

God's Mission for the World, Matthew 28: 16-20 and Psalm 8

Jesus says that all authority in heaven and earth has given to him. All authority means supreme right to appoint to office. It also means a right to require obedience. It means right to govern in both heaven and earth.

A true faith is not chosen by people, but it chooses people.

In Matthew 28: 16-20 we understand that God is God in mission – 'Missio Dei', Latin words for the sending of God. This phrase primarily used by Protestant Missionary since 1950th. Originated from the Biblical term: the Father sent the Son, and / through the Son sent the Spirit.

What is God's mission for the world ? or more practical question: what is the church's mission in the world ?

Some might suggest to us that the purpose of the church is fellowship. That the church is a place to make friends with good people, honest people, godly people who strengthen our life. It's a place to provide activity for the family, enjoyable activity, meaningful activity. It's a place to enjoy music, the best of music, recreation, and relationships. It's sort of a place to hang out at until Jesus comes again. It's a place where love is shared and care is practiced.

All of that is certainly important because Jesus Himself said if we have love, all people will know that we are His disciples. But one step higher than that attitude would be the attitude of those who suggest that the mission of the church is teaching. But even a step higher than that would be those people who suggest to us that the real purpose of the church is praise to God. That the church is really a praising community, a community of people who exalt God for who He is and what He has done.

But if we read in Matthew chapter 28 verse 19, and the verb we read, "Go and make disciples of all nations." That's the main verb in the last two verses: go and make. That's our calling. That's why we're here and the only reason why we're here.

So the mission of God is: going out to reach others, bringing good news from God – evangelism; making (disciples) means discipleship by baptizing, teaching, obeying His commands.

The verb "make disciples," *matheteusate* is an imperative command. From a verb *matheteuo*, the noun form is *mathetes*, we get the word "disciple" or "learner" from that.

It means one who is a learner, one who follows, to make a disciple of, to make a learner of, to make a follower of. We are to make followers of Christ, disciples of Christ, learners of Christ out of people. We are to bring them to God.

Go and make disciples of all nations. All nations. Mission of God is above ethnicity, language, culture and belief.

Here in Dandenong, there are many people came from different nations.

It is our calling to share the God who we believe in. The God who gives all authority to Jesus. The God who is in the midst of multi faith and secular society Australia is the God who love and care for the world. It is about public confession (doxological life) and life according to it (ethical life).

We have to expect that every religion / belief in Australia has it's own right and responsibility to share their beliefs. It is not the issue of superiority over others or not, but it is about the ability and opportunity for each person's commitment to his/her belief.

It is a important of genuine inter / cross faith relationship in Australian society.

This creative interaction is a gift for Australia. Through our relationship with others who are different from us, we are called to love each other. It would reflect that we are created by the God who is in it's own being loving being.

That what is in Psalm 8 - praise is directed to God about God's creation. It is a doxology in praise. At the beginning and end of the psalm, it is confessed that God is LORD of all the earth and is everywhere in the earth honored, worshipped and obeyed.

In the Old Testament, Israel was deeply interested in creation. Creation matters to God's children. After all, as passages like Psalm 8 remind us, it matters to our heavenly Father. We care for that creation because God lovingly made it and then called us to care for it almost right from the beginning of time.

Psalm 8 also addresses humanity's place in that glorious creation. This psalm reminds us that our significance is disproportionate to our size relative to the rest of God's creation. It, in fact, reminds us of the central place and role God gives people in the creation.

Verse 4 insists that even though God has this vast creation to care for, God pays special attention to you and me. Even though parts of God's creation are far, far larger, God "cares for" people like us. In fact, Jesus says that God even knows how many hairs we have on our heads.

In fact, Psalm 8 insists God created people to be only slightly inferior to the angels and, even to God. We see part of that vital importance in the role that God assigns you and me in God's creation. Genesis tells us that near the beginning of measured time, God created us in God's image. Part of that image-bearing means caring for this creation, justly ruling it on behalf of the One who created us in God's image.

Psalm 8 tells us that God has put everything under our feet. When God gives you and me tasks, God calls us to do them in ways that imitate God. Psalm 8 doesn't imply that we may not enjoy the good things God put in God's creation. It doesn't seem to suggest, for instance, that we may not use wood for building homes, oil for running cars or water for fishing. Psalm 8 does imply, however, that we use God's creation with a watchful eye.

It is possible to care for God's creation in such a way that the Creator's glory remains on display for all to see.