

Matthew 28:16-20 contains the final verses of the Gospel of Matthew and is commonly referred to as the Great Commission. In this passage, Jesus appears to His disciples after His resurrection and commissions them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The passage begins with the disciples going to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. As they gather there, they encounter the risen Christ. However, even in His presence, some of the disciples have doubts, reflecting the human struggle to fully grasp the reality of Jesus' resurrection and the implications of His teachings.

Jesus addresses His disciples, declaring His authority both in heaven and on earth. He reassures them of His presence and promises to be with them always, even to the end of the age. This assurance provides the foundation for the task that He is about to entrust to them.

Jesus then gives them the Great Commission, a divine mandate to go and make disciples of all nations. This command encapsulates the heart of Jesus' ministry and the purpose of His coming into the world. It underscores the global scope of the Gospel and the mission to share the good news of salvation with people from every nation and culture.

The Commission includes two primary components: baptizing and teaching. The act of baptism represents initiation into the community of believers and symbolizes a new life in Christ. It signifies the transformation and renewal that takes place when individuals embrace the message of the Gospel. Teaching, on the other hand, emphasizes the importance of nurturing and instructing new believers, guiding them in the ways of Jesus and helping them grow in their faith.

In this passage, Jesus reveals the Triune nature of God, instructing the disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Trinitarian formula affirms the divine unity and the distinct roles of the three persons within the Godhead. It also emphasizes the significance of the new believers' relationship with the triune God and their inclusion in the community of faith.

The Great Commission concludes with Jesus' promise of His abiding presence. He assures the disciples that He will be with them always, empowering and guiding them as they fulfill their mission. This promise not only applies to the original disciples but extends to all believers throughout history, providing comfort, encouragement, and confidence in carrying out the work of the Kingdom.

Matthew 28:16-20 serves as a foundational text for the mission of the Church. It calls believers to be active participants in the spreading of the Gospel, engaging in the work of making disciples and teaching the ways of Christ. It reminds us of our responsibility to share the message of salvation and to nurture new believers in their faith. Moreover, it offers the assurance of Jesus' abiding presence, providing strength and courage as we fulfill the Great Commission in obedience to His command.