

# GOD'S PLAN



## WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR  
CODE FOR THE  
FULL SERMON



### WEEK 2

## THE CHURCH'S MISSION

*Matthew 28:16-20*

This sermon emphasizes the church's mission to make disciples, highlighting the last command of Jesus as the church's primary focus. It distinguishes between salvation, a free gift through Jesus, and discipleship, which requires commitment and growth. The preacher outlines discipleship as personal growth in one's relationship with Jesus and public engagement with the church community. The sermon follows a structured framework: the meeting of Jesus with His disciples, Jesus' authority, and a process of making, marking (through baptism), and maturing disciples (through teaching). It underscores Jesus' authority over heaven and earth and His perpetual presence with believers. The sermon concludes with a call for individuals to evaluate their discipleship journey and encourage steps toward personal and communal spiritual growth.

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### DAY 1: The Authority Behind Our Mission

#### Reading:

*Matthew 28:16-20*

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

#### Devotional:

Jesus declares, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." This isn't just about power—it's about the rightful ability to exercise that power. Before Jesus sends us into the world, He establishes His complete authority over every realm, spiritual and physical. This means we don't go in our own strength or wisdom. When we share the gospel, make disciples, or stand for truth, we operate under the authority of the risen King. His authority doesn't expire, doesn't diminish, and isn't threatened by earthly powers. Today, reflect on this: What would change in your life if you truly believed Jesus has all authority? How might this truth embolden your witness?

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### DAY 2: From Doubter to World-Changer

#### Reading:

*Acts 5:27-32*

27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled

Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 31 He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

### **Acts 17:1-6**

1 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. 5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. 6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also;

### **Devotional:**

The disciples who doubted on the mountain eventually "filled Jerusalem" with Jesus' teaching and "upset the world." God specializes in using weak, doubting people to accomplish His powerful purposes. You don't need to have it all together to be used by God. The same disciples who struggled with doubt became bold proclaimers who turned their world upside down. The difference? The Holy Spirit's power. God isn't looking for perfect people; He's looking for available people. Your weaknesses don't disqualify you—they position you to experience God's strength. Where are you doubting today? Bring that doubt to Jesus and watch Him transform your weakness into His strength for His glory.

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## **DAY 3: The Gospel That Saves**

### **Reading:**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

#### **Acts 17:30-31**

30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

### **Devotional:**

The gospel is simple yet profound: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day. This message has the power to save anyone, anywhere. Salvation is free because Jesus already paid for it, but discipleship is costly. Repentance means a change of mind that leads to a change of direction—turning from our way to God's way. Everyone, everywhere needs to hear this message. You don't need eloquence or theological degrees; you just need to share what Jesus has done. Someone

in your life needs to hear this gospel today. Don't apologize for it. The world shares its message boldly—shouldn't we share ours? Ask God to give you courage and an opportunity to share the good news.

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#### **DAY 4: Marked and Identified**

##### **Reading:**

###### ***Romans 6:3-4***

3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

###### ***Colossians 2:11-12***

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

##### **Devotional:**

Baptism isn't just about getting wet—it's about being identified. When you're baptized, you're publicly declaring, "I belong to Jesus. My old life is dead and buried. I've been raised to walk in newness of life." Just as a garment baptized in dye changes color permanently, baptism shows the world your identity has permanently changed. You've been transformed. This isn't a work that saves you; it's an outward expression of the inward commitment already made. If you've been born again but never baptized, you're missing an important step of obedience. If you have been baptized, remember daily what it symbolized: you died with Christ and were raised with Him to live a new life.

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#### **DAY 5: Maturing Through the Word**

##### **Reading:**

###### ***2 Timothy 3:16-17***

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

###### ***James 1:22-25***

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but [c]an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

##### **Devotional:**

All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable. The Word teaches you what's right, shows you what's wrong, tells you how to get right, and trains you how to stay right. But here's the challenge: we live in a world that disciplines us constantly through news, music, social media, and entertainment. Six days a week, hours each day, we absorb messages that shape our thinking. Then we expect one sermon on Sunday to undo it all. Spiritual maturity requires intentional, consistent engagement with God's Word—not just hearing it, but doing it. Don't be a buffet Christian, taking only what you like. Embrace the whole

counsel of God. Today, commit to not just reading Scripture, but observing—actually doing—what it says.

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**Reflection Questions for the Week:**

- Where are you in the discipleship process: made, marked, or maturing?
- Who in your life needs to hear the gospel message?
- What area of Scripture have you been avoiding that God wants you to observe?
- How can you move from being a hearer of the Word to a doer?