

5-Day Devotional | Matthew 28:18-20 — “The Mission”

DAY 1 — Sent on Purpose

Scripture Readings: Matthew 28:18–20, John 20:21, Genesis 12:1–3, 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

Christmas reminds us that God is a sending God. The Father sent the Son into the world—not to remain distant, but to dwell among us. Jesus didn’t arrive by accident. He came on mission. And after His resurrection, He makes it unmistakably clear: that mission didn’t end with Him. It continues through His people.

In Matthew 28, Jesus doesn’t ask for volunteers. He gives a commission. “Go” isn’t a suggestion; it’s a description of the Christian life. Every disciple is sent. Not everyone goes to the same place or serves in the same way, but no follower of Jesus is meant to live on standby.

That’s where many of us struggle. We feel unqualified. Busy. Ordinary. We assume “mission” is for people with better stories, stronger faith, or more confidence. But Scripture tells a different story. God has always used ordinary people to carry out extraordinary purposes. Abraham was sent with uncertainty. Isaiah was sent with trembling lips. The disciples were sent while still learning who Jesus was.

Being sent doesn’t mean having all the answers. It means belonging to the One who does. Paul reminds us that we are ambassadors for Christ—not because we’re impressive, but because God chooses to make His appeal through us. Mission flows from identity, not ability.

If you belong to Christ, you’ve already been sent—into your home, your work, your friendships, your community. The real question isn’t *if* you’re sent, but whether you’re living with that awareness.

Reflection Questions:

- Where has God already placed you to live on mission?
- What fears or assumptions keep you from seeing yourself as sent?

Practical Application:

Pray intentionally today for one person God has placed in your life. Ask Him to help you see them with gospel clarity.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue me. Help me live as one who is sent with purpose and hope. Give me eyes to see where You’ve placed me and courage to follow You there. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 2 — Authority That Sends

Scripture Readings: Matthew 28:18, Colossians 1:15–20, Daniel 7:13–14, Ephesians 1:20–23

Jesus begins the Great Commission with a staggering declaration: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” Before He tells us what to do, He reminds us who He is. Mission doesn’t rest on our confidence—it rests on Christ’s authority.

Fear often silences us. Fear of rejection. Fear of saying the wrong thing. Fear of being misunderstood. But the mission of God is not fragile. The risen Jesus reigns over all things, and the gospel advances under His rule.

Colossians reminds us that all things were created through Christ and for Christ—including the mission He sends us on. When we speak about Jesus, we’re not pushing an agenda. We’re participating in the reign of a King who already has authority over every nation and every heart.

This truth brings freedom. We don’t control outcomes. We don’t measure success by visible results. Faithfulness is our calling; transformation is God’s work. Obedience is never wasted when Christ is Lord.

When you feel hesitant, remember: you are sent by a Savior who already reigns.

Reflection Questions:

- How does Jesus’ authority reshape the way you view obedience?
- Where do you need to trust His reign instead of your results?

Practical Application:

Identify one situation where fear has kept you silent. Pray for courage rooted in Christ’s authority.

Prayer:

Jesus, You reign over all things. Help me trust Your authority more than my fears and obey You with confidence. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 — Power for the Mission

Scripture Readings: Acts 1:8, Zechariah 4:6, Romans 8:9–11, Galatians 5:22–25

Jesus never intended His followers to carry out the mission in their own strength. That's why He promised the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 makes it clear: mission is Spirit-empowered from start to finish.

We often try to do God's work through effort alone. We push harder, say more, and grow discouraged when results don't come. But mission without the Spirit leads to burnout. The Spirit gives what we lack—boldness, wisdom, patience, and love.

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in every believer. That truth changes everything. We are not sent alone, and we are not sent empty-handed. God supplies power for obedience, not perfection.

Walking by the Spirit keeps us dependent. It reminds us that fruit grows over time as we remain faithful. God advances His mission not by might or human power, but by His Spirit.

Reflection Questions:

- Where are you relying on your own strength instead of the Spirit's power?
- How might prayer change the way you approach everyday conversations?

Practical Application:

Begin each day this week by asking the Spirit to guide your words, actions, and attitudes.

Prayer:

Father, teach me to depend on You. Lead me by Your Spirit's power as I live on mission for Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 — A Mission That Multiplies

Scripture Readings: Matthew 28:19–20, 2 Timothy 2:2, Acts 2:42–47, Colossians 1:28–29

Jesus doesn't call us to make converts alone—He calls us to make disciples. Discipleship is relational, intentional, and ongoing. It happens as believers walk with one another in everyday life.

Paul describes multiplication clearly: what you've received, entrust to others. This is how the church grows deeper and stronger over time. God's design has always been life-on-life faithfulness.

This kind of mission isn't flashy. It's slow, personal, and often unseen. It happens through conversations, prayer, Scripture, and shared life. And it's powerful because God uses ordinary faithfulness to produce lasting fruit.

You don't need a platform. You need availability.

Reflection Questions:

- Who has invested in your spiritual growth?
- Who might God be inviting you to walk with more intentionally?

Practical Application:

Reach out to one person this week and begin a more intentional spiritual conversation.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for those who have discipled me. Help me faithfully invest in others for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 — Until the End

Scripture Readings: Matthew 28:20, Revelation 7:9–10, Isaiah 6:8, Hebrews 12:1–3

Jesus ends the Great Commission with a promise: “I am with you always.” Mission isn’t sustained by excitement—it’s sustained by presence. Christ is with His people from first step to final breath.

One day, people from every nation will worship before the throne. Until then, we run with endurance, trusting that God is at work through faithful obedience. The mission will not fail.

Christmas didn’t end the story. It launched it forward through the church.

Reflection Questions:

- What gives you confidence to keep living on mission?
- How does Christ’s presence strengthen your faithfulness?

Practical Application:

Commit the year ahead to living on mission where God has placed you.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for being with me always. Strengthen me to live faithfully for Your mission until the end. In Jesus’ name, Amen.