

# Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am Sermon on 31/1/2021

## Mini Series – “Making Disciples

### Part Ten - Matthew 28 v 16-20 “Disciples making disciples” and

**Matthew 28:16-20** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Last week, Steven Driver spoke about our personal responsibility for our own spiritual growth. We need to grow in our commitment to Jesus, and to grow in our conformity to Jesus, so that we come to love him more dearly and live more and more like he did.

**Every Christian is responsible for their own spiritual growth.**

No one can say that lack of spiritual growth is the fault of their church (or their parents), but the church still has a corporate responsibility for the spiritual growth of all believers. The church is called to make disciples.

- A long-established church like this one starts out with that mission to make disciples. Structures and programmes are put in place to enable that happen, and for a while it works. God, in his mercy, saves people and they are then baptised and taught to live Christlike lives. The church grows numerically and spiritually.
- As time goes on, the original mission of the church (to make disciples) can subtly change, and the structures, traditions and programmes become the master. Everything becomes about keeping them running.

Those structures, programmes and traditions may have served the church well once but they may not serve the church's mission now and they need to be re-evaluated. The reformers used to speak of continuous reformation – of constantly bringing everything back to scripture to ensure we are doing what God wants. The new

building and lockdown (meaning the church programme has been shut down for a year) give us an opportunity to look at what Broadstone Baptist Church is here for and what the new building is for. We need to ask:

1. What is the mission of the church and what does that mean?
2. How are we going to carry out that mission?

### 1. What is the mission of the church and what does that mean?

a) **What is our mission?** Jesus gave us the answer to this in his final words to his disciples before he went back to heaven. (**Matt 28: 16-20 above**). He commissions his disciples to be disciple makers.

**To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a disciple maker.**

This is not just for the eleven apostles to whom he was speaking. Jesus says he will be with his people in disciple making **to the end of the age**. The implication is that this is the commission of the church until Jesus returns.

Broadstone Baptist Church's mission is **to be disciples of Jesus who make disciples for Jesus.**

b) **What does this mean?** It means a transformation of the way that we live. We are to call people to:

- commitment to Christ
- conformity to Christ

Disciple making isn't about getting people to conform to church structures, programmes and traditions. This would just make them hypocrites, conforming on Sundays but living like pagans the rest of the week. It is not about re-introducing everything we did a year ago. All of that was only worth having while it served the mission of the church.

**We are to work at being a people who are sold out for Jesus, living like him in the world, and who work at getting others to be sold out for Jesus and to live like him in the world, committed to Christ and conforming to his image.**

### 2. How are we going to carry out this mission?

Jesus shows us three needs that come from three commands – **go, baptise and teach.**

a) **To go means that we need to be intentional**

Jesus told his doubting disciples to go on mission to make disciples. We have a responsibility to make disciples from our families and friends locally and in our nation, but the mission is to make disciples from all nations.

**There is no country, people, nation or continent excluded from this.**

- Everywhere on Planet Earth, people are to hear that Christ has lived, died and been raised to life to put them right with God. They need to hear that they are to commit themselves to him through faith and that they are to conform their lives to him through ongoing repentance.

You may ask what right the church has to go into nations of different faiths and ideologies (and into our own families) and tell them to commit their lives to Jesus and live under his rule. Jesus answers that in **v18** by speaking of his authority, which comes from God the Father who gave it to him that he might rule over an eternal kingdom made up of people from every nation, fulfilling the prophecy in **Daniel 7:13–14** (see p4). The gospels show how that authority is worked out in the lives of the nations. The Lord Jesus Christ has been given authority from his Father to build his eternal kingdom out of every nation and to sovereignly:

- Forgive sins (**Matthew 9:6** see p4)
- Reveal the Father to those given to him (**Matthew 11:27** see p4)
- To grant those chosen people eternal life (**John 17:2** see p4)

In response to that global authority, Jesus says to the church (to us!):

**Go THEREFORE and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)**

Jesus has every right to go anywhere on this planet to call people into commitment and conformity to him, and by that same authority he has every right to command us, as his messengers, to call people into commitment and conformity to him. Our response to his authority is to obey that command and to **GO**. This may mean leaving our comfortable lives here in the UK and taking the message of Christ to a people who have not yet heard it (age is not an issue as long as you are fit – there are no retired disciples!).

As a church, we want to disciple believers and send them out. It may be that God is calling you to go. For most of us, however, it will mean at least a mental move if not

a physical one. Instead of the good education, job, house or comfortable retirement we might think are priorities, we need to consider Jesus' priorities. What would it mean:

- For us to be committed and conformed to Christ?
- To use our finances to serve Christ's mission?
- To use our time for this commission of Christ?
- To shape our futures around this command of Christ to make disciples of all nations?

**How can we play our part in being disciples who make disciples wherever God has placed us?**

- b) When we go, we are to baptise – we need to expect public confession of Christ.  
**(Matthew 28:19)**

Baptism is given to us as a way of publicly confessing our commitment to Christ, and our desire to live a new life. (It doesn't save a person and is no guarantee that a person is saved.) Jesus shows that this isn't something that is optional for his followers. He commands us to baptise those who have committed their lives to him through faith and desire to live repentant lives.

A baptistry has been built in the new building because we want to obey Christ and baptise those who are his disciples. As a follower of Christ, if you aren't baptised, then you are disobeying him. It is the personal responsibility of a disciple to get baptised. The church presses this command on disciples out of **obedience** to his commission.

- c) Jesus expects us to teach - we need to expect conformity to Christ **(Matthew 28:20)**

Disciples grow in their commitment to Christ, and conformity to him, by being taught. What are we to be taught? It might seem that it will be the commands of Christ, taught from the Bible by the ongoing weekly public preaching of God's word, and small group teaching, and these will continue to be taught. However, over and above that, Jesus tells us to teach **obedience** to the commands – teach them to **observe** all that I have commanded.

Disciples of Jesus don't just **know** what Jesus commands – disciples of Jesus **obey** what Jesus commands.

That obedience comes because they love Christ, not from duty or a desire to earn the favour of God or man.

**They have been made right with God through Jesus Christ, so they love him, and out of love from him, they delight to obey him.**

**How can we put this into practice?**

Matthew's gospel could well have been used as a discipleship manual. After speaking about the birth of Christ and his baptism, Matthew gives us the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. In those 8 statements and that sermon, Jesus teaches what he expects from members of his kingdom:

- How to respond to persecution
- How to view money and possessions
- How to relate to other people, believers and non-believers
- How to manage their family lives
- How to witness in the world

He finishes by using a parable to call us to obey his teaching, (**Matthew 7:24-27** see p4) so we can see that to build your life on the teaching of Jesus through obedience will lead to eternal gain. The rest of Matthew's gospel shows how Jesus works that out in his own life. Jesus begins by teaching what he expects and then he models that life for us, thereby making disciples. He concludes by commissioning the church to do the same kind of disciple making.

- As a church, Matthew can act as our discipleship manual, calling us to commitment to Christ and conformity to Christ. What better way could there be to respond to this commission of Christ than by reading a chapter of Matthew each day through February (28 days for 28 chapters!)? As you read, ask the Lord to show you how you need to change, and share what God is teaching you with someone else.
- Then we will be disciples making disciples.

As motivation, take the promise of Jesus in **v20**. Jesus is at work in the world today, by his Spirit, calling people from every nation to repentance and faith, convicting and converting them to become committed to him and conformed to his image. He commands us to join him in that work by going, baptising and teaching. As disciples of Jesus, we are drawn into the story that he is unfolding. We all long to know Jesus' presence in our lives, and seek it as we read our Bibles and pray, or go to a worship gathering.

**Jesus promises us that we will know his presence, having fellowship with him, as we join him on his mission in the work of making disciples.**

The reading on Sunday morning was **Matthew 5:1-20**

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Daniel 7:13-14** <sup>13</sup> "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

**Matthew 9:6** the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins

**Matthew 11:27** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him

**John 17:2** you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

**Matthew 7:24-27** "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."