

LEAVE THEM ALONE (MATTHEW 28:18-20)

By Don Krider

I want you to turn in your Bible to Matt 28; we are going to look at Jesus' commission. We have added to His commission; we have changed the way in which it operates. We have organized it in our own organization and then wonder why it doesn't work. We wonder why we are wearing ourselves out, and it is because we serve God in the flesh more than we do in the spirit. We work our flesh to death trying to get something done, but He said, "*It's not by power nor might but by my spirit, saith the Lord.*" (Zech 4:6) He said, "It isn't by anything you can do in the physical; it's by total surrender to Me, allowing My spirit to work through you so things will be accomplished."

So Jesus, in the closing of His message before He left the earth, said these words:

Matt 28:18-19 All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth; go ye therefore....

He didn't say, "Think about it." He didn't say, "Elect a group to go." He said, "**GO.**"

I see the word of God as an action word, but it isn't a natural action word; it is a spiritual word. If I am not going in my spirit I can send my body everywhere but it's not going to go anywhere for the Lord. A lot of times we volunteer for this, we volunteer for that, and then we murmur and complain, grumble, and gripe all the time we are doing it. "Well, if I don't do it, it won't get done." That's not true, because if God wants it to get done, God will raise up somebody to do it. Now what we do is just pick somebody, plug them in and say, "Do it" and they never had the "GO" in their heart to do it. They never had the desire in their heart, but we plugged them in. They became discouraged, they wanted to quit, and they finally gave up. Why? Because it wasn't God who told them to go. It was us that told them to do that. They got discouraged, they quit the church, and they went somewhere else.

So the Lord spoke to my heart and He said, "Read these words, look at them, and begin to study them and see what I am saying to you." He didn't say, "...what I am saying to the church." He said, "... what I am saying to you." In His sermons He may say something different to you than He says to me, but He will always say something to us if it is the Spirit of the Lord.

The Lord needs an evangelistic church, a moving church, a church on fire, a church that is moving forward against the powers of darkness. It needs to be a church that is rescuing the perishing. So here in Matthew He said:

Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore and teach...

Is that what it says? There are three things I see Jesus really telling the church to do and they can be in three categories: GO, TEACH, AND PREACH. I find in the preaching of the word of God that there are miracles, there are healings, there is deliverance. We need to teach what God has told us to teach, not what we want to teach, but what God has told us to teach.

Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost: (20) teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

Not what you would like to teach them. God hasn't said the same thing to all of us. God didn't give all of us the same calling. God did not tell us all the same thing, whether we want to say it or not. God did not make everybody an apostle. God did not make everybody an evangelist. God did not make everybody a pastor. God did not make everybody a prophet or a teacher. Now what God has commanded me to do, I can teach you to do. The problem is we are trying to teach something that we don't know anything about because we have never had a commandment from God to do it ourselves. You can only teach what you have really experienced. You can only teach what is real to you. That's why it's a shame for me to try to teach someone to become a pastor when they are not a pastor, or to become an evangelist when they are not an evangelist. They should do the work of an evangelist, but let me tell you something, friend: there is the five-fold ministry and God speaks differently to each one of them. He never ever tells us to go and do something He hasn't commanded us to do.

Every Christian could share something that God has commanded you to do and you could teach that. That is why the body ministry is so real; that's why we need the gifts operating. Those gifts aren't something we just want to operate; they have been things that God has commanded us. It might be the gift of faith; not everybody has that gift. It might be the gift of the word of knowledge or the word of wisdom; but it's something that God has commanded us, that we have experienced, that needs to be taught in the body of Christ. We wait for the pulpit to teach us everything; that is not the way that God intended it to be. He meant for us to be living members in a living body that has been commanded to do something, and we need to teach others how to do what we have been commanded to teach them.

Some pastors get so exasperated because people don't give and they beat them to death trying to get them to give, but they themselves don't give. They say, "Well, I am a minister, I am exempt." No! When God commands me to teach on tithing, He first of all has commanded me to give. When He teaches me on giving, He first has commanded me on giving. I want to tell you there are too many things being taught by people who haven't even experienced them, or haven't been commanded of God to teach them. We see a situation developing in the body and we pick a subject, but what we see developing isn't what is developing. We diagnose it as cancer and it's a heart problem, so we give scripture to deal with the cancer instead of the heart problem. We need to wait on what God commands us to teach. Every one of us, before we ever come to service, ought to get down before God and say, "Lord, what would you have me to bring to the service tonight; what would you have me to share, what would you have me to put into the service. What is it, Lord, that you have commanded me to do tonight?"

We have been trying to get people to change by preaching what we wanted to preach or teaching what we wanted to teach. I have even been in prayer meetings when they tried to direct traffic through their prayers - correct people through their prayers. Come on now, haven't you ever said something a little sneaky; you know, hoping it would hit. I was one of them. God didn't command me to say it; I just saw a need and I just went ahead and said it. We are going to have to start waiting on God to let Him command us as to what He would have us to say, what He would have us to do, what He would have us to become, what He would have us to share in the body of Christ.

God wants us to realize something: John never taught what Paul taught. Peter never taught what Paul taught. He said in **2 Peter 3:16** "*Paul taught many things hard to be understood. They which are unlearned and unstable wrest these scriptures, and well as others, to their own destruction.*" We need to realize who we are talking to and then speak what we have been commanded to speak; not what we think needs to be taught, not what we hope works. We have become doctors; we've analyzed, after we criticized, and then we prescribed the medication. We prescribed for cancer when it is a heart problem, and the guy dies from an overdose of the wrong medicine. God wants us to realize that it is important that we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church before we try to say that God said it. We need to experience it before we try to give it away.

It's real simple. That is all Jesus ever commanded them to do. He said, "Go ye therefore into all the world and **teach.**" In **Mark 16:15** He said, "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*" In **Luke 9:2** He said, "*Go preach the kingdom of God and begin to heal the sick therein*". He said, "*Heal the sick, cast out devils.*" But everybody doesn't cast out devils. Most people try to cast out flesh. Somebody acts a little crazy and they've got a devil. No! Somebody acts a little different than we act and they are strange. Thank God there is a difference. Thank God, the Lord is bringing a body together that is not all alike. There are different members in the body, there are different diversities of gifts, and there are different operations of the gifts.

Jesus told me to go and evangelize. He told me to go and do what I am doing. Everybody tries to make me something else but I'm just what I am. You know, a lot of times we try to make people be what we want them to be or wish that they were, but we can't be that. God told me to teach and preach what He commanded me to teach and preach. That is why I love all these different ministries. That's why I love A. E. Allen. People thought he was nuts, but I want to tell you something: that man had a work to do and he did it. I mean, those devils are still trembling because he walked around. I thank God for Kathryn Kuhlman. She never got off into teaching. She stayed in the calling she had from God, what God commanded her to do, and that was to heal the sick.

We are not growing because we are all trying to shape one another and make one another look alike and sound alike. We don't mean to do it and we certainly wouldn't do it intentionally, but I want to tell you, my friend, we are going to have to encourage one another to be who God meant them to be - to work in the image that God put into their heart, to work in the calling God put into their heart. You can't be a Moody; there's been one already. You can't be another Murray; there's been one already. What we need to do is to encourage one another to speak the word, to work the ministry that God commanded them to do. You say, "Well, God never told me to do anything." Get alone with Him a little bit. He'll tell you to do all kinds of things.

When He was talking with His disciples, He was talking to those who were going to be the workers who would lay the foundation of the work. He said, "I've taught you to observe some things. Now I want you to go and I want you to do them." Paul was an apostle, Peter was an apostle, John was an apostle; but when you read their writings you can't recognize that John was like Paul because he wasn't. It is very simple to read Paul's writings and figure out who wrote the books. It is very simple to find the books that John wrote. It is very simple to find out what Peter wrote and James wrote because they are all different. There are none of us complete in ourselves; our completeness is in Christ. Our completeness is in the body of Christ, isn't it?

He said, "I want you to go therefore, and teach them all things whatsoever I have commanded **YOU**." Have you ever heard people teaching a certain subject and it seemed like that was just their subject. There are people who teach on faith, and I mean that seems to be the whole thing - that's the whole world. Well, maybe that's all God told them to teach; maybe that's the part that they need to minister in the body of Christ. You might say, "Well, if they get more balanced...." Maybe they are as balanced as they will ever get. Maybe what we need to do is encourage them to go on with the message that God has given them. If God wants to add to it, or God wants to change it, He can do it.

I want to see the church unleashed. What that means is that I am going to have to encourage pastors to speak whatever God commanded them to speak, and not see if it lines up with what God told me to speak. It won't be contrary to what I speak but it won't be the same thing. In a sense that is the identical ministry; we'll speak the same things that are in Christ. It will glorify God, won't it? It will bring honor to the Lord. There are those who have the ability to teach on faith; let them teach on faith. There are those who teach on healing; let them teach on healing. There are those who teach on prosperity; let them teach on it. "But if they get balanced we could fellowship with them." Maybe if you would run alongside of them a little bit, balance them out, it would balance you out. If we would quit getting rid of the counterbalances all the time, maybe we would balance up.

What we need today is to realize that Jesus told these men something very real. He said, "Now you go teach them all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Every time I hear of a man who has come out of a Baptist background, I can almost hear "grace." Somebody comes out of a Pentecostal background, I hear "power." Are they wrong? They are both right. Their grace needs the power; their power needs the grace. When I hear somebody come out of the faith movement, they talk faith. I want to tell you that power needs faith. Grace needs faith. It all works together. Instead of encouraging each member to speak what God has commanded them, we want them to speak what God commanded us.

Timothy was nothing like Paul and Paul never tried to make Timothy like him. He taught him, he instructed him, but he told him to be strong in the Lord, to be strengthened with all might in the inner man (Eph 3:16). Timothy was not all that strong evidently when he dealt

with people, but he was chosen to be a bishop. What made him strong was the counterbalance of Paul.

"Go ye therefore into ALL the world, teaching them to observe (or do) all things which I have commanded you."

When I was in the Baptist church they measured on one thing only (that I could remember) and that was salvation. It was good! Hallelujah! I knew what salvation was all about. I knew John 3:16, I knew John 3:17, I knew I John 3:5. I knew those scriptures because that was what they knew. They didn't teach about the Holy Ghost. I am not sure God ever commanded them to.

God is saying to you and me that we think that as an individual we have it all figured out. God says, "Wait a minute, just a minute. I am commanding sister so-and-so to speak something I am not commanding you to say. Now if you shut up long enough and quit trying to make her like you think she ought to be, and let her be herself, then there will become a balance in the body of Christ." I want to tell you something, friend: we need to teach and observe all things God commanded us to do. It makes sense to me. That's why I am going to leave you alone. I am going to encourage you, I am going to strengthen you, I am going to pray for you, but I am going to leave you alone. I am going to let God develop in you what He wants to command you. I am going to ask God to develop in you a desire to do whatever it is He has commanded you to do, not because you are in this group or that group, but because Jesus had commanded you to do it.

Somebody said, "Well, Brother Krider, I just sometimes feel like God wants me to lay hands on people." Why don't you do it? Look at the gifts in the word of God. There's the gift of helps, of governments, of administration. It would be a poor World Wide Ministries if they would try to get me to run the thing. We have people that can operate in gifts and in realms that God never told me to. You know why ministries don't grow? It's because we try to run them; we try to hold on to them. Churches don't grow because we try to change people when they come in the door. We try to hold on to them; we try to make them different. A good pastor should always encourage you to do whatever you feel God has told you to do. We need to let one another alone.

We need to come to a point of encouraging one another. Paul didn't get his revelation like John got his. Peter was not knocked down blind. A lot of what we teach people comes from the background from which we come. We are to minister according to the ability given unto us of God. We are able ministers, but it's the whole body together that makes it complete. We need to encourage those that have the gift of healing to get in there and start doing something with it, instead of sitting around and saying, "Boy, I tell you, if they don't get healed under my ministry, Bless God..."

What I saw in the word of God when Dorcas died was that none of them tried to raise her from the dead. You know what they did? They went immediately to Peter because Peter had the gift. Peter had the power from God and the authority from God to raise the dead. Can't you see a bunch of them saying, "Well, if God was going to raise her she would have been raised by now because I prayed for her for two days. I laid hands on that woman. I fasted and I..." They didn't have the ability. We realize that our ability may be in some other area that somebody else is not working in, and we work in that area; then when somebody needed help in an area that we are not called to, we would call for Peter or for whoever it was that could do it.

We are trying to catalog people; we do it unconsciously. But did you ever notice your children - they are all different, aren't they. It's because everyone born has a different ability. Some can sing, some can play instruments, some can preach. I can rejoice with these men of God and these women of God who can sing. I can rejoice with them but don't put me up there to do it. Don't select me to your choir because I tell you truthfully, I don't have the desire to belong to the choir. Do you know where my heart really is; it's in the airplane, it's in the van, it's in every city that I can get into.

Come on; be honest about where you really are. It's what Jesus is telling them, "Look fellas, you go and teach them to observe all things which I have commanded you." Peter is going to the Jews; Paul is going to the Gentiles. Peter may have wanted to go the Gentiles but God had a plan for another man named Paul. Peter did real good in the field in which he was called, but he was never called to the Gentiles. In fact, he was so amazed when Cornelius got baptized with the Holy Ghost that he almost had a heart attack. The word doesn't say he ever went again to any more of them. He said, "I have been called to the Jews." Paul said, "I have been called to the Gentiles." It never would have worked the other way around.

We are not all alike. God commands each of us to do various things according to the ability that we have. I need to be sure that I take what God has given me and commanded me, and teach others to do what I know to do. I am a happy Christian because I leave people alone. I let them get sifted. I let them fall in a hole that they fit. Sometimes, I would like to help the Lord do the sifting but that's not my job. Let God sift the people. Let God sift them until they just clunk, clunk, clunk - right in the place where they belong. We put so much stuff on them they can't get in the place where God wants them. We get them so changed that they don't fit where God wants them to, so God has to change them again.

In Acts the 15th chapter, a group of Gentile people who were believers were told by certain men from Judea that they had to be circumcised after the manner of Moses to be saved. Paul went down there, talked to these men from Judea and then went back to Jerusalem to talk to the apostles and elders about this problem. They wrote a letter to the Gentiles, stating that they had given no such commandment that they had to be circumcised, and apologized for this. He took it back to them and it was a letter that had very little in it, but when it was read to them, the word says they rejoiced for the consolation. Praise God!

Leave them alone; encourage each other. Don't try to make them be something they are not. Don't try to change your Christian Brother from being what he is. "Well, he ought to be a missionary." Why? Who told you he ought to be a missionary. I'll tell you what God said he ought to be: a Brother. Let him find out what God wants him to do. If you want to be a missionary, I'll help you be a missionary. If you want to keep the door in the house of the Lord, I'll help you do that. But I want to tell you something; I am going to leave you alone.

What we need to do is learn to take and teach what God has commanded us. I don't ever feel compelled to preach a certain message. I don't feel like I need to correct the body and change the body and help the Pastor. I need to pray for him; I need to encourage him but I need to let him alone.

I think we go beyond what God has called us to do. We go beyond what the word of the Lord has commanded us to do, and all of a sudden we are in charge of the body. We have to change it; we can't accept one another for just who we are. Some of the people that I used to hang around with used to travel with me and other people would say to me, "They are going to ruin your ministry." I said, "I hope so if it's mine." Look at the guys Jesus ran around with, cutting people's ears off. They couldn't even tell what was going on half the time. If you're worried about people ruining your ministry, it's time it got ruined, until one day you will walk into Jesus' ministry. You just say, "Come and follow the Lord. Come and follow Jesus."

I found out that a lot of people will ask you a lot more if you are not always talking, for they figure by the time you got through talking, you told them everything you knew anyhow. There wasn't any need to come to you to ask you anything. We need to understand what Jesus is doing here. He's not telling them to add to it, change their curriculum, or make it any different at all to fit certain people. He said, "You just tell it like it is, tell what you know, tell what I've told you to tell and that's all you have to do. The rest will be up to Me." That is a lot easier for me to do.

The Lord is building the church, isn't He? The Lord is adding to the church daily such as should be saved, isn't He? The Lord is in the perfecting business, isn't He? The Lord is in the coming business, isn't He? The Lord is in the quickening business, isn't He? Then, what is your job? He didn't call me to quicken any of you. When I teach or preach, you can go to sleep if you want to. It doesn't bother me. He didn't call me to change any of you. He didn't call me to save any of you. He didn't call me to build one thing in the church. He just said, "Do whatever I command you to do." That's pretty simple. "Just do what I command you to do." You know where I get in trouble? It's when I start adding a little to it. Have you ever done that? God said, "Now you tell them what is written here," and you say, "Well, that's going to hurt some feelings so I had better find a better way to say it." There is no better way to say it than to say it, but say it with love.

So God is not looking for somebody to change His church. He's not looking for somebody to quicken the people. He's not even looking for somebody to excite the people. He's looking for somebody to do just exactly what He commanded them to do.

You have to preach and teach what God has made real to you. Somebody said, "How will I know that it is real?" You will live it when it is real. Quit trying to save the church; quit trying to keep it together. God is building the church. God is bringing it together. God is saving the church. God is sanctifying the church. God is quickening the church. My job is to tell what I know, that's all. My job is to share what has become real to me. Jesus is real and His word is real.

Jesus said, "Go, preach, teach, heal, cast out devils," but He never said to demonstrate except in the spirit. The church is doing more demonstrating in the flesh than they are doing what God commanded them. They are in the protest business. The church isn't going out telling people what He has commanded them to do; it's raised up it's own protest movement. It's lowered itself into a flesh realm and it's fighting in flesh and blood realms. People are running around and laying accolades on them saying, "What a wonderful work you are doing."

Jesus never demonstrated against Rome. He never demonstrated against the stupid hierarchy that was running the church. He just said, "You are wrong, you are messed up, you are hypocrites. I didn't come to deal with you. I came to seek that which is lost. I didn't come to straighten out your politics. I didn't come to give you a better world. I didn't come to change the world. I didn't come to protest against taxes or communism." He said, "I came to seek and to save that which was lost."

No wonder we are tired. It's hard serving God in the flesh. I have to take four or five days off after I've done one day of it, but serving God in the spirit is new every day - it's fresh every day, it's refreshing, it's quickening. God didn't call you to protest; He gave you a simple, plain, beautiful message. He said, "Go and tell them to come to me. Go out and heal the sick and cast out some devils." Somebody said to me, "Brother Krider, the problem with you is, your gospel is too simple; anybody who wants to can figure it out." I said, "Thank God, that sounds about right to me. I want to keep it simple. I want to say what He says."

I am so tired of the church being so mixed up. They keep talking about Jesus coming instead of being prepared for His coming. They are out fighting everybody, demonstrating against everything, protesting everything, talking ugly about the government. Jesus told me to "Give thanks and pray for the government." That's all He told me to do. That's easy and I don't even have to get a debate group on that one. When I pray in the morning I just give thanks for the government, because all that are in power are ordained of God, so that eliminates that.

You say, "How come you are not concerned about life. If you were, you would be out here with a little flag protesting." I want to tell you again: leave them alone. They are in darkness and the god of this world has blinded their eyes. If you start living where God wants you to live, you will draw some of them out of the darkness.

It's time that the church got back to being the church. We forget what we are in the earth for. We're not here to change the world. We're not here to get a better government. We're not here to get less tax. We're not here to protest everything that is going on. We're fishermen. That's what I am. Jesus said, "Come unto me and I will make you fishers of men." The best bait in the world is LOVE. Love will catch them every time. Debating won't catch you anything but trouble. Protest won't catch anybody. It takes love, brothers and sisters; it takes love. Why? Because God is love.

If we would do what God commanded us to do, we would not be worn out because we have been so busy worrying about the government. It's amazing to me that Christians all over this country are saying, "Boy, I tell you, I hope the Lord hurries up and gets here. I can hardly stand it anymore. Look who got elected; look what kind of trouble we are in now." I say, "Why? Did God abdicate the throne or something; did God quit, or what." Jesus said, ***"This world is not my kingdom. If it were, my servants would fight"*** (John 18:36). I live in a kingdom called the Kingdom of God, with righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. This world isn't our kingdom. When I go out into the world I can represent Him, but I can only tell them what He has commanded me to tell them. When they asked Jesus certain things, He said, "I only say what my Father shows me to say. I only do what my Father shows me to do."

Christians, we can enjoy being here if we could ever figure out why we are here. It isn't to get wealthy. It isn't to take life so seriously. Hallelujah, I'm leaving here. Do you know what I want to leave behind? I want to leave a good name. We have been saying a lot of things that God never commanded us to say. We have been telling people to do a lot of things that God hasn't told us to tell them. Do you know why? I think we are afraid that if we ever let anybody get loose, they are going to go crazy and then it will infect the body.

Somebody said one time, "Brother Krider, you know we don't need any wild fire in the church." I said, "It's the only kind of fire most of them have if there is any at all in there." A little wild fire is better than no fire - you freeze to death around other things. You need some fire in the church. We worry so much about keeping the church straight, accurate, and wonderfully wonderful. God said that is not your business. Your business is to go fishing. Your business is to share the goodness of God with men. Your business is to share the love of God with people.

We need to make it simple again, friends. We need to bring it back into simplicity where men and women can come to Jesus simply. Then we need to make the plan that God has for them very simple. Jesus defeating Satan in Matthew chapter 4 made it real simple. He just said, "It is written, it is written, it is written." He quoted the scripture three times because that is what the Father gave Him to say. He didn't start debating with Satan or telling him how dumb he was, how stupid he was. He didn't hold a conversation with him at all. When Satan would try to tempt Him, He would say, "It is written, it is written, it is written."

I love to be evangelistic. I love to lay my hands on people. If I get a devil too big to cast out I go get some help. The disciples in Joppa sent for Peter to come over and pray for Dorcas, and she was raised from the dead. Boy, if we could ever get in that simplicity. "Brother, come and minister because you can. Sister, come and sing because you can." Instead of that, we think, "If I let him on the program he might be a little better than I am, and that will make my preaching look bad." No, no! God wants a simple people who are just in love with Him, doing whatever God has commanded them to do. Whatever God has commanded you to do, whatever your part in the body of Christ is, take that place in Christ. Don't try to be somebody else; don't try to be something you are not. That's frustration in the end. The Lord just wants each one of us to take the little portion He has given to us and use it the way He commands us to.

Billy Graham has always been one of my favorites. I have never seen the man cast out a devil. I've never seen him lay hands on the sick, but I have seen thousands of people come to Christ. I have heard more dynamic messages preached, but I have never seen greater results. Are you hearing what I am saying to you? He does not get up and sing and then preach. He gets the best singers that are possible to be attained and they sing. Then he gets up and he preaches. I think he has found the key. He is letting the rest of them alone. They do what they can do, he does what he can do, and thousands and millions of souls have come to Christ.

I believe the key to building the church, letting the Lord build it, is leaving one another alone. If God can't change you, I'll not presume to be greater than God. If God can't put a desire in your heart to serve Him, I will not presume that I am greater than God by thinking I can do it. But I will encourage you, I will challenge you, I will preach everything that God gives me to preach and pray that it stirs your heart to want to take your part and leave everybody else alone.

I am going to pray with you. God, what we want is to come into that place where we are doing what you have commanded us to do. Lord, if it's to be an evangelist, hallelujah! If it's to be a keeper of the door, if it's to do the dishes, if it's to sweep the floor - Father, whatever it is, it will be a rewarding experience. It will not be ho-hum. It will not be something of drudgery to serve you; it will be a joy. God, help us to leave each other alone. Help us to encourage one another to grow. God, if they have really been born again, if they have really been planted by You, if they are really called by You, if they are really chosen by You, You are well able to preserve them. But if they won't listen to You, they are not going to listen to us with that simple phrase of "leave them alone."

Father God, I believe it's time that we encourage one another, that we strengthen one another, that we pray for one another. But I think it's time to give one another liberty - liberty to be who they have been called to be and to quit questioning why they do it. Quit questioning the manner they do it in but rather to encourage them. God, I thank you tonight. Lord, forgive

us for trying to build the church. Lord, forgive us for trying to quicken the church; forgive us for trying to preserve the church. Just help us to be good fishermen and to minister according to the ability that is given unto us by God, in the name of Jesus. Amen!