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## PRAYER

Dear God, we ask that you would fan into flame the global body of Christ so that its heartbeat for the Great Commission beats strongly. Transform us as we read your Word and pray for the good news of Jesus to be amplified as a song of praise in our lives. Use us in our homes, workplaces, ministries, nations, and world for the sake of loving God with all our hearts, minds, and souls, loving our neighbours with all the grace and mercy you give. Amen.

*- Sarah Plummer - Chair of the Lausanne Intercession Working Group*

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If there was one skill you wish you had, what would it be? If you had 24 hours to learn that skill with a specific mentor, who would your mentor be for a day?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>16</sup> 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."

### MATTHEW 28:16-20

"We all struggle to comprehend the astonishing work of God in Christ. Having reunited with Jesus in Galilee, the disciples' response is somewhat peculiar. Upon seeing Jesus, they worship. This part we understand; it makes sense given the circumstances of Jesus' resurrection and the preceding events. But they also doubt. Worship is not typically associated with doubt. In fact, many feel that even if they do doubt, they cannot admit it. The text here does not so much focus on doubt in the sense of unbelief as it does on the cognitive dissonance that arises from unusual, even unbelievable, circumstances. This is one case where their understanding of the world and the way that God had previously worked in it did not match with what they saw before them.

Jesus' parting words are commonly referred to as the Great Commission. We typically hear it during mission days at church, mission conferences, or when missionaries come to town with their slide shows, presentations, and the like. But it is more than that; the reference of the text is much broader. The text frames the basis for the communal identity and life together for the movement that will become the church. Four elements emerge that draw our attention.

There are four "alls" in this text: Jesus has **all** authority given to him, we are to make disciples of **all** nations, we are to teach that we should obey **all** that he commanded during his earthly life, and the promise that closes is that he will be with us **always**. These four "alls" capture much of what the paragraph intends to communicate and also the central message of the Gospel of Matthew."

**Richard Beaton** - Associate Professor of New Testament Fuller Theological Seminary; Principal of De Pree Leadership Center.

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your confidence in Jesus? Why might you say this?
2. Referring to verse 17, despite these eleven disciples walking with Jesus for three years to the point of his execution and resurrection, some still doubted Jesus. Why do you think this may be? What was Jesus' response to them? What can we learn from this in addressing how Jesus desires to meet with us?
3. Would you consider yourself a disciple of Christ? Why or why not?
4. (Vs. 18-20) If all authority belongs to Jesus in heaven and on earth, and Jesus promises to be with us until the end, what does this mean for us? Does this cause you to live differently? Why or why not?
5. If you are a follower of Jesus, are you willing to obey God and make disciples of Christ?
6. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your ruler or boss, and enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## PRAYER