

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Are You a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

Matthew 28:18-20

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Typically, in a somewhat obligatory fashion, preachers all over the world preach annually on the resurrection of Christ on 'Easter Sunday.'

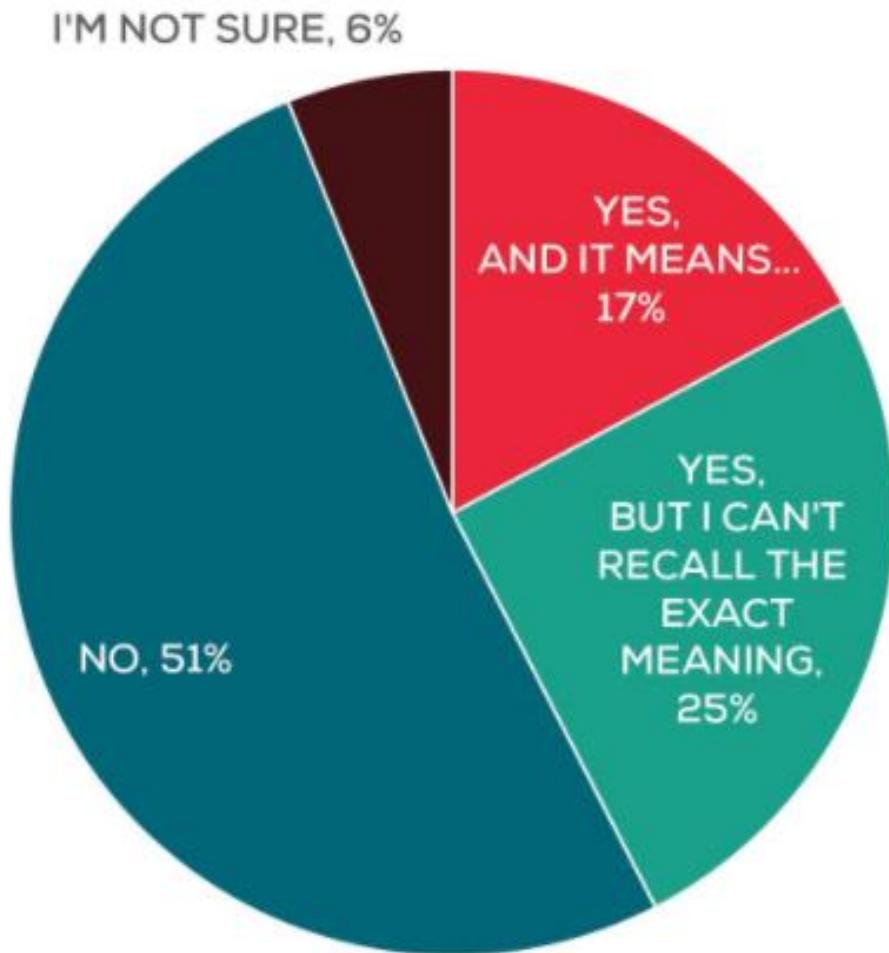
Today, I want to go against the norm. I shall assume you would not be here if you didn't believe Christ rose from the grave.

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CHURCHGOERS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Barna





Great Commission Choices

- a. Give and it shall be given unto you pressed down....
- b. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all His righteousness
- c. Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself
- d. Go ye therefore into all the world and make disciples
- e. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

DO CHURCHGOERS RECOGNIZE THE GREAT COMMISSION AMONG OTHER VERSES?

Barna

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20)

37%

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-40)

16%

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

8%

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

5%

"Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." (Mark 12:17)

2%

Not sure if any of these passages are the Great Commission

33%



Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

- And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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**Let's talk
context!**



Context

This is probably Christ's last week on the earth before his ascension.

These are some of the Risen Lord's final words to His disciples.

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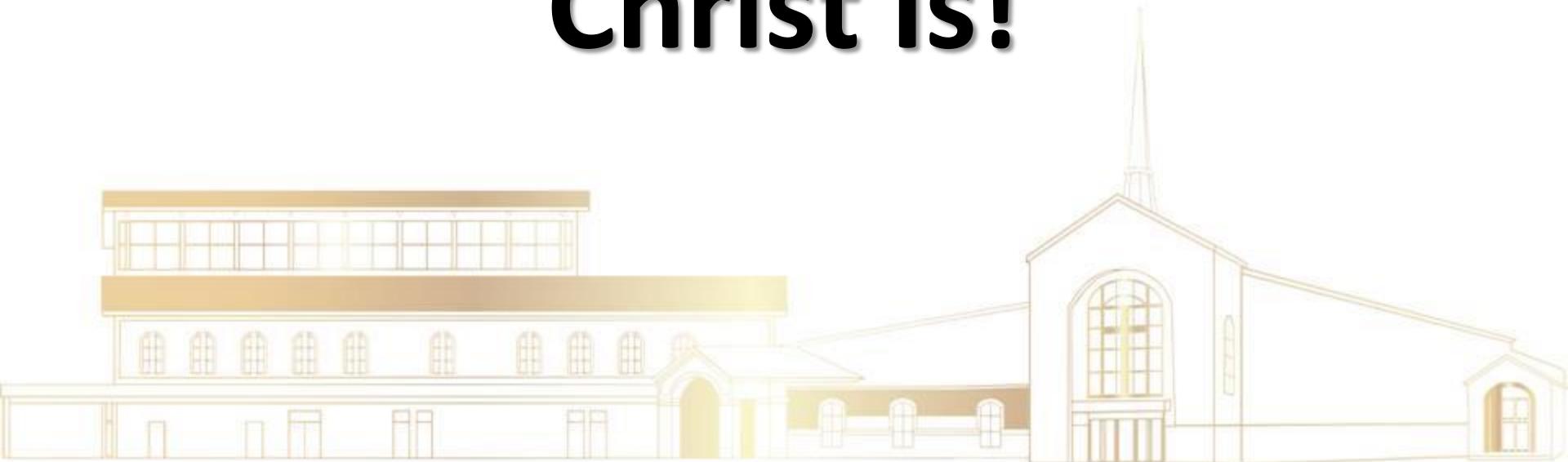
Matthew 28:18

- And Jesus came and said to them [the disciples],
- “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

From where does Christ derive this authority and what is His point now?

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**Today NOT enough is
made about who Jesus
Christ Is!**



Jesus is the

- Savior of the world
- One & only Son of God

But He is also the

- Sovereign of the Universe
- Kings of Kings
- Lord of Lords
- Exalted One

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This is why this
passage is called the
Great Commission

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1a: a formal written warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties

2: an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner or to perform prescribed acts: charge

3a: authority to act for, in behalf of, or in place of another

b: a task or matter entrusted to one as an agent for another

4a: a group of persons directed to perform some duty

5: an act of entrusting or giving authority



Matthew 28:19

• 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,





- NET | Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**,
- ESV | Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**,
- NKJV | Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**,
- HCSB | Go, therefore, and **make disciples of all nations**,
- NASB95 | “Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**,

When we examine this passage of Scripture we see that the only imperative in the v. is to “make disciples.”

Go, baptize, and teach are all subordinate participles to the imperative verb *mathēteuō* Μαθητεύω translated make disciples.

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**In order to know if we
are making disciples—**

we must ask:

what is a disciple?

Notice I am not asking you

If you are a Baptist?

If you are an evangelical?

If you are a conservative?

If you are a Protestant?

**I am asking: Are you a disciple
of Jesus Christ?**

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First, let's be clear—we see NO distinction in the NT between believers and disciples or Christians and disciples.

Disciples are not level 2, 3, or 4 Christians.

How do we know this?



No distinction

- The last reference to disciple(s) in the NT is found in Acts 21:16
- Nothing in the NT indicates a distinction between disciple and saint or disciple and Christian or disciple and believer
- You may be more of a disciple of Christ or less of a disciple, but if you are not a disciple of Christ you are NOT a Christian

Disciple Defined



- 1: one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another: as**
 - a: one of the twelve in the inner circle of Christ's followers according to the Gospel accounts**
 - b: a convinced adherent of a school or individual**
- 2: capitalized: a member of the Disciples of Christ founded in the U.S. in 1809 that holds the Bible alone to be the rule of faith and practice, usually baptizes by immersion, and has a congregational polity**



Synonyms for Disciple

- Student
- Pupil
- Learner
- Follower
- Believer
- Zealot
- Adherent

For the follower of Christ there is a necessary supernatural spiritual component to being a disciple.



Luke 19:10

- **For the Son of man [Jesus] is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Lost describes the fallen state of all humans who need to be saved from their sin and the wrath of God.

Making Disciples

Is **not** like the teacher student relationship in martial arts or any other discipline.



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**Jesus told Nicodemus
you must be born-
again. And Paul further
emphasizes this!**



Born-Again Defined

Born-again is an expression used by Jesus (John 3) to describe a spiritual rebirth or regeneration performed by the Holy Spirit such that a sinner is no longer an unbeliever alienated and separated from God.



1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” **and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.**

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2 Corinthians 4:4

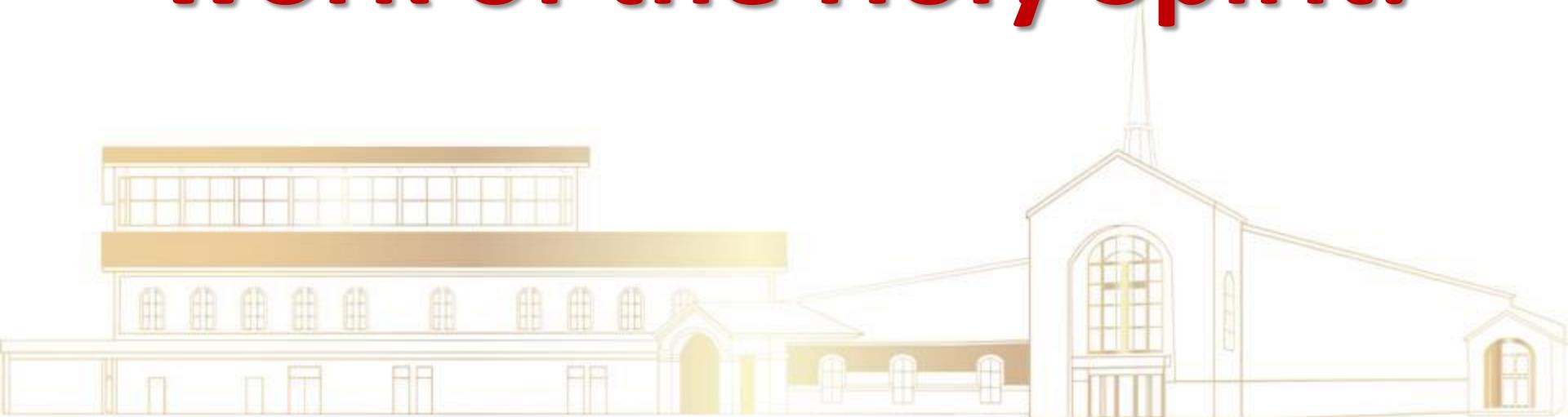
In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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**Seeing the light of the
glorious gospel is a
work of the Holy Spirit.**



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Yet...



Yet we (the disciple)

- Follow
- Believe
- Trust
- Obey
- Listen
- Learn
- Surrender

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Acts 16:30-31

- Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
- And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Look @
Romans 10:8–17

⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, **the word of faith** that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord **and believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one **believes** and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who **believes in him** will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have **not believed**? And how are they to **believe in him** of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed **the gospel**. For Isaiah says, “Lord, **who has believed** what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So **faith** comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.



My Two Takeaways

1. God must do a supernatural work in the spiritual heart of the unbeliever to become a believer.
2. The unbeliever must believe the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.

How these two truths co-exist is a mystery to me...!?



Disciple Defined

- A disciple is a born-again believer in the Person and work of Jesus Christ who surrenders to Jesus as Master and is striving to know and obey Jesus as Lord.

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Born-Again

John 1:11-13

Directly links
receiving/believing to
being born of God

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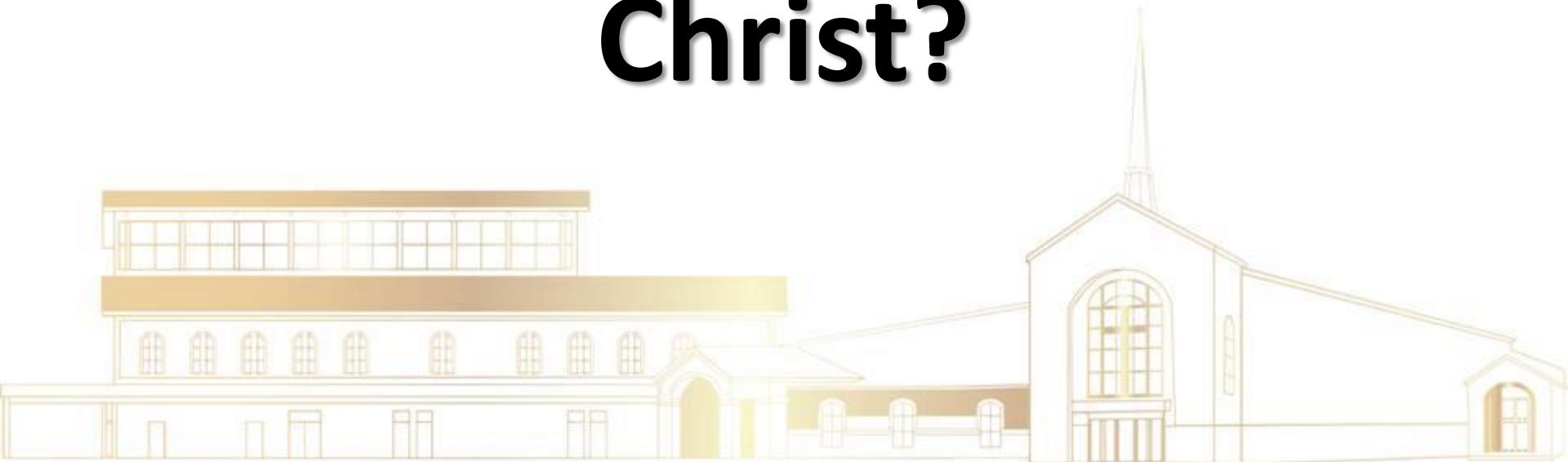


John 1:11-13

- He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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**What must I believe
to be a disciple of Jesus
Christ?**



Disciple's Believe

This about Jesus' Person

- That Jesus was a real human
 - God incarnate
- That Jesus Christ is the one and only Son of God
 - 2nd Person of the One and Only Godhead

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**Turn to
Matthew 16
v. 13-17**





Matthew 16:13-17

- Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Disciple's Believe

This about Jesus' Work

- He lived a sinless life in order to die for their own sins on a cross
- He was buried and rose again on the third day to validate the authenticity of His Person and the efficacy of his Work
- He is presently interceding on their behalf
- He is coming again

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Matthew 20:28

- even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

John 1:29

- The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

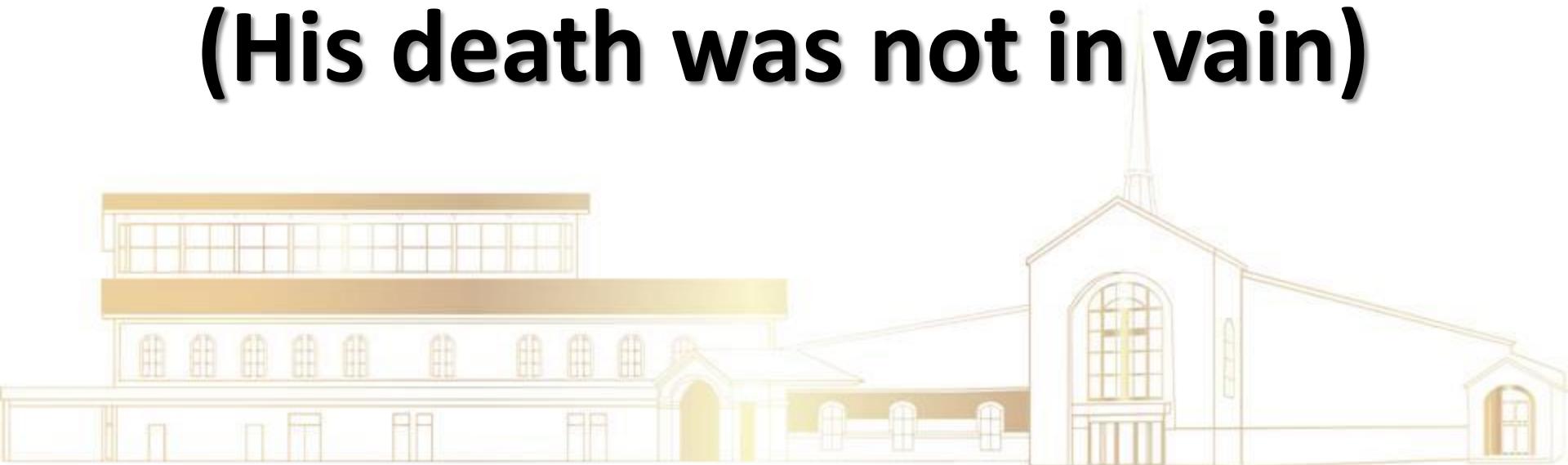
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Authenticity

(Jesus was who He said He was)

Efficacy

(His death was not in vain)





Romans 8:34

- Who is to condemn?
- Christ Jesus is the one who died—
- more than that, who was raised—
- who is at the right hand of God,
- who indeed is interceding for us.

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Ok!

So are you a
disciple of Christ?





Disciple Defined

- A disciple is a born-again believer in the Person and work of Jesus Christ who surrenders to Jesus as Master and is striving to know and obey Jesus as Lord.

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Fact

**Surrender is a necessary
component to true
discipleship.**





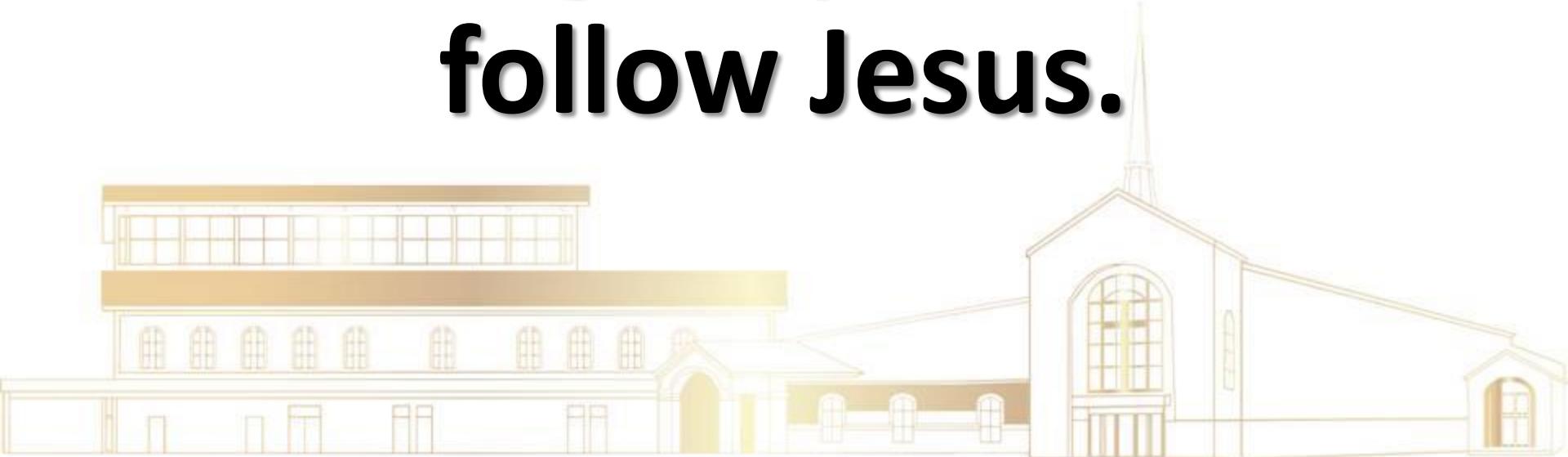
Matthew 16:24

- Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

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Notice

**Denying is NOT
enough—you must
follow Jesus.**



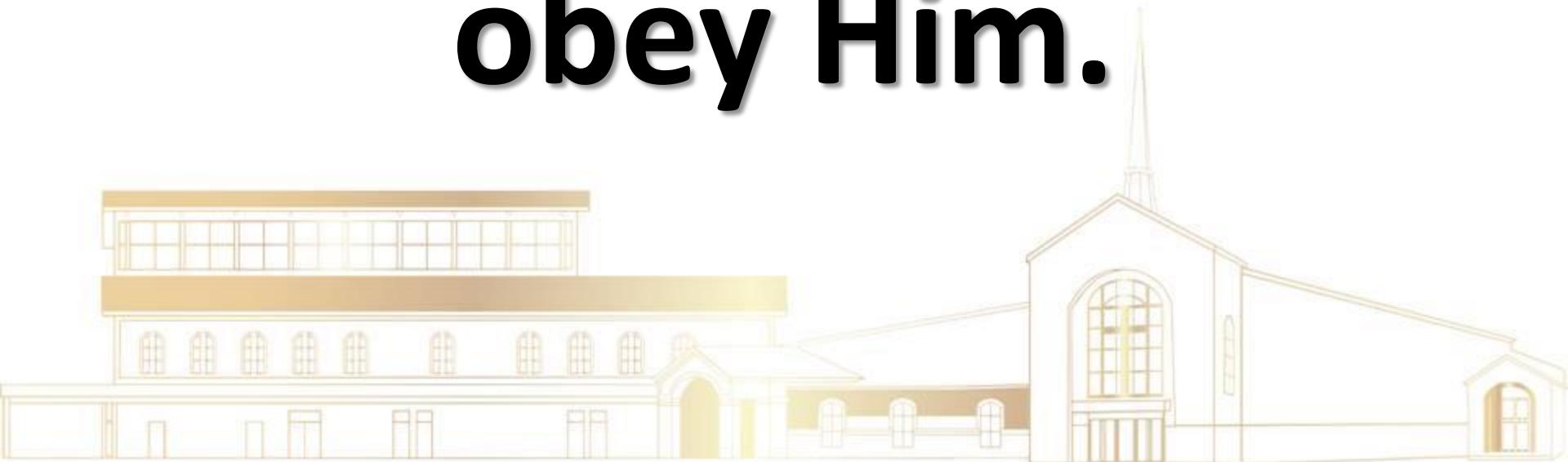


Matthew 16:24

- Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

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**To follow Christ you
must know Him and
obey Him.**



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Lets' Look Back @ the Great Commission

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Matthew 28:19-20

- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

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Question

Have you been baptized
after becoming a
believer?



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**The NT is
Devoid of Christians who
have not been baptized—
the only exception we have is the thief on
the cross.**

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Matthew 28:19-20

- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

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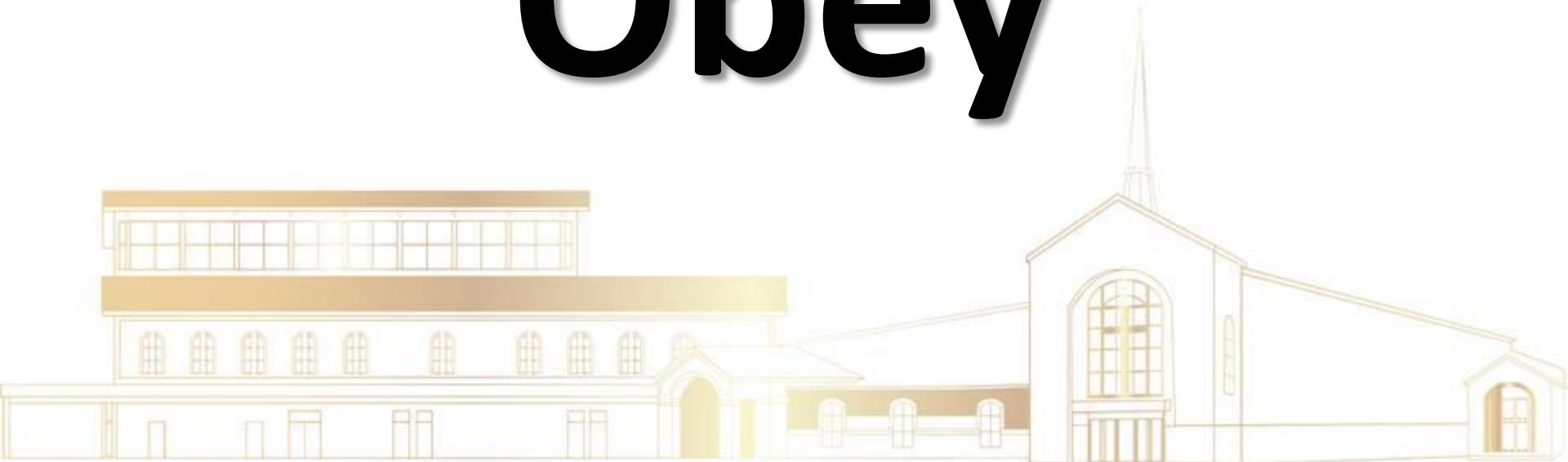
**If the church's job is
to teach so that we
can obey—then
what is each
individual's job?**

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Learn & Obey



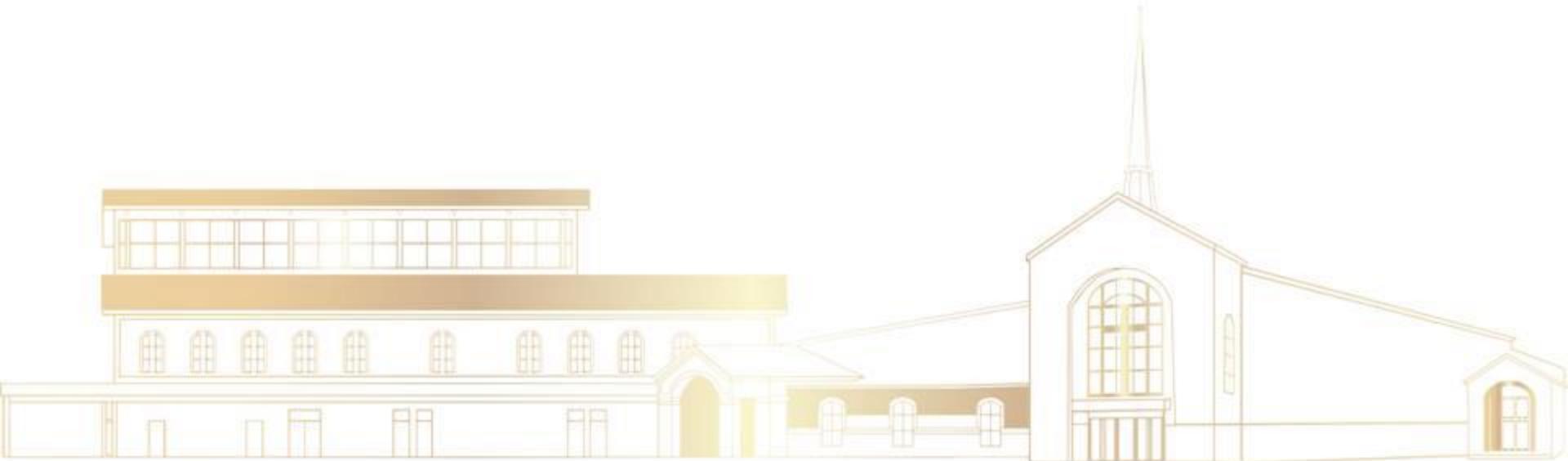


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**This leads to:
Two Questions**



Two Questions:

1. How would you score yourself on knowledge of what Christ taught?
2. How would you rate your obedience to what Christ taught?

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about the
Kingdom of God?
Do you seek it?**

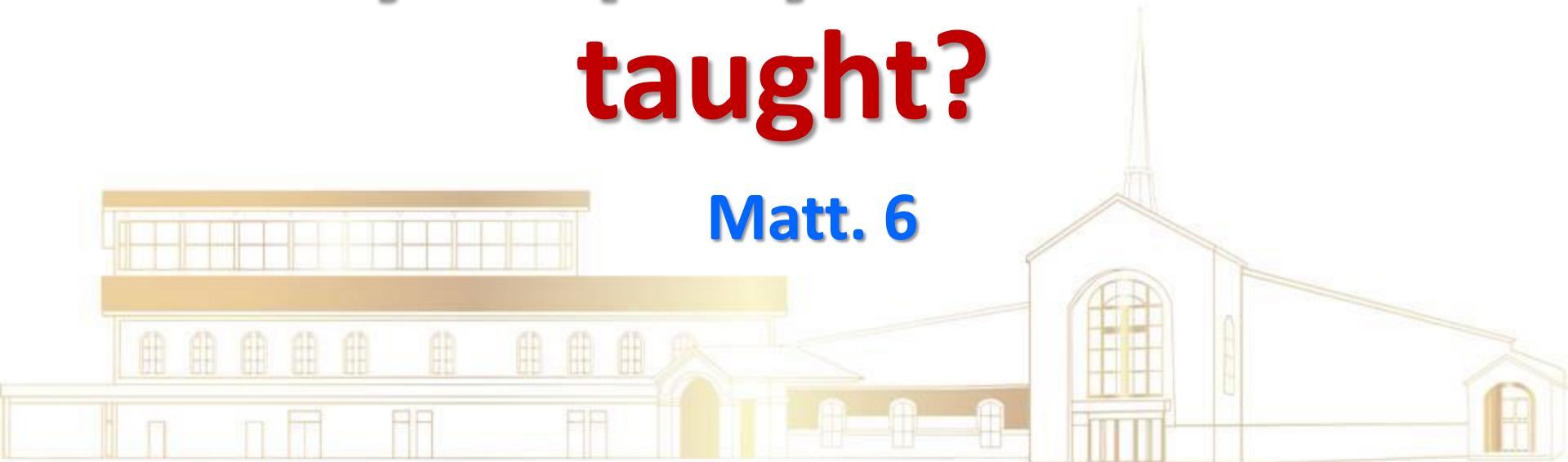
Matt. 6 & 13



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**Do you know what
Christ taught on prayer?
Do you pray like Christ
taught?**

Matt. 6



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**Do you know what Christ
taught about loving your
neighbor?**

**Do you love your
neighbor?**

Mark 12:31



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**Do you know what
Christ taught marriage
and divorce?**

Are you obeying Him?

Matt. 10

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
being peacemaker?**

Are you a peacemaker?

Mt. 5:9

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**Do you what Christ
taught about fishing for
men?**

Do you fish for Him?

Mt. 4:19

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
giving?**

Do you give?

Luke 6:38



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**Do you know what Christ
taught about forgiveness?**

**Are you harboring
UN-forgiveness?**

Matt 18



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**Do you know what Christ
taught about adultery?**

**Are you committing
adultery?**

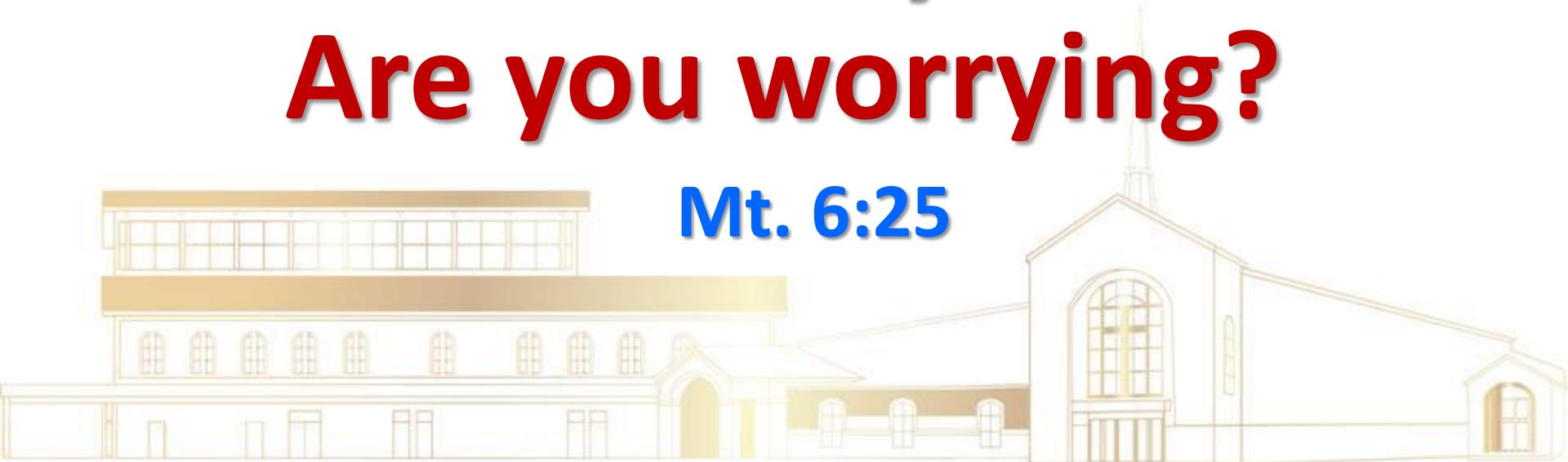
Mt. 5:27-32

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
anxiety?**

Are you worrying?

Mt. 6:25



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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
hypocrisy?**

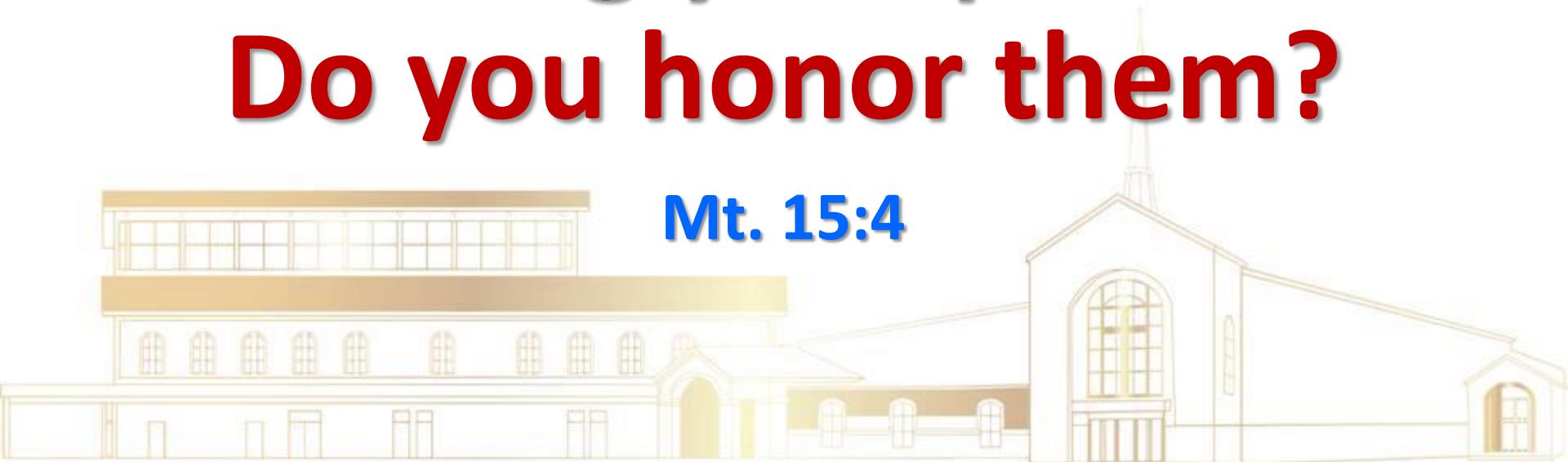
Are you a hypocrite?

Mt. 7:5

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
honoring your parents?
Do you honor them?**

Mt. 15:4



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**Do you know what Christ
taught about celebrating
the Lord's Supper?**

Do you celebrate it?

Luke 22



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**Do you know what Christ
taught about temptation?**

Do you protect yourself?

Matt 6:13

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**Do you know what Christ
modeled concerning
compassion?**

Are you compassionate?

Mt 9:36



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**Do you know what Christ
taught about coveting?**

Do you strive not to covet?

Luke 12:15

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
loving your enemies?
Do you love them?**

Matt. 5:44

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
worship?**

Do you worship God?

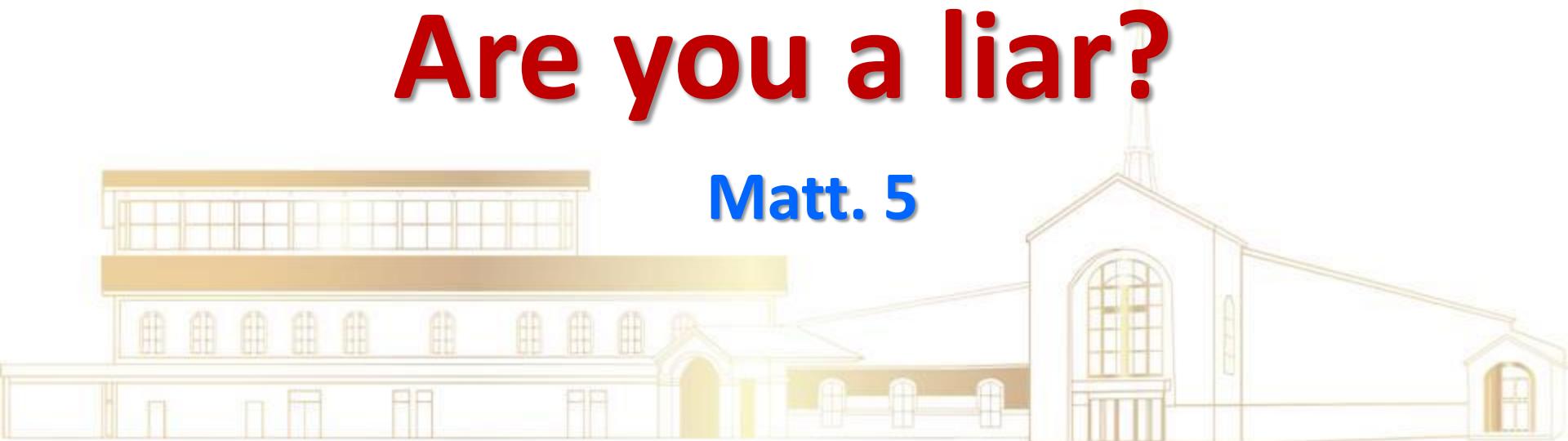
John 4:23

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
keeping your word?**

Are you a liar?

Matt. 5



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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
paying taxes?**

Do you pay them?

Mt. 22:21

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**Do you know what
Christ modeled
concerning serving?
Do you serve others?**

John 13



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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
unity?**

Are you divisive?

John 17

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
fearing God?**

Do you fear God?

Mt. 10:28

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**Do you know what
Christ taught about
Hell?**

Are you going there?

Luke 12:5

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**Do you know what
Christ taught on the
gospel?**

Have you obeyed it?

Mk 10:45

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**Do you know what
Christ taught on
discipleship?
Are you one?**

Mt. 28:19-20





Disciple Defined

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