

LESSON NO. 20

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

THE GREAT
COMMISSION

 **ivangelism**
mesoamerica



LESSON NO. 20

THE GREAT COMMISSION



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Biblical Basis: Matthew 5:14-16
Text to memorize: Matthew 16:15

PURPOSE

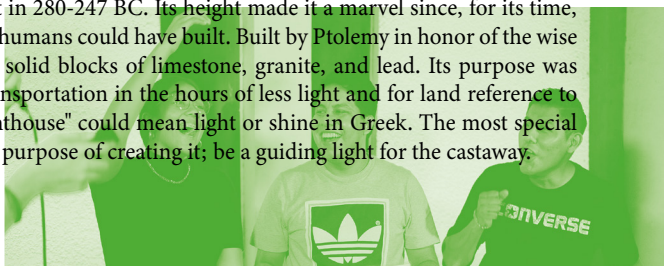
To awaken a passion for evangelism. May they be seen as light showing Jesus, so that everyone can be involved in the great commission, and do it creatively, at all times and in all places, as a DNA of the Christian life.

REAL LIFE STORY

At the entrance of the port of Alexandria, Egypt stood an imposing tower 162 meters high, whose bright light was mistaken for a star, and which helped the navigators of the Nile to reach land safely.

For those who love to travel, to have an experience of living and knowing the history of world wonders, today I present the lighthouse of Alexandria, which was one of the 7 wonders of the world. But what is spectacular about that lighthouse? The height, construction, and purpose of it.

A 162-meter-tall tower built in 280-247 BC. Its height made it a marvel since, for its time, it was the largest tower that humans could have built. Built by Ptolemy in honor of the wise gods, especially Zeus, with solid blocks of limestone, granite, and lead. Its purpose was commercial, to facilitate transportation in the hours of less light and for land reference to help sailors. The name "lighthouse" could mean light or shine in Greek. The most special thing about this story is the purpose of creating it; be a guiding light for the castaway.



WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

Matthew 5:14-16.

V.14: You are the light of the world; you cannot hide.

This verse denotes light and brightness, it gives us to understand that Christians must be that light that illuminates people with their own life, so that the testimony of life is what convinces people to come to Christ, since they observe a life worth living.

V.15: We should not cover or hide that light with anything, however, with our attitudes we hide the gospel, we forget to share it and we become selfish.

V.16: Wonderful things will happen if you shine your light; you will do good works, people will believe in Jesus and will glorify the Father.

How can I share Jesus effectively?

I share 7 simple steps for you to fulfill the great commission:

1. Pray for your friends, neighbors, and colleagues who don't know Jesus.
2. Invite them to a coffee or soda and talk about what they want, listen carefully.
3. Tell them a story where Jesus has performed a miracle in your life that can connect with their needs.
4. In two minutes, share your testimony of how Jesus found you and what He has done in your life and family.
5. Show them with love the 4 spiritual laws:
 - a) God has a plan for their lives.
 - b) We are all sinners.
 - c) Jesus can forgive them if they repent.
 - d) May they pray with you and receive Jesus in their heart.
6. If they are not ready, invite them to a small discipleship group and do not pressure them because in His time God will touch their heart.
7. Pray for your friends every chance you can.

The action of God in each person is fascinating, and you do not know the exact moment in which God will work, but of one thing I am sure, God never arrives before or after, He arrives at the moment we need Him the most.

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

- Mark 16:15



WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION?

When they heard Jesus saying: go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15), rather than feeling that expression as an imperative or an order, they heard the voice of the Teacher motivating, through His example, to fulfill the mandate to share grace and hope through His sacrifice on the cross.

The disciples undertook the mission of God based on love, since the disciples of Jesus had experienced a true transformation in their lives because of their repentance (Metanoia).

The early church is the living example of the passion with which they followed the legacy of Jesus, and that prompted them to leave their homes to share with those outside. However, today the church is living in postmodern and post-Christian times, where the great commission of going outside to preach became an omission, which is the absence of the commission.

John Wesley's evangelizing passion was ignited the night he was born again on the street in Aldergate, England. He faced that world convulsed by sin, as we live now, and unleashed the fulfillment of the great commission by traveling to evangelize the colonies in America. "The world is my parish," he declared, and he left his parish to preach in the mines, in the streets and bars, in order to prevent human beings from being further damaged by sin.

The great commission is to fulfill the propagation of the gospel throughout the world, beginning from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, extending the kingdom of God in such a way that we are light and salt for humanity.

WHY SHOULD WE MEET THE GREAT COMMISSION?

I. Because we live in a Nihilistic world with absence of God, where the human being is hopeless astray, but in search of a divine being that helps him to find himself and have peace.

The human being is in search of three things:

1. Meaning in life, a reason to live.
2. He seeks ethics, that is, he knows how to do good and bad. He needs to evaluate, judge, and correct his trajectory.
3. Hope in the midst of a society poor in values; and in the midst of pandemics.

II. Because God does not want anyone to be lost, but for everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

III. Because it is a beautiful privilege to bring the good news of salvation (Isaiah 52:7).

BIBLICAL SUPPORT



“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

The great commission has its starting point in Jesus. Let's emulate His style by acting out of mercy and providing hope for a world in despair. Let's remember that evangelism is not transmitting doctrine or demanding a moral or liturgical practice, but a life of joy and change that is transmitted and spread to others from generation to generation. Let's model Jesus as a father, as a friend who wants to give us a more dignified life and with multiplying hope.

Fulfilling the great commission is then: to communicate the saving, transforming and humanizing experience that is enclosed in the person of Jesus, and for this we need witnesses and believers, in whose lives the Teacher can be seen reflected.

Witnesses like you with these qualities:

- That have a passion for the kerygma or preaching of the gospel.
- That they like to get close to people.
- That they form healthy relationships with small discipleship groups.
- That they are willing to listen and mentor.

Do you know why Jesus, His disciples, and the other leaders in history were successful in fulfilling the great commission?

- Because their good news responded to people's needs.
- Because of their way to approach, listen, and accompany.
- Because they gave them light, a sense of a new horizon for their existence and freedom.
- Because they hugged with love, solidarity, and gave them dignity.





REFLECTION

What is a lighthouse for? To guide the sailors to the mainland, lighting their way so that they do not shipwreck and reach a safe harbor.

Who are the favored ones? Sailors, their families, and their jobs.

What if they didn't exist? Many would crash, lose their lives, and others would be lost.

Our life is like a lighthouse in this world, it is the light that should attract and guide people to Jesus. What if our lighthouse is dirty or off? Happens that our light is still there but it cannot illuminate well, others will not be able to see our light because it is dimmed by dirt.

What things can stain the light of our lighthouse so that prevents us from shining? These stains could be sin and evil, disobedience, sexual immorality, arrogance, malice, greed, hedonism.

Today God calls us to cleanse our hearts and turn on that light, to remove everything that prevents our light from illuminating those who are shipwrecked in this ocean of life without Christ, without hope, and that we take them to a safe harbor.

God calls us to fulfill the great commission, are you ready?



PRACTICE

What if all Christians were really lighthouses?

What impact would it have on your local church?

How would your country change?

How would the life of the church change if you fulfilled the great commission?

What steps will you take to be a lighthouse in your community?

What is our responsibility and the resources necessary to fulfill the mission?

It is very easy to get out of focus when we accidentally confuse the purposes with the means, and it is that currently much of what we do in the churches, such as services and meetings, are only means to fulfill the great commission, not just events to satisfy ourselves as purposes in themselves.

The Church of the Nazarene begins the decade of evangelism from 2020 to 2030 and wants to do so by calling its generation to be lighthouses and hope in the fulfillment of the great commission.