

## The powerful king's commission

**OT:** Isaiah 52:13-15

**NT:** Matthew 28:11-20

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the powerful king commands us to tell the world about him.

We are a generation of followers. Social media a massive testimony to this. We follow people every day.

Whether it's on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat or WhatsApp. We are constantly following people.

Following naturally lends itself to sharing.

We follow people and hope they will follow us back so we share what we are doing.

We share pictures of our meals, our clothes, the bathroom we are in, our pets, our besties, our significant others.

We share places we travel to or hope to travel too, big events in our lives, the latest gadgets and info on our favourite celebs.

We are great at sharing the news of our idols, let me introduce you to K Pop it is the best, have you seen Messi's latest hat trick? It was amazing.

Did you know I am a Liverpool fan, I love them, I would die for them, they are more than a club.

Marvel is the best, let me tell you about the Marvel universe, what you have never seen Star Wars...are you even human?

I can't believe you have never read or seen any of the Harry Potters I read all the books every year and have the extended versions of the movies on DVD.

Sound familiar? Feel familiar? We all are great followers who love representing our favourite idols.

We are great ambassadors and representatives and we don't even need to get paid. We spread the word and convert others for free.

Our idol definitely has no idea who we are or what we are doing for them, but that doesn't stop us.

When we started this Easter series we looked at four ironies of the cross. As we did we saw that:

1. The man mocked as king is king
2. The man who is powerless is powerful
3. The man who can't save himself saves others
4. The man who cries out in despair trusts God.

We saw that Jesus really died. Jesus died for us.  
Jesus took God's wrath on himself. Jesus was  
forsaken for us.

On the cross Jesus did everything for us, Jesus  
dealt with everything we deserve, so that we  
never have too.

Last week we saw that Jesus conquered death.  
Jesus didn't stay dead. Jesus rose from the dead.  
Jesus is the powerful king.

Matthew the eye witness of these events has  
presented us with concrete evidence that Jesus  
REALLY died and Jesus REALLY rose.

Jesus is the saviour of the world, Jesus is the  
powerful king who conquered sin, death and the  
devil.

Tonight we look at the role that we play in the powerful king's kingdom. As followers of the powerful king Jesus we have a certain duty.

Tonight we will look at what it means to follow the powerful king.

The first thing we need to see is this:

The powerful king Jesus:

**1. Has all the authority**

**<sup>16</sup> The eleven disciples travelled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.**

The only people I have met with any real authority is traffic officers at roadblocks.

It's quite a weird feeling being pulled over at a road block because even though I haven't done anything wrong I still feel guilty.

I always have a slight panic that comes across my mind, what if I did something wrong and I get arrested.

For the most part in South Africa we don't really respect people in authority, partly because we feel betrayed by them.

They have failed us, they are corrupt, they haven't earned my trust or respect.

The reality is that whether you choose to listen to them or not, people who are in positions of authority, still have power over you.

Jesus has ALL the authority.

Do you see it there in v18 ALL authority in heaven and on earth is his. Basically ALL authority in the universe.

Jesus isn't like a local traffic officer, Jesus isn't like a president of a country. Jesus owns the local traffic officers.

Jesus owns all the presidents in the world, because Jesus owns our universe, Jesus is in charge of everything.

Policemen, traffic officers, presidents and others over us in authority deserve our respect whether we want to give it to them or not.

Jesus even more so, Jesus is much bigger than anyone on our planet, he is the one we need to be listening too.

Jesus is not only bigger than these people that have some authority, Jesus is bigger than the people we actually like and follow on Social Media.

We listen to our favourite idols very easily, we trust them and what they have to say, we defend the bits we don't like.

Messi is involved in tax fraud, but he seems like such a nice guy, his dad was in charge of that stuff.

It must be a misunderstanding and probably his dad's fault. Messi wouldn't do that I know him.

Actually I don't know him, I have never met him, I have seen him in a few interviews, and watched him play soccer, but I have never met him.

We all do this with our idols, ah shame it wasn't their fault, it's the pressures of fame, it was someone else's fault.

The powerful king Jesus has real authority, in fact he has all the authority. He doesn't need us to defend him.

Jesus lived a perfect life, a life in perfect relationship with God his Father, a life of full obedience.

Jesus lived a life we could never, a life we don't naturally want to live.

Jesus then gave up that life by dying the most horrific death of his time. Jesus was completely humiliated and suffered tremendously before dying.

Jesus died for us, to give us life, Jesus faced God's judgement that we all deserve, so that we never have too.

Then Jesus did something no one has ever done before and no one ever will, Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus had raised others before but they died again, Jesus is raised and he lives eternally.

Jesus conquers, sin, death and the devil. Jesus does it all. Jesus our creator, Jesus who gives us life has all the authority.

Jesus now defends us before the Father, Jesus is our mediator. In Jesus there is no corruption, there is no evil.

Jesus loves us, Jesus loves us so much he died for us. Jesus has done everything for us in his power.

Jesus calls us from out of darkness into his light.  
Jesus knows us personally by name.

The president doesn't know your name, your idols don't even know you exist.

Jesus the creator of the world, your saviour doesn't just know your name, he knows you from the inside out.

Jesus knows your darkest secrets, he knows every single thing about you and he loves you completely.

The first thing we see is that Jesus the powerful king has all the authority. Jesus is the one we are to listen to above everyone and everything else.

Secondly we need to see that:

The powerful king Jesus:

## **2. Commands us to tell the world about him**

**<sup>19</sup>Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

Jesus is the powerful king with all authority, we know this and we can see this clearly through the gospels.

What does that mean for us who follow him? As we look at the powerful resurrected Jesus the Christ speak to his disciples in this last section it is made clear.

Very simply put Jesus tells his disciples, specifically the 11 disciples to make disciples of all nations.

Often the emphasis is put on the go part of Jesus' command, but actually the main verb in the sentence is to make disciples.

This is really helpful. Because it is way more inclusive and calls us all to account. Whether we do go or not, is irrelevant, we are all commanded by the powerful king Jesus to make disciples.

It's not up to the missionaries alone to make disciples that is the task of every follower of Jesus.

We as disciples of Jesus, people who have heard and believe his teaching are to tell others about him, so that they can hear and believe.

It's not only the pastors task or the life group leaders task it's the task of every Jesus follower.

That's the powerful king Jesus' plan for reaching all the nations, for reaching the world.

Listen to Acts 1:8...

**<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Jesus tells these same eleven men that they will receive the Holy Spirit and then they are to be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

The gospel starts in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, basically in Israel to the Jews.

But it doesn't stay there it spreads to the rest of the world.

The reason many of us have a personal relationship with Jesus is because men and women throughout history took this command seriously.

Make disciples of all nations. Again we need to be clear on what Jesus is saying and what he is not saying before we overwhelm ourselves and feel helpless.

What does it mean to make disciples? From the context of what Jesus did we see it is calling people to follow him.

It's showing people who he is and what he came to do so that they can believe in him and truly follow him.

It's sharing your life with people so not only to they hear what you believe they see it too.

Which is exactly what we see happening in the original disciples lives. They follow Jesus and they listen to his teaching.

They don't always understand what's going on, but they believe Jesus, they believe in Jesus.

Eventually they do get it and then they tell others about him and so on and so on.

I don't know about you but when I hear that we need to make disciples, that scares me. Do I know my bible well enough?

Am I a good enough communicator? What if I mess it up?

I think we might always feel this way. But I also think that's because we miss this first step of making disciples and jump ahead.

We skip the step of sharing Jesus with people, of telling them the gospel of sharing how the gospel has changed us and go straight to teaching.

Being baptised and teaching them to listen to Jesus and everything he has commanded is something we do with believers.

That is fellow disciples. But we often jump to teachings, to doctrines to apologetics, without first showing people Jesus.

It's not that we can never do that, it's more that we mustn't lose focus. People need to hear about Jesus, to be confronted with Jesus.

As we look at the original disciples that is what they spent the bulk of their time doing. They spent their lives, living amongst people telling them about Jesus.

They used the Old Testament scriptures to show people who Jesus was and what he came to do.

Yes they still tackled bigger issues and dealt with doctrines and apologetics in the letters they wrote, but actually those letters were all written to believers.

There is no letter written to unbelievers. Paul, Peter, James and John write to churches, to believers and even then they point them back to the gospel.

Making disciples involves showing people Jesus, it's sharing Jesus with those around us.

That's why testimonies are so great, that's why Christianity explored is so great it works through a gospel and shows people Jesus.

It shows them who he is and what he came to do. They then have a choice to follow him or not.

Then for the rest of our lives as followers we will grapple with bigger questions and get to know Jesus more and understand him better.

I don't want us to think legalistically about this.  
There is no one size fits all.

What I do want us to see is that making disciples is about telling people about Jesus and sharing your life with them.

So that they can know Jesus and believe in him and then do like wise.

How that works out will depend on the people you are engaging with. My encouragement is not to get lost in the big questions.

Rather help them to see Jesus first and then he will help them and you with the 'big stuff'.

How long did creation take? Why is there suffering in the world? Church is for hypocrites!

Good things to think about and engage in, but until they see Jesus for the powerful king he is they will never get past those stumbling blocks.

They will never listen to him, why should they, to them he has no authority, they need to see he has all the authority.

People need to recognise Jesus as the powerful king he is before they will listen to him.

We need to fight hard to remember this, to not jump too far ahead or to get too technical and put lots of pressure on ourselves.

When we jump ahead or shift away from the gospel we shift attention away from Jesus and onto ourselves or our favourite Christian thinkers.

Our world needs to meet Jesus. Our world needs to know Jesus. It's our task to tell them. It's our task to show them.

It's still a daunting task. We are representing the king of the universe. What if we get it wrong. What if we mess it up.

What if we don't know what to say or where to start. Have a look at what Jesus says at the end of v20.

Jesus says surely I am with you to the end of the age. Brothers and sisters the powerful king Jesus is with us.

Jesus is not far off doing something else. Jesus is with us. We can have confidence in Jesus the powerful king and not ourselves.

In fact we must have confidence in him and not ourselves. We are commanded to make disciples and we are not alone we have Jesus with us.

At the start of his eye witness account Matthew showed us that Jesus is God with us. As he ends his true eye witness account Matthew makes sure we remember this truth.

We are sent by the powerful king Jesus to tell the world about him and through all our experiences and responses to his message he is with us.

That's a great comfort that's a great joy. It gives me confidence knowing this and courage to know the powerful king is with me.

Before we close let's think of some practical ways we can live the rest of our lives for Jesus the powerful king.

Often when we are challenged or confronted with an area we struggle with as Christians we overreact.

Let me give you an example. I've struggled to read my bible consistently over the last two weeks...I'm going to read the whole New Testament tomorrow in one sitting.

We put so much pressure on ourselves and we depend so much on our own strength.

It's the same when it comes to disciple making. I struggle with this so tomorrow I am going to preach a sermon to my colleagues straight after staff meeting.

Please don't overreact, don't jump straight to the extreme or try and play catch up. We don't have a checklist we have a relationship with Jesus.

That attitude will just burn us out and make us feel guilty and in the end we will become crippled.

Instead think about how you naturally share about the things you love and the things that excite you.

Do you use Social Media? Great then why not use social media to share your number one love Jesus.

There are great gospel verses that you can use instead of quoting your favourite lines from movies or celebrities.

Quote Jesus. His words are true and literally life changing. Let people know who you really follow.

Don't hide your identity. Share links to helpful resources or articles you have watched or read.

Our lives are lived out in boxes but they really shouldn't. If social media is a big part of your life, shouldn't Jesus be part of it.

Jesus is the biggest part of your life. Another great idea would be to follow others who follow the powerful king, who will encourage you to follow him.

Thanks to social media we can engage with Jesus the Christ's universal church effortlessly.

If you like me and you don't really share or use social media effectively then don't stress.

Figure out your best form of communication and then make efforts to share Jesus there. I love chatting to people face to face.

That's where I normally chat about things I'm watching or Lionel Messi.

If you are like me why not share about something you have read recently in God's word. Or what you heard at church or through a podcast.

Instead of making the process weird and separate and super formal. Make it normal.

Here's a little secret. It only feels weird because we make it feel weird. The more we do it the more natural it will become and feel.

Don't just speak to people share your life with them, let them see you believe what you say and share about Jesus.

Whether it's online or in real life let people see your love for Jesus, stop hiding it, it's selfish and sill to hide it.

Let's encourage each other when we meet. How's your friend, family or work colleague? Can we pray for them? Can we pray for you?

How did the chat go? Thanks for the encouragement in the week over Instagram...that bible verse really encouraged me.

We often overcomplicate things and put unnecessary burdens on ourselves. Jesus the powerful king has all the authority.

Jesus the powerful king commands us to tell the world about him. None of us has an excuse.

Whether we are a missionary overseas, a full time worker for the church, a Christian who just recently came to know Jesus or a Christian who has been following Jesus for the last 80 years.

We all have the same command. Make disciples call people to Jesus and when they believe teach them and help them to disciple others.

We have been included in God's massive rescue plan for the world, let's not take it for granted.

Let's not spend all our time following idols instead of following our powerful king Jesus.