

The Main Thing Matt 28

“The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” (Stephen Covey)

Wentworth’s Mission Statement: *To love and worship God; and to love and serve our neighbours by: reaching out to a diverse community, with relevant expressions of the good news of Jesus Christ; cooperating with the Holy Spirit to form faithful disciples of Jesus; and equipping disciples and sending them out to serve the community and the world.*

We can boil the second part of that down into three phrases: Reaching Out, Making Disciples, Serving Others.

Reaching Out

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go...”

The word translated “go” is probably closer in meaning to “when you leave here.”

Jesus just assumes that his followers will go out from his presence into the world and reach out to those around them.

Making Disciples

“...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...”

Our mission, whether we choose to accept it or not, is to make disciples of Jesus.

In Matt 28, Jesus is graduating his apprentices.

Baptising

Baptism is a declaration of faith. It’s a statement that you have enrolled as an apprentice of Jesus; that you want to learn how to live the way he lived.

Teaching

... *teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

If the disciples do this the gospel will spread around the world like a holy virus.

Serving Others

One of the things that Jesus commanded the disciples, and through them, us, to do, was to *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”*

Take aways

In case you think you can't do it, Jesus says *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

As you go about your business, reach out to others.

As people come to faith they are to be discipled; baptized and taught what Jesus said and did, so they can be obedient to him.

And part of doing what he said was to serve others in his name.

Reach out, Make disciples, Serve others.

The Main Thing.