

When Jesus Left this Earth

Matthew 28:16-20 v16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. v17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. v18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

Luke 24:50-51 v50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. v51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Acts 1:4-5 v4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. v5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:9-11 v9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. v10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. v11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

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1. He STRENGTHENED his disciples WITH A REVELATION.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me

Can you imagine what the disciples were feeling as they met with Jesus for the last time.

Fear – HOW WILL WE MANAGE WITHOUT JESUS?

Have you ever been part of a team, where you know you have the best players on your team? – Let me tell you about the time I played a rugby match as hooker, because I was the smallest "front row" player on my team. As one prop I had Mike Schutte, SA heavyweight boxing champion and contender for the world title, and as the other prop I had a man whose nickname was "Tarzan", king of the Jungle. We were playing for Iscor 3rd team against Roodepoort for our last match, and we were unbeaten that year.

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2. He ENTRUSTED his disciples WITH A TASK.

Matthew 28:19-20a v19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you

I don't want to get into all the details of the TASK today, I just want to say three things:

2.1. **The TASK is to REPRESENT the TASKGIVER.**

"in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Do we realise that each time we do something as Christians, WE REPRESENT JESUS ON THE EARTH?

Why are we surprised that the Name of Jesus has such a bad name? There is nothing wrong with the Name of Jesus. The problem lies with how people experience that name.

Story of Mahatma Gandhi who was helped in SA by a Baptist Pastor, Dr Doke, who said to him, "I would be happy to be a Christian, if it were not for the Christians."

2.2. **The TASK is to CONTINUE the WORK of the TASKGIVER.**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations"

While Jesus was on earth, one of his main tasks was to "Make Disciples". He invested into the lives of a group of about 120 people over a period of three year. **Acts 1:15** *In those days Peter stood up among the believers(a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)*

We know, of course, that special attention was focused on 12, and of the 12, even more attention was paid on Peter, James & John.

Our task is not to make CONVERTS, only God can save, our task is to ***"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"***

2.3. **The TASK is a MATTER of ETERNAL LIFE or DEATH**

"baptizing them in the name" Mark 16:16 **Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**

Regardless of what different Denominations may believe about "BAPTISM", EVERY GROUP BELIEVES IT IS A SIGN OF ENTERING THE CHURCH.

While BAPTISM does not save, EVERY church group believes that it is VERY IMPORTANT.

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3. **He BLESSED his disciples WITH A BLESSING.**

Luke 24:50-51 *When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. v51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.*

Jesus spoke a WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT over the Disciples. I am reminded of the PRIESTLY BLESSING in

Numbers 6:22-27 The LORD said to Moses, v23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

v24 " ' "The LORD bless you and keep you;

v25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

v26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." '

v27 **"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."**

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4. He PROMISED his disciples A GIFT.

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Jesus was talking about the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT which would be entrusted to the Disciples on the day of Pentecost.

AND THAT SAME GIFT IS GIVEN TO ALL WHO ENTRUST THEIR LIVES TO JESUS FOR SALVATION.

Matthew 28:20 And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Listen to what is says in **1 Cor 12:4-7** There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. v5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. v6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. **v7**

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

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5. He CONFORTED his disciples WITH A EXPECTATION.

Acts 1:9-11 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. v10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. v11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

JESUS IS COMING BACK!!

v1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. v2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. v3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:1-3