

June 7, 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20

Our Mission is to “Make Disciples”

## INTRODUCTION

**1 The Church May Need to Take a Few Notes from FedEx** (Dr. Ed Love, “Send Well: 9 Things a Sending Church Must Do Before Sending a Church Planter,”)



- Every day FedEx sends over four million packages to valued customers. FedEx’s delivery routes cover every U.S. street and service more than 220 countries. In order to have quality service, FedEx has over 170,000 employees, 675 aircrafts, 50,000 ground transportation vehicles, and 1,800 office locations. It is a bit mysterious, but somehow

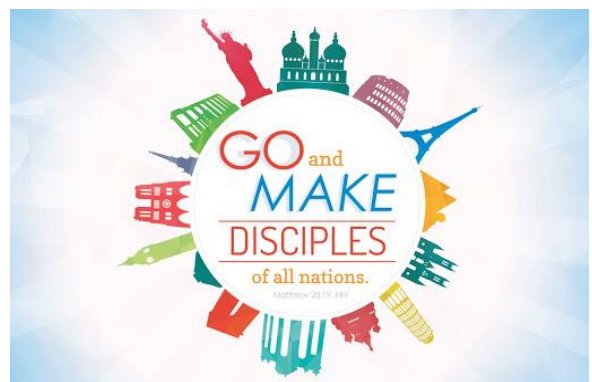
FedEx has figured out a way for customers to ship packages within a one-day turnaround. If FedEx knows anything—they know how to deliver well!

- The church may not be in the package delivery business, but the church is in the people delivery business. At least that is what Jesus wanted the church to be about!

## 2 The Great Commission

Jesus said to eleven disciples, *“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near”* (Mt 28:19, *The Message*)

- Jesus has a unique way of looking at the people delivery business. Jesus operates with a deep conviction that everyone in the world should listen to God’s word of salvation.
- He emphasizes that his disciples should go out and train everyone they meet.
- However, making disciple is not always a high priority in churches.



**Theme: As Christians how can we go out and train everyone we meet, far and near?**

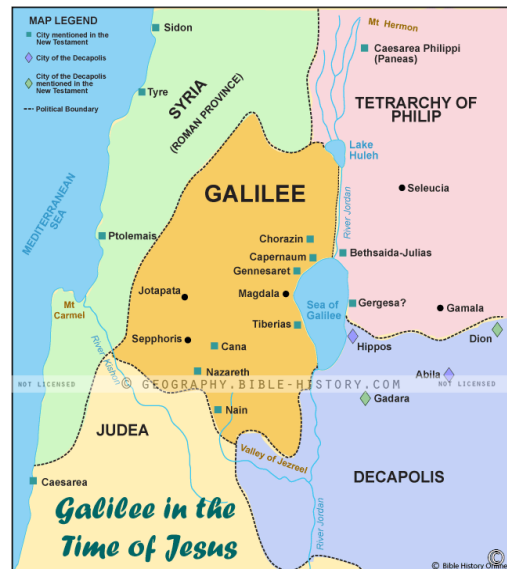
## BODY

### 1 TRAINING STARTS FROM OBEDIENCE

#### 1.1 The Disciples' Galilee

① When Jesus appeared to the women, he said to them *“Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me”* (Mt 28:10, NIV).

- Why did they take a long journey from Jerusalem to Galilee to see the Risen Christ?
  - The disciples had already met him several times at Jerusalem after his resurrection.
  - The command seemed to be a needless thing to do because Jesus would give them the Great Commission at Jerusalem.
  - In addition, they would be going back to Jerusalem so soon for Pentecost.



② *“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee...”* (Mt. 28:16a, NIV)



- A few reasons come to my mind in order to comprehend the command of Jesus.
  - It would be better for Jesus to meet the disciples outside the chaotic Jerusalem.
  - Perhaps it would be better to meet them where they could feel “at home” because many of them were Galileans.
  - Maybe he wanted to return to a place where his public ministry started.
  - Most of all, he wanted them to learn to obey Christ’s command.

#### 1.2 Our Galilee

- Where is our Galilee?
  - Maybe it is a place in which we live for our family, friend, and work.
  - Perhaps it is a place where gossip, negative situations, and media waste our beautiful minds.
  - It would be a place where we remind ourselves that we are born to obey God’s commands to go and make disciples.

## 2 TRAINING REVEALS OUR STATE OF FAITH

### 2.1 The Mountain

① “...to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go” (Mt. 28:16b, NIV).



- Which mountain?
  - That could be the mountain where Jesus was tempted by the devil (Mt. 4:8).
  - Perhaps it was the mountain on which Jesus had given his new orders (Mt. 5:1).
  - Maybe it was the mountain where Jesus was transfigured (Mt 17:1).
- It is certainly difficult to know the exact location but it's not difficult to know that mountain is a symbol of the God's presence near us.

② Worship and Doubt

*“When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted” (Mt 28:17, NIV).*

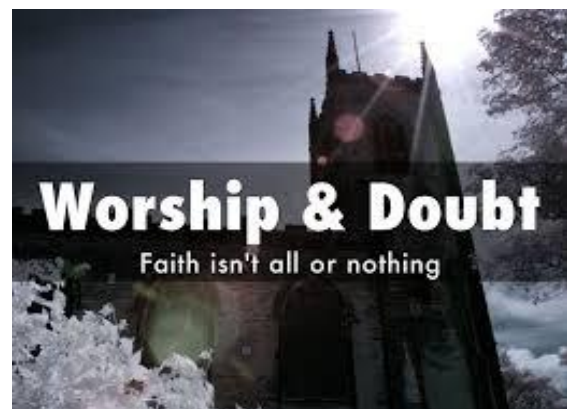
- They knew Jesus really was God because only God could be worshiped (Mt 4:10). But knowing that Jesus died, it was hard to believe their eyes seeing him alive again.
- They wanted to worship (or bow down) but some doubted (or hesitated) to believe. Their faith was sincere but might not be strong enough to believe the resurrection.
- Jesus did not rebuke their doubts but made their faith to triumph over their doubts. He understood their imperfection but called them to continue his work.

### 2.2. We Are Living Between Worship and Doubt (Dr. John B. MacDonald, January 10, 2020)

● Following Jesus is a life lived with tension between worship and doubt.

- On one hand, we are drawn to Jesus in adoration, obedience, and dependence.
- On the other hand, we experience hesitance, worry, fear, and lack of understanding.

● We grow as a disciple in the place of tension between worship and doubt. Like a toddler, we take our first hesitant steps. We fall – sometimes we get hurt. Then we get up again. Eventually, we learn to walk – and then run. There is always more: learning, doing, growing.



### 3 TRAINING REQUIRES PRACTICE OF HIS TEACHINGS

#### 3.1 Disciples

*“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you” (Mt 28:20, NLT).*

- A disciple is a person committed to learning what a teacher instructs.
  - In the time of Jesus, a young man would ask a practicing rabbi to accept him as a disciple.
  - Today it would be a student musician asking a master musician to be his/her teacher.
- The disciple is expected not only to learn what the rabbi teaches, but also to practice what the rabbi lives. In other words, the disciple is to live with the instructions and actions of his teacher.
- Thus, “teaching these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you” is a natural component of Jesus’ Great Commission.

#### 3.2 Ping-Pong Ministry

- When I was a pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church in Halifax, I had started the table-tennis ministry. In the beginning there were only few players and one table. To encourage people to join this ministry I provided ping pong classes once a week for two hours.
- I taught new students how to serve and receive, do offense and defense, and plan games. I instructed them in the practice of all I had taught and demonstrated them. Students who followed my instructions and practiced what I had taught progressed well and enjoyed the game. I called them my students.



## CONCLUSION

- FedEx knows how to deliver the package well.  
God knows how to send and receive eternal hope!  
What is God's distribution plan? It is God's people!
- As God's people how can we figure out how to train everyone we meet, far and near?

We should learn...

- Training starts from obedience.
- Training reveals our state of faith.
- Training requires practice of his teachings.

*(Psalm 8:3-4, 9 The Message)*

*3-4 I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,  
your handmade sky-jewelry,  
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.  
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,  
Why do you bother with us?  
Why take a second look our way?  
9 God, brilliant Lord,  
your name echoes around the world.*