
SOUL WINNING

LESSON 1

INSTRUCTOR: EVANGELIST JANA PAULS
ankitrambabu.org

The Great Commission

Powerful takeaways from this lesson:

- There are two scriptures that are referred to as 'The Great Commission'. These are the words of Jesus Christ Himself:
 - "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV).
- To be able to teach or baptise anyone, they first must receive Jesus. This brings us to the first part of the Great Commission.
 - "And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15 KJV).
 - "And He said unto them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race]" (Mark 16:15 AMP).

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- The Great Commission is commonly known by Christians. Still, a majority of Christians believe that preaching the Gospel is optional. Why is it not called “The Great Suggestion” then?
 - Let’s focus on Mark 16:15. Is the Great Commission valid for today? Some people assume that everyone has heard about Jesus. Especially when they live in a ‘Christian country’, or know anything about Christmas.
 - Though many have heard about Jesus, they do not know Him. The people you think have heard about Jesus, haven’t actually. Or they’ve never heard a Christian speak OPENLY about Jesus. Which should be the norm.
 - “And this good news of the kingdom (the Gospel) will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then will come the end” (Matthew 24:14 AMP).
 - The end isn’t here yet, so we still need to preach the Gospel. This scripture is so clear. People still contradict it instead of just following what the full Word of God says.
 - Is every believer called to evangelise?
 - Yes! Because, Mark 16:15 addresses all believers. Not just the ministry gift of the Evangelist.
 - “Jesus said to THEM.” Who is “them”? The disciples of Jesus.
 - Jesus had 12 disciples, but also many followers. Jesus could not spend time personally with hundreds of people, like He did with the disciples. Today, every believer can be a direct disciple of Christ. We all have a direct relationship with Him, through the Holy Spirit.
 - If you consider yourself a disciple, then this scripture speaks directly to you today. A disciple is someone who is a student of Jesus. Or “one who is taught by God.”

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- If you don't want to be a disciple, that means you don't want to be taught by God. That means you want to stay ignorant.
 - What qualifies you to be a disciple is to-
 - 1) Receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.
 - 2) Believe that He is the Son of God.
 - 3) Be willing to learn and do what He says.
 - "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to be my disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also]" (Matthew 16:24 AMP)
 - So to be a disciple, you need to be taught by God. You must pattern your whole life after Jesus.
 - That doesn't mean you do what you think Jesus would do. You do exactly what the Bible says, because Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14).
 - "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so I send you" (John 20:21).
 - "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I do unto my Father" (John 14:12)
 - The verse above does not say "only the apostles shall do the works I do." He said, believers. Which is every single one of us!
 - So what was Jesus' mission on the earth? As His followers, our mission is the same as His mission.
 - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

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- **We cannot say we want to be like Christ while not seeking and saving the lost.**
 - “Jesus said to them, Come after Me and be My disciples, and I will make you to become fishers of men” (Mark 1:17 AMP).
 - A natural result of following Jesus is becoming a fisher of man. It is not natural or normal for a disciple to *not* be a witness.
 - To be a ‘Christian’ means, to be like Christ!
 - How is it possible to be like Jesus today without evangelising?
 - How can you be like Jesus without reaching out to people?
 - Every believer who doesn’t want to stay ignorant, being a disciple of Jesus, must seek and save the lost. That is a biblical fact.
 - Some people take the scripture in Matthew 22:14, “Many are called, but few are chosen” and apply it to evangelism. That is not the right context. Even if being an evangelist is not your calling, you are called to be a witness. i.e to preach the Gospel.
 - “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8 KJV).
 - Who was Jesus speaking here? Many think only to the 11 apostles. When that promise was fulfilled in Acts 2, not only were the apostles present, but 120 people. Men and women. How do we know this? Because Mary, the mother of Jesus was also present.
 - So, was the Holy Ghost and power only for those 120 people at that particular point in time?
 - “This promise is to your children, and to those far away, all who have been called by the Lord our God” (Acts 2:39 NLT),
 - Many people think they are called.

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- “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous Light” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV).
 - God calls all people out of darkness. That means you are called to come into the Light!
 - Only in the Light can you see the truth, and live in the truth. And the truth will set you free!
 - Would God ask you to not bring in more people to the Light?
 - Then why would God give 120 people the power to be a witness, if He only commissioned the 11 apostles to witness, and preach the Gospel?
 - We all know it is never wrong to talk about Jesus. Every time you tell someone about Jesus, you are being a witness.
 - What good is a witness who just talks about Jesus, and doesn't give people a chance to receive Him?
 - Not just individuals are commissioned. Entire churches are, too. Here's what Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. Not just leaders, or evangelists, but the *whole* church:
 - “Patter yourselves after me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah)” (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - We understand that the Apostle Paul was not telling the church to copy his ministry calling - to all become apostles. What then, do we imitate? The things that Jesus told ALL believers to do. The basics.
 - Disciples are followers of Jesus. In the same way, He asked us to make new followers. That is impossible without winning souls.

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- **Winning souls is the basic foundation for our Christian faith.** It is not something you need many years in Bible School to do. All you need is to have Jesus in your heart, and a desire to bring people to Him.
 - If you don't have the desire to win souls, your heart is cold, and you need to repent. Ask the Lord for a new heart. Ask Him to fill it with love and compassion for people.
 - You should come to the level where you can say to others, "follow my example."