

## **Devotional Matthew 28**

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### I. Introduction.

A. We meet as followers of Jesus Christ - one is our master.

B. Text: Matthew 28.

### II. The commands of Jesus implied from the Great Commission.

A. The basis: Jesus Christ is the sole legitimate authority over every life.

1. The final question we must ask is what Christ would have us do.
2. This means we are also under the authority of God's Word.
3. You cannot serve God with what you cannot do, but what you can do.

B. The contents of Jesus command:

1. We are to repent.
  - a. The starting point is repentance which leads to reconciliation with God. (Matthew 13, Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21)
  - b. Repentance is ongoing. (Revelation 2:4-5)
2. We are to follow Jesus.
  - a. The second basic experience of the Christian faith is to follow Christ. (John 12:26)
  - b. We are to preach good news to the poor, release the captives, and to set free the oppressed - this is what Jesus did.
  - c. To follow Christ we must be where there is sin, suffering and death. This is where Jesus is.
  - d. The Prayer of Francis of Assisi - we are to be in the difficult places bringing good things.
3. We are to be a lamp letting people see our good works and not just hear our words. (Matthew 5:16)
4. We are to be reconciled to our brothers.

- a. Reconciliation is an up to date term everywhere you go.
  - b. Reconciliation is to be a going concern - we cannot allow things to build up between us.
  - c. We are to have a clean conscience before God and man. (Acts 24:16)
5. We are to deal with sin ruthlessly. (Matthew 5:28-30)
- a. Sin is not a matter of temperament.
  - b. One's environment, racism, riots, etc cannot be explained by sin.
  - c. Man can do some good things, but he is evil.
  - d. Jesus says that sin is a bad deal.
  - e. We can only fellowship on one basis - as forgiven sinners by the mercies of God. (1 John 1:9)
  - f. We are to ask the Lord to search us and try us, so once sin is revealed we can do something about it. (Psalm 139)
  - g. We are to walk in the light being exposed and open to God speaking to us. (1 John 1:9)

**Application questions**

1. In light of the message, explain in your own words what it looks like to be in obedience to Jesus.

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2. Why is it that the starting point is repentance? Why does repentance not stop with the beginning act?

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3. Explain what it means when Jesus suggests we are to pluck out our sinning eye according to the speaker. What does this look like when applied to your own life. Be specific.

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