Our scripture this morning comes from Matthew 28:18-20. While you’re finding that, A new pastor was delighted to receive a large donation. He proposed it be used to buy a new chandelier for the church. It was voted on and defeated by one vote. When he looked, the church secretary had voted against it. A couple of days later, he asked the secretary why. The secretary responded, “I have three reasons: First, I can’t spell the word, second I don’t know what a chandelier is and third, if we’re going to spend money in the church, what we really need is better lighting."

**Matthew 28:18-20 18And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19Go 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, 20teaching 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.**

What is a disciple? Jesus, in the Great Commission, tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. Like our friend above, we have to be able to define what a disciple is before we understand what it means to make disciples. We have to know what Jesus meant when He gave this command and, make no mistake, it is a command. It’s not the Great Suggestion… it is the Great Commission.

A disciple is NOT just a student of Jesus. A disciple is NOT someone just knowledgeable of Jesus. A disciple is a dedicated follower of Jesus. In the ancient world, the word disciple had the idea of a person who imitated both the life and the teaching of the master. It was more than sitting at home and reading a book; more than walking into a building; more than following the crowd. It was active imitation, reflecting as perfectly as possible the life and the teachings of the master! And that is what discipleship is today!! 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. Who’s image? Jesus’ image.

In 1 Peter 2:21, we read, **21**For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. That word example in Greek is hupogrammos. In Biblical times, there were master copies of documents approved to be copied, because they were perfect. When a version was approved to be copied again and again due to its perfection, it was hupogrammos – a master copy. Jesus is our Master copy, worthy to be duplicated again and again. That’s really what the Great Commission is telling us. We must actively seek to duplicate Jesus in ourselves and in all we meet who will receive His Truth!

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says, “Make disciples.” He doesn’t say Be disciples… He clearly says, “Go make.” Nothing passive in this… these are action verbs. I see many churches in America today that believe Jesus told us to **be** disciples. But if we are copies of the Hupogrammos… if we are copies of the Master, following in His footsteps, seeking to imitate His life, we are actively teaching as He taught, loving as He loved, and seeking the lost as He sought the lost. We are to be the copy that others see and understand instantly who Jesus is. Whether they see me in a parking lot or the pulpit, they must see Jesus. Whether they see you in the pew or at Palace Pointe, they must see Jesus.

In art, an artist receives a commission to create a piece of artwork. The idea is that the artist is being sponsored to make a work of art. The commissioner sponsors the artist so that the artist can focus on the work at hand, without the distractions of need. But the artist must put paint to canvas, blade to wood, pen to paper, note to music – not the commissioner, but the artist.

There are times that we see the Great Commission as this vague commandment that Jesus left with us as He was taken up into heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth. If it is vague, it is because we have chosen to make it vague. If it is gray, it is because we have chosen to make it gray. If we can believe that we are confused, it makes it easier when we don’t follow through. Jesus didn’t leave us confused.

Jesus paid our commission with His blood. Through His work on the Cross, we have been sponsored to make disciples. We need no longer worry about our sin debt. It’s paid. Since we are striving to imitate the Master, since we are following the Hupogrammos, we must put our beliefs to work on the unsaved, the unchurched, the lost.

Over the next few weeks, we’re going to dig into this idea of being a disciple maker… not a disciple be’er… a disciple maker. We’re going to look at what this means outside the church and inside the church. We’re going to look at how mature Christians are responsible to help less mature Christians. You see… the goal of this church is not to grow church members… nowhere in scripture does it say, “Go ye therefore and make church members.” No. It says “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”. We’ll look at our commission as it relates to making disciples… You see we make disciples of others, but we must first make the decision to be one ourselves. And what is a disciple? A disciple is one who actively seeks to imitate fully our Master – Jesus.