

TALK IT OVER

CROSS TO CROWN

PART 6 | 4 MAY 2025

NOTES TO LEADERS

1. Our upcoming Business Morning with Wes Smith (CEO of Gap Capital) is a great opportunity to invite someone to church. More details here ([link to Quicket event page](#))
2. Flourish is another opportunity to invite someone to church, and tickets are currently on special. More info here ([link to Flourish website](#))

SCRIPTURES

MATTHEW 28:16-20

16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

START TALKING

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
- What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. If someone asked you what the "Great Commission" is, how would you explain it in your own words?
2. Jesus gave His final words not as a suggestion, but as a command. Why do you think this command to "make disciples" defines our identity as Christ-followers?
3. Read Matthew 28:16-20. In verse 17, it says, "some doubted." What encouragement do you draw from the fact that Jesus gave the Commission even to those with doubts?
4. What does it practically mean to "make disciples" in our context today? How is it different from just "sharing the gospel"?

START SHARING

1. Are you carrying the Great Commission in your heart or, like the parable of the watchman, have you become distracted? What has distracted you lately from living missionally?
2. Have you ever felt unqualified or unworthy to represent Jesus? What helps you push past that fear and step out in faith?
3. What's one relationship or situation where you sense God may be calling you to show compassion or step into discipleship?
4. In what ways do your actions speak about your faith? Are there areas where your witness needs refinement to reflect Christ better?

START PRAYING

Encourage the group to pray for:

1. Renewed clarity and conviction about their personal role in the Great Commission.
2. Ask God to open doors this week for natural, grace-filled conversations about faith.
3. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and compassion to reflect Jesus well in all areas of your life (home, work, the sports field, school, etc.)

START DOING

1. Begin each day this week asking yourself, "Who can I encourage, serve, or invite toward Jesus today?"
2. Send a message, invite someone to church, or initiate a conversation about faith that you've been avoiding.

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Over the last 11 years, we've explored Jesus's life using the book of Matthew. This Sunday marked the final message in that journey. We looked at Matthew 28:16-20 again (yes, we covered it last week), but this passage isn't just meaningful, it's foundational. The Great Commission carries an urgent, clear call for all of us.

16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20

Two important standouts from these verses:

1. This is not the Great suggestion, it is the Great Commission – It defines our identity
2. These were the final words of Jesus to His disciples. He didn't close His ministry with pleasantries. He gave a **mission**: go and make disciples of all nations.

Our mission is to make disciples of all nations. This mission is no small walk; it's the call of Christ Himself.

There's a parable called The Watchman Who Got Distracted. A young man on night watch gets so engrossed in a book that he misses the bandits sneaking in. When confronted, the town leader says, *"You were not called to read. You were called to watch."* A great question to ask ourselves is: *Am I carrying this mission in my heart? Or have I gotten distracted?*

Last week, Steph said that our personal prayer lives need to be more mission-focused. I've learned this firsthand. If we carry people in our hearts, we must carry them in prayer.

GOD WORKS IN SPITE OF US :

Sometimes, we don't always have the right words or opportunities. We may feel small or underqualified. But God has chosen to co-labour with us. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." That authority backs us up. We're not alone in this. This mission isn't about personality or gifting; it's about Christ's authority. We are commissioned by Heaven's King. That changes everything.

1. Our actions speak louder than our words

Our actions preach louder than our mouths ever could. Titus 1:16 warns about people who claim to know God but deny Him by their actions: *They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.*

Matthew 5:16 reminds us that our good works shine and glorify our Father, not to earn salvation, but to reflect Him: *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

If we represent Christ well, we provide a safe place for people to come – Jesus was that place, and people came from all over to catch a glimpse of Him. If our behaviour is off (even slightly), it starts to rot our witness. A dodgy business deal, questionable language, or a prideful attitude can undo our message. To represent Jesus well, we must learn to:

1. Show compassion without judgment
2. Be radically generous
3. Stand for truth, even when it's unpopular

This posture gives us access to people's hearts. If we let God refine us, we can live what we preach.

2. Look for opportunities

Matthew 9:36 says, *"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*

Jesus had compassion on the crowds. When He saw that they were "harassed and helpless,, He was moved to action. The same happened with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-26). Jesus broke social norms because He saw the need.

We all have daily opportunities to talk about Jesus if we're looking. The Great Commission isn't a tick-box of "Saved. Next." It's about **discipleship**, walking with people, helping them grow in faith, and plugging them into community. It's not one conversation. It's a **journey**, and we are called to walk it with others.

Sometimes, mission calls us into places that aren't easy or popular. We are not to join in the sin, but to bring the light. We're in this world, but we're not of it.

3. His presence in the Mission

Jesus ends His command with a promise: *"I am with you always."* (Matthew 28:20)

Maybe you've prayed for people who still don't know Jesus and feel tired and discouraged. But His presence is in this mission. We're not doing this alone - His presence is personal, permanent and powerful.