

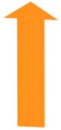
SEVEN ARROWS



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

MATTHEW 28:18-20



The twelve disciples were not the only followers of Jesus, but following His resurrection, Jesus gave these first followers a commission to make more disciples by a three-part process. First, they were to prioritize disciple-making as they went out into the world. Some were sent as missionaries to foreign nations, but all of the disciples were to make disciples as they went about their lives. Second, they were to baptize those who would come to faith in Jesus. Finally, they were to invest in teaching these individuals to obey Jesus in all things. This was a big mission, but Jesus provided hope that they could be faithful in their task. Jesus reminded them of His authority-He held the right to command His followers to make disciples. Then He promised He would go with them as they obeyed. They were not left alone, because Holy Spirit would fill them with the power to make this massive mission possible.

ACTS 2:14-41



Jesus charged His disciples to go on mission, then told them to wait until He sent the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's arrival in Acts 2 filled the first followers with power and passion to take the gospel from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Immediately, Peter explained the good news of Jesus to all those who would listen. Peter's sermon reminded His hearers that everything happening was just as God had planned. The death of Jesus, His resurrection, and now the sending of the Spirit was evidence that God's plan to save sinners and fix the world was being carried out. Jesus is both Lord and Christ, a fact that is visibly verified by His victory over death. Those who believe need simply to repent of their sins and follow Jesus in obedience, including baptism. Many thousands respond in faith, proving that God's mission did not end when Jesus died. He will continue His work through the faithful witness of His disciples.

ACTS 2:42-47



Luke, the author of the book of Acts, provided a number of glimpses into the life of the early church. The first church in Jerusalem was made up of those who came to faith in Jesus through the work of the disciples. As they gathered together regularly to hear from God's Word, to pray, and to fellowship with one another, God did astounding things among them. They experienced His power through many miracles, and God continued to save people and add them to the church. These early Christians actively loved and served one another by providing for those in need. The relationships in the church extend far deeper and are more profound than friendships that can be found in the world. The church is united by a common faith in Jesus and exists, not solely for the people themselves, but in order to worship the One who provided this great salvation.

ACTS 5:12-42















The disciples faced the same type of persecution Jesus experienced. The rulers of the day didn't take kindly to these men and women who wouldn't stop talking about the man who was crucified- the One they claimed came back to life, and who they professed to be the rightful King of the world. These disciples not only preached about Jesus, but they also performed miracles in His name. The leaders tried to stop this movement by locking the disciples in prison but God's mission could not be stopped. A God who displays His might and authority by conquering death will not be stopped by prison bars. In spite of the danger, the disciples took every opportunity to speak of Jesus. When they suffered, they found joy in the fact that God counted them worthy to suffer for His mission. They were driven by the conviction that God's mission was more important than their lives, and they would stop at nothing to see the good news spread.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21















Jesus makes it possible for enemies of God to be brought back into right relationship with Him. Jesus drank the full cup of God's wrath for sin, giving the righteous life that He lived to sinners. Those who are reconciled are, in turn, to give our lives to see others made right with God. We should implore, or beg, other sinners to turn away from the momentary pleasures of sin and to pursue the eternal joys of Jesus. Everyone who experiences God's saving work receives this mission of reconciliation. Some will fulfill their task by becoming preachers or missionaries, and other will do so by sharing the gospel with their neighbors, friends, classmates, or co-workers. God positions all His people around others who need to know the hope Jesus brings. It's our mission to share that good news and trust God to bring salvation.