

# THE SERMON SUPPLY



A Resource from  
Region 6



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## **The Holy Trinity, Year A**

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Gospel Text – Matthew 28:16-20

### **Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <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> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## **SERMON TEXT:**

Today is called "Holy Trinity" Sunday.

Pastors who follow the same lectionary that we do, which is a good amount, will inevitably be preaching on the trinity. They will somehow explain the three persons of the Trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Somehow they will explain this one in three and three in one.

At this point in my ministry I've preached many times about the trinity. I remember back in seminary we were warned of the dangers of the many different explanations of the trinity. Any comparisons, similes, metaphors to say, matter (solid, liquid, gas and somehow aligning those with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit), would always eventually fall apart and no longer make sense. It seemed like the professors were saying, don't even try and explain the trinity.

So, I'm going to finally take my professors advice and not explain the trinity to you. And that concludes my sermon for today. Thank you very much. Amen.

Just kidding. I do have more to say for today. Just not on the trinity.

I'm not going to explain the trinity today, because I don't think that is the most important part of this Gospel text for today.

The most important part is the Great Commission. It's the part where Jesus tells the disciples to go to every nation and make new disciples, baptizing, and teaching them about Jesus and obeying the commandments of Jesus.

**That** is the most important part.

This is the most important part because **everything** in the Gospel of Matthew has been leading up to this point. In fact, everything up until this point **needed to happen** before this Great Commission could be given.

We can see how significant this is because after this text, the Gospel of Matthew ends.

The writer of Matthew has nothing more to say. After Jesus issues this Great Commission, there is nothing more to say. That's it.

The place where this Great Commission occurs is also significant.

It doesn't happen in a synagogue. It doesn't happen in an upper room. It doesn't happen in a house. It doesn't happen in a restaurant.

This Great Commission occurs on a mountain. It occurs outside.

We all know the concept about “mountain-top” experiences, right? They are experiences that we will always remember, that have a huge impact on us. Mountain-top experiences change our lives.

What the disciples experience in our Gospel text for today, they will never forget. This mountain experience is unforgettable. It will have a huge impact on their lives, changing them forever.

One reason why this is so memorable is because this mountain experience is where the disciples meet the resurrected Jesus for the first time in the Gospel of Matthew. Earlier in this Gospel, Jesus wasn't at the tomb with the 2 Mary's. There are no other reports of Jesus appearing to anyone in this Gospel anywhere else. This mountain is the first place where Jesus appears to his disciples.

Now seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples worship Jesus.

But it's also interesting to note, that they still have their doubts. Here is Jesus, appearing before them, just as he said, and yet they are still doubting. This appearance doesn't clear up everything for them about the resurrected Jesus.

Then Jesus gives them their commission. The disciples are to go to every nation and make disciples, baptizing, and teaching them about Jesus and obeying the commandments of Jesus.

This is basically Jesus summing up what ministry is, in one single sentence.

Basically what Jesus is telling the disciples to do is to “Reach out at every opportunity.”

We are supposed to do this as well. We, all you watching this video wherever you may be, myself, everyone sitting in the pews of our churches, students in our campus ministries, we are to go to everyone, baptizing, and telling people of Jesus and his teachings and commandments.

But, there is more that we are to do, right?

There are also actions involved. We are also to do something with this reaching out.

We can look to the example of Jesus. Jesus did things. He put his faith into action. Jesus helped the poor. Jesus helped those with little to no power. Jesus healed the sick. Jesus did things.

But, it is worth mentioning, that the actions that we do, they don't save us. Our actions don't grant us salvation. We are already saved. Our actions flow from already being saved, not the other way around. Because we are saved by grace.

At the very end of our Gospel text, Jesus tells the disciples that he will be with them always, until the end of the age. Jesus is also saying that to us as well. Death did not keep Jesus away from us. God raised Jesus from the dead so that Jesus would be with us always. And sending the Holy Spirit as well to be our companions.

God is with us. And God will guide us as we put our faith into action to help those in need.

Good people gathered here, the most important part in our Gospel text for today is not the trinity, but the Great Commission. It's significant that this Great Commission doesn't occur in a religious, holy place, but instead on a mountain. This is a memorable experience for the disciples.

In this commission, Jesus tells the disciples to go to every nation and make disciples, baptizing, and teaching them about Jesus and obeying the commandments of Jesus. Basically Jesus is telling the disciples to "Reach out at every opportunity."

There are also actions involved with this.

And we can rest assured that God is guiding us to what actions to do.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

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