

**Matthew 28:16-20 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**16** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** 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, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read Matthew 28:16-20. Do you believe this commission is for all followers of Jesus or just for the eleven who were there? Why or why not?

In verse 18, what is the foundation of Jesus' commission to make disciples?

What promise does Jesus make in verse 20? How should this promise motivate us?

**2 Timothy 2:1-7 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**1** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, **2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7. How many spiritual generations does Paul reference in verse 2? Who has been like a Paul in your life?

Meditate on this passage. How do verses 3-7 connect with verse 2? Are these all random instructions, or do they all build on a common point?

What are some of the “civilian pursuits” that we get entangled in that take us off of our primary mission for King Jesus? What is our primary mission?

**John 14:18-24 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**18** “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” **23** Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read John 14:18-24. Why is it significant that Jesus invites us into the very relationship that He and the Father possess?

In verse 23, what is the evidence of one's love for Jesus? What about those who claim to love but do not keep His word?

What are some of the key commands that Jesus have given His followers? How well are you doing at obeying these commands?

**1 Corinthians 9:19-27 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**19** For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. **20** To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. **21** To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. **22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. **23** I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

**24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. **25** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. **26** So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **27** But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. For what purpose does Paul make himself “a servant of all”? How does this attitude contrast with contemporary American attitudes about liberty?

Is Paul being artificial or inauthentic when he says, “To the Jews, I became as a Jew” and “To those outside the law I became as one outside the law”? Is Paul being a hypocrite or an actor here? Why or why not?

What would it look like if we took our faith and the call to make disciples as seriously as athletes took their training?

**Philippians 2:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**1** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Read Philippians 2:1-11. In verses 3 and 4, Paul calls on Christians to lay aside selfishness and look out for each other. How is Jesus our example of this?

In verse 7, Paul says that Jesus “emptied Himself.” From what did Jesus empty Himself?

For Christ, the way to the crown (verse 9) was through the cross (verse 8). How does this change how we as followers of King Jesus live?