven’t made any other plans. I’m counting on them’* (the 12 disciples)

- When Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared
  - to His disciples for 40 days, to
    - > restore
    - > reassure
    - > rejuvenate

- Two mountaintop meetings
  - 1) Galilee – gave His plan
  - 2) Judea – gave disciples His power

- First plan called ‘Great Commission’  
Purpose: to *make disciples*  
Goal: to tell people about salvation  
How? Through Christ’s sacrifice
- They are to walk in obedience

- Scope of mission
  - *all* authority
  - *all* nations
  - *all that I commanded you*
  - and I am with you always
- Goal: worldwide kingdom

- He empowered them for task
- He expects us to be relentless
  - in disciple-making
  - in being creative and enthusiastic

- The second mountain-top meeting
  - Disciples gathered in anticipation
  - Hear about the future kingdom

- So they asked:  
*‘Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’*

- Jesus' reply stunned disciples – why?
  - 1) The receiving of power was different
  - 2) In those days, no one received power
  - 3) Jesus pointed to different kind of future

- What disciples anticipated:
  - Revival of the kingdom
  - i.e., restoration of David's golden era
- They were struck by what Jesus said:  
*'When the Holy Spirit has come upon you'*

*'We have this treasure in clay jars,  
so that the extraordinary power  
belongs to God and does not come  
from us'*

2 Cor. 4:7

- Today, every believer is promised
  - same power
  - part of His plan
- When we decide to participate, the Holy Spirit takes care of the rest

- Jesus empower ordinary people
  - carry out extraordinary plan
- He foretold success:

*‘You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth’ (Acts 1:8)*

- To begin with Jerusalem:
  - Be witnesses to family, friends, neighbours, coworkers
- Eventually, Jesus  
*‘will come in just the same way as (the disciples) watched Him go into heaven’ (Acts 1:11)*

- The Lord's eye on the whole world
- He never sets limits on
  - how many people we can reach
  - how far we should go
- - to leave your comfort zone
  - to experience worldscale disciple-making

- How to fulfill His command?
  - a) Pray for those making disciples
  - b) Give money to help missionary
  - c) Participate and go!
- We might feel divine prompting: to be involved
- Great Commission, not Great Suggestion

- Is this the picture of our church?
- Passion for lost souls?

Thank You