**Week of April 28, 2019**

**Matthew 28:16-20 Act 1:6-8**

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always\*, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord\*, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s lesson focuses on the Great Commission, which is the central mission of the church. Jesus met the eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee. When Jesus arrived, some worshiped Him, but others doubted Him. Jesus assured the disciples that all power and authority had been given to Him – not just limited power, but all power and total authority. The disciples would be given the power to carry out the Good News of Jesus to all nations. The power and authority of Christ will guide, direct and empower the disciples to spread the Good News to the world. The disciples were instructed to go and make disciples. A disciple of Christ is a follower, learner, and worshipper of Christ. The disciples were given the authority to baptize in the name of the Trinity – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus also gave the command to teach. The Greek word for “teach” is matheteuo which means to instruct or make a disciple. They were to teach “all that Jesus commanded”. Teaching and obeying all that Jesus has commanded means to follow Christ’s commands in every area of life. The Good News spread quickly from Jerusalem, into Judea, and Samaria and finally to the whole world. The devout Jews were to receive the message first, then the mixed races Samaria, and the Gospel was to be carried Gentiles everywhere. God commissioned the disciples to join in world evangelism! Before Jesus ascended to heaven, Jesus assured the disciples HE had made provisions that would assist them as hey too the Good News throughout the world. Jesus promised the disciples they would receive the Holy Spirit; God’s people are still empowered by the Holy Spirit today.

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