

MATTHEW 28:1-20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Many people like the concepts Jesus taught in the gospels, but stop short of full faith when they realize Christians believe in his supernatural resurrection from the grave.

 *When did you first come to know about the resurrection?*

 *Why do you believe in it? What proofs convince you that Jesus has risen from the dead?*

2 What is the natural first response of people to the death of Jesus?

 *In what ways does fear keep people from knowing God personally? How does fear stunt spiritual growth?*

 *Can unbelief still be a hindrance in a believer's life?*

 *What brought the disciples out of fear and into faith?*

 *What brings you out of fear and disbelief?*

3 After Jesus arose from the dead, He gave the “Great Commission” to His disciples multiple times and in various ways. Compare and contrast the different ways that the Great Commission was communicated in the four Gospel accounts and in the book of Acts (Matt. 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-16, Luke 24:45-49, John 20:19-23, and Acts 1:8). How are they the same? How are they different?

4 The focus of the Great Commission is to go and make disciples.

 *What should mark a true disciple of Jesus Christ? (Luke 6:40, 14:25-33; John 13:34-35, 14:15; Matt. 28:20a)*

 *What does it look like to make disciples during a time of social distancing? Think creatively.*

5

Discuss the following quote by authors Colin Marshall and Tony Payne: “To become a learner requires a repudiation – a radical unlearning – of our former rebellious way of life. It means being forgiven for the offense that our life has been before God and submitting ourselves to a divine Teacher who speaks the very words of the Father.” In what ways does it challenge you?

6

When Jesus told His disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me,” the groundwork had already been laid for them to accept this claim (v.18).

Consider the following examples from Jesus’ ministry. a) What kind of authority did Jesus display in each?



Mark 1:21-22 - Authority to



Mark 1:27b - Authority over



Mark 2:10-11 - Authority to



Mark 2:28 - Authority over



Mark 3:14-15 - Authority to



Mark 4:41 - Authority over



Mark 5:41-42 - Authority over



Matt 28:18 - Authority in



What do you think the connection is between Jesus’ claim of all authority, and his command to make disciples of all nations? (“...all authority....Go, therefore...”)

7

Apply these truths to your life. Are you answering Christ’s call of personal discipleship? Do you follow Christ? How is your discipleship displayed on a daily basis? Do you disciple others? How can the authority that is yours in Christ give you confidence to be part of the discipleship process in another believer’s life? What are you willing to endure or learn in order to follow Jesus?

