

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

MAY 2026

But the eleven went to the hill-side in Galilee where Jesus had arranged to meet them, and when they had seen Him, they worshipped Him, though some of them were doubtful.

But Jesus came and spoke these words to them, "All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

(Matthew 28:16-20 Philips)

Many times, in Jesus' ministry, He would heal or have some miraculous moment after which He would instruct those present not to tell anyone. This strategy of Jesus has caused many to wonder, 'Why would Jesus want them to be quiet about what He had done?' We begin to find the answer when we look at Jesus' instructions to James, Peter, and John as they were coming off the Mount of Transfiguration. He tells them not to tell anyone until after the resurrection (which in the moment further perplexes the three). Now we come to the above experience, and all becomes much clearer.

After His resurrection appearances, it has come time for the transition that has always been planned. Though not all were fully convinced yet, over time they would be. So, Jesus meets the disciples on the mount He had told them to go when He was resurrected. Now He says to them, '**Go and tell all that you have seen and heard. Go and let everyone know about Me. Go and make disciples, baptize, and teach to obey my commandments.**' This is known as the Great Commission of the disciples, of the Church to come, of all believers, of you and me. Jesus, now, is as emphatic about telling of what He has done, as He was about not telling when He was doing the things He was doing. But why?

While Jesus was teaching, healing, and giving supernatural experiences of His power, those who were having the experiences of Jesus had not yet seen the whole of what Jesus was sent to do. Their immediate experience had only given them a small peak into who He was. It would not be until after the cross and resurrection that anyone would fully understand the purpose of everything that happened to Him. Therefore, in their time of only partially grasping His essence, He wanted them to keep quiet for they would misrepresent Him (which some did when they did not heed His request). Now on this encounter, the resurrected Jesus commissions the disciples and all who believe because of their witness (you and me) to go and tell, for now the complete ministry of Jesus and the essential nature of the cross can be understood. Now the witness will be more accurate for it is about the forgiveness of sins enabling for the restoration of the relationship with God. This is who He is and why He came. This is the point of it all. Now, we have the responsibility to go and let it be known near and far!

With love,

