

Matthew 28: 16-20 (June 11, 2017)

This Is A Football

Matthew 28: 16-20

16Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This is a Football

Vince Lombardi was famous for starting every Green Bay Packer season by holding up a football and saying, "Gentleman, this is a football." The point was to get back to the very basics of the game to provide a sure foundation for everything that would follow.

Jesus' conversation with his disciples on the mountain of Galilee was his "this is a football" speech. The text says, "They worshipped him but some doubted." Jesus wanted them to be crystal clear on **who he was, what he was calling them to do, and where he would be while they did it.**

Who Jesus was: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." This ought to give us confidence as we represent him to a broken world. We don't need authority to be conveyed on us by the media, by elites, or by anyone or anything else, for all authority has already been vested in him.

What he was calling them to do: He was calling them (and is calling us) to make disciples. What is a 'disciple'? A follower. As Christians, at the very foundation, we are followers of Jesus. And we are to make other followers.

But how do we do that? First, we go to them. This is what Jesus himself did. He went to others and invited them to follow. Second, we baptize them. To baptize is to make a public proclamation of burying an old life and rising to a new one. It is to say, "I am all in." Third, we teach them to obey. To teach to obey is not to impart information but rather to train for action. Navy Seals do not sit in a classroom. They train for action.

Where he would be while they did it: "I will be with you." He is here, in the person of the Holy Spirit. It is hard to argue that anything is too hard, too uncomfortable, or too inconvenient with God himself in the person of the Holy Spirit in residence in our own souls.

This is our mission. Time to get into the game.