

Jesus Last Words On Earth

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-53; John 20:21; Acts 1:4-9

Usually a person's "last words" are very significant. In this message we will take look at the last words Jesus spoke before ascending back to heaven, commonly referred to as "the Great Commission."

Doctrinally or dispensationally, Christ's commission **to the apostles** is different from the commission and ministry of Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles (cf. Acts 9:15; 22:15-21; 2 Cor. 10:13-16; Col. 1:25-29 cf. Rom. 11:13; 2 Tim. 1:11).

For example, Jesus said apostolic signs would accompany the preaching of the "**eleven**" (Mark 16:14-18). These miraculous signs confirmed if a man was truly an apostle (2 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 2:2). They were prevalent in the first part of the book of Acts while the Apostles were mainly dealing with the Jews. But by the end of the Book of Acts, as God turned unto the Gentiles, these "signs" were almost non-existent (cf. 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20). The apostolic signs ceased when the last Apostle, John, died.

In Christ's commission to the disciples, He told them to teach their converts "*to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" (Mt. 28:20). That would include foot washing... healing the sick... raising the dead... observing the Passover... offering gifts at the altar, among other things that no Christian is commanded to do under Paul's ministry.

Also, Jesus commanded the disciples to baptize. But Paul said, "*Christ sent me not to baptize*" (1 Cor. 1:17). While Paul DID perform baptisms (1 Cor. 1:16), baptism was not part of Paul's commission.

➡ So, why do we baptized? Because...

- The practice of baptism was established and practiced throughout the book of Acts (Acts 8:12, 36-38; 16:14-15, 32-33; 18:8; 19:1-5).
- Paul, who is our pattern, was baptized (Acts 9) and taught baptism.
- Baptism is commanded in Acts 10:47-48.

➡ However, there are several things we can learn from Christ's last words that transcend dispensations and applies to us today. WE LEARN...

I. It starts by GOING (Mt. 28:19).

- A. We go in the Christ's authority (v. 18).
 - B. We go in obedience to His command (John 15:16; 20:21).
 - C. We go as His ambassadors (Isa. 6:8-9). This is not just the job of foreign missionaries. It is the responsibility of every Christian as an ambassador of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).
- ➡ No one will ever be saved if we don't GO! You are saved because somebody obeyed the command to GO.

II. It extends **GLOBALLY** (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8).

- A. God so loved the whole world, not just the 4% of the earth's population that live inside the borders of the USA.
- B. Jesus Christ died for the world—that includes people both near and far—Your neighborhood, your workplace, your school, your family, AND those in "*the uttermost parts of the earth*"—Siberia, Africa, South America, or inhabitants on the Fiji islands.

III. It propagates the **GOSPEL** (Mk. 16:15).

- A. The METHOD. Preaching—God has chosen the foolishness of preaching to save the lost.
- B. The MESSAGE. Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).
 1. If you want to know what is closest to the heart of Jesus, consider His last words. Of all the things Jesus could have said before leaving planet earth, He focused on the need of lost to hear the gospel.
 2. His last words show us His heart for a lost and dying world (John 20:21; 1 Tim. 1:15). Jesus' passion should be our passion as well.
 3. Isn't it strange that the thing that is closest to the heart of Jesus is farthest from the heart of some Christians? How do you explain that?

IV. It promotes **GROWTH** (Mt. 28:20).

- Go... teach... baptize... reproduce.

V. It includes a **GUARANTEE** (Mt. 28:20).

One time when G. Campbell Morgan preached on this text in a nursing home. He paused after reading the end of verse 20—“*Lo, I am with you alway,*” and asked, “Isn’t that a wonderful promise?” “No,” one of the ladies replied aloud. “It is a wonderful reality!”

Amen! The presence of the Son of God is a reality—every moment of every day—He is with us.

- A. His presence influences our CONDUCT. The assurance of Christ’s presence should influence everything about our behavior, our attitudes, our speech, and our relationships.
- B. His presence inspires our CONFIDENCE.
 1. He will never leave us or forsake us, so “*we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me*” (Heb. 13:5-6). No need to fear—He is with us.
 2. “**AMEN**” is a remarkable word. It is the FINAL WORD.
 - It was transliterated directly from Hebrew into Greek, then into Latin and finally into English and many other languages. It is practically a **universal word**. “*Amen*” has been called “the most well known word in human speech.”
 - “*Amen*” is directly related—and almost identical—to the Hebrew word for “believe” (am-ané / aw-mane). Thus, it came to mean “surely” or “truly”—an expression of absolute trust and confidence. It literally means “**so be it.**”
 - What a fitting word for Jesus’ “last word.” Notice the LAST WORD in the Bible (Rev. 22:21).

SUMMATION: Christ’s last words are a REMINDER to “keep the main thing, the main thing”—Reaching the Lost with the Gospel.

Christ’s last words should be our first words—“GO YE...” Are you going?