

I.N.I.

Trinity Sunday
June 16, 2019
Matthew 28:16-20

In Christ Jesus, who has commissioned us to make disciples of all nations by baptizing in the Triune God's name and teaching all that He has taught us, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

In our text this morning Jesus gives us a mission, the GREAT COMMISSION! He calls us to do one thing in two ways—to MAKE DISCIPLES of all people, by BAPTIZING and by TEACHING!

For Jesus to issue such a great commission, He must have a correspondingly great authority. And He does! He says, He has **ALL POWER---ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH!** Jesus is looking forward to His Ascension when He, as the glorified and resurrected God/Man, will receive all that authority and power from His Father to rule over all things.

He already showed that power and authority in a limited way here on earth. He had power over diseases which He showed by healing the sick, lame, blind and deaf. He raised the dead. He cast out demons. He controlled and changed the weather and things of nature. He also defeated death and the devil by dying and rising from the dead.

And now as the Father has sent Him, He now sends us. He gives us the authority, power and responsibility to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Triune God and by teaching them to observe all that He taught us. And lest we feel too timid, too incompetent, too incapable, too inadequate to do this, He promises us that He will be with us always to the very end of time.

With the same power that He has over all things, He empowers us to preach, teach and proclaim the Good News of His suffering, death and resurrection.

Today is Trinity Sunday. The truth of the Trinity is beyond the understanding of the wisest of people and yet the belief in the Triune God is held by the simplest of children. The doctrine of the Trinity is not just something that theologians and pastors need to know and discuss in their classrooms, conferences and seminaries--it is a very practical truth revealed by God in His Word that is necessary to be believed for our salvation. And what a comfort this truth is.

Our God wants to be known and to be made known only as He has revealed Himself to us in His Word. And it is in His Word that He has clearly revealed Himself to the world as Triune, Three-in-One, three entities or persons in one God!

Our text this morning is probably the most well-known reference to the Holy Trinity. In it we have

THE HOLY TRINITY REVEALED

I: IN POWER

II: IN LOVE

The disciples and probably other believers are gathered with Jesus on a mountain in Galilee. This is probably near the time of His Ascension close to the end of the 40 days after His resurrection. We are told that His disciples worshipped Him. Jesus no longer was just their rabbi, their Friend. He was the Christ, the exalted Son of God, their risen Lord and Savior, their ever-living King, the conqueror of all of their spiritual enemies. They were His followers, His subjects. He deserved their worship.

But we also read the disturbing words: **but some doubted.** Those words cannot mean that they doubted Jesus' resurrection, because He was standing there on the mountain before their very eyes. It may mean that some who were gathered there were confused as to what to make of all of this. Jesus would appear and then disappear. They never knew for sure when or if they would see Him again. Some maybe did not feel confident that they knew what Jesus wanted them to do now or where they fit into Jesus' plans for the future.

Well all of that was answered in the next few moments when Jesus spoke those famous words: **"ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,**

TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE."

This commission was something completely new. Until now, people from other nations had to come to the Jews for the knowledge of the true Jehovah God and of His salvation promised through the coming Messiah. Converts to this true faith had to worship Him in His one appointed place, the temple in Jerusalem. But now the Good News of salvation through Jesus was to be carried out from Jerusalem to Jews and non-Jews everywhere around the world. They were to "GO!" Go out into all the world. And do what?

BAPTIZE: Wash away sins and bring them into God's family. And

TEACH: Teach everyone everything that Jesus taught in His Word.

Both of these methods are done by the Means of Grace: The Gospel in Word and the Gospel in the Sacraments. When we are baptized with water and the Word a blessed connection is made between us and the Triune God. Our baptism has made us strangers and foreigners to be "fellow citizens and heirs of God's household."

Being baptized into the name of the Triune God means: God the Father adopted us, who were formerly children of Satan and under the curse of the Law, to be His beloved sons and daughters. He made a covenant vow with us that we would be members of His family. That He would guide, guard and keep us in His loving care until He takes us home.

Matt. 25:34: **COME, YOU BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD:**

Gal 4:7: **THEREFORE YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE BUT A SON, AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST.**

Being baptized into the name of the Triune God means: We were brought into a saving relationship with Jesus. Faith in Jesus was created in us, or if you were baptized as a believing adult, you were sealed in that faith. The forgiveness of sins and all the blessings Jesus earned for us on the cross and the empty tomb is now ours.

Gal. 3:27: **FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST.**

Eph 5:25-26: **CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR HER, THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE HER WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD,**

Being baptized into the name of the Triune God means: A permanent bond between the Holy Spirit and us has also been established. The Holy Spirit is the one who created faith in our hearts and guides us in all truth.

1 Cor. 12:3: **NO ONE CAN SAY THAT JESUS IS LORD EXCEPT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Eph 1:13-14: **YOU WERE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE, WHO IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION, TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.**

When we are baptized in the name of the Triune God it means we are made members of His blessed family—the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and us!

What **POWER!** What **LOVE!**

Why then is it necessary to include teaching as part of the disciple-making process? First of all, not all people are baptized as little children and brought to faith through baptism. They need to be told about their sins and the impossibility of themselves to earn their own salvation and then to hear the Good News of a crucified and risen Savior who paid for all of their sins.

Also those who were baptized as little infants need to be taught the Good New so that their newly created faith does not die. It needs nourishment to stay alive and active. The Bible is very clear when it says: **SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.**

FROM INFANCY YOU HAVE KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

HAVING BEEN BORN AGAIN, NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE SEED BUT INCORRUPTIBLE, THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD WHICH LIVES AND ABIDES FOREVER.

It is the Gospel in Word and the Gospel in the Sacraments that the Holy Spirit uses to create faith and to keep us in that faith. That does not mean that we do not preach and proclaim the Law. The Law needs to first be proclaimed so that people see their sins and their great need for forgiveness. One man wrote "To preach the Gospel of Christ as the only Savior from sin without preaching the Law which accuses and condemns the sinner---that is to hang one's preaching and teaching of the Gospel in the air, so that the unconverted sinner asks: "What sin?"

So Jesus says **TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.** David says Psa. 51:13: **THEN I WILL TEACH TRANSGRESSORS YOUR WAYS, AND SINNERS SHALL BE CONVERTED TO YOU.** The Law shows us our sins. The Gospel shows us our Savior. We are led by the Holy Spirit to confess our sins and repent of them and then to look to Jesus and believe that He has taken away all of our sins and we stand forgiven in Christ.

The word "observe" is very important. It means "to attend to carefully, to take care of, to guard." Three important aspects are included in that word. We are to *DEFEND* and *PRESERVE* all that Jesus has taught us against false teaching and perversion. We are to *FULFILL* or *KEEP* all that Jesus taught us by taking to heart this Gospel and treasuring it as the greatest gift, and living a life of faithfulness and thankfulness, showing forth fruits of faith.

Jesus closes with those most comforting words: **LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVENTO THE END OF THE AGE.** Through thick and thin, joy and sorrow, life and death, day after day Jesus will be invisibly present with us in His powerful Word. We will never walk alone as we proclaim God's Word to convict and convert, to make disciples through baptizing and teaching.

Jesus has revealed the Triune God in this Great commission. We have seen our Triune God's power and love in this past Church Year in our worship services and we will continue to see and experience it until the end of time when Jesus comes again.

Jesus says you can depend on that!

Amen.