

**1. Week 1 - Review**

- Matthew 28:19-20 is a commission to ‘*make disciples.*’
- Critics refer to it as the Great Omission as the church has over emphasized the *going* and largely left out disciple making
- See Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship.*<sup>1</sup>
- See the multitude of Church sermon series available called “Go!” (do a Google search for ‘sermon series Go’ and they will populate).

- Four verbs – (1) Imperative and (3) participles

“therefore, go”	Verb/aorist/passive/participle
<b>“make disciples”</b>	<b>Verb/aorist/active/imperative</b>
“baptizing”	Verb/present/active/participle
“teaching”	Verb/present/active/participle

- Going, Baptizing, and Teaching function in support of the main verb – Make Disciples.

- **Luke 10:26** – “How do you read it?”

- Translation and Interpretation process to find the overall meaning:

Conceptual Framework
Meaning
Interpretation
Translation
Original Text (Greek or Hebrew)
Original Context/Hebrew Mindset

- Even if we get a proper translation from Greek to English, we can still misread the text by placing our emphasis on *going* when it should be placed on *make disciples.*
- I will be adding a lesson on other Biblical Commissioning events – Moses, Joshua, Gideon, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Dallas Willard, 2006. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship*, New York: Harper Collins.

2. **Search Matthew** – we are going to search for other examples within Matthew to help us understand Matthew 28:19. Within Matthew there are other examples of the word for Go that is followed by a command:<sup>2</sup>

Go (Πορευθέντες)	Main Verb [_____]
Verb/Aorist/Passive/Participle	Verb/Aorist/Imperative/Active

3. **Matthew 2:8:** King Herod is visited by the Magi. Herod directs the Magi to go to Bethlehem to search for the child –

“And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, “**Go** [verb/aorist/passive/**participle**] and **search** [verb/aorist/active/**imperative**] diligently for the young child.”

- How do you read this verse? Is Herod giving them a stand-alone command to go or is the emphasis on search?

4. **Matthew 11:4** – John the Baptist is in prison, and he sends his disciples to Jesus to ask him, ‘are you the coming one’ – are you the Messiah?

Jesus answered them, “**Go** [verb/aorist/passive/**participle**] And **tell/report** [verb/aorist/active/**imperative**] John the things you hear and see.

- How do you read this verse? Is Jesus giving them a separate command to “go” or does he want them to “report” to John?

5. **Other Examples within Matthew of Go (Πορευθέντες):**

- Matt. 21:6 – ‘went’
- Matt. 22:5 – ‘went’
- Matt. 27:66 – ‘went’

6. **Matthew 10:6-7 - Does Matthew contain an example of “go” in Imperative form?** – Jesus is sending out his disciples to proclaim the Good News of God’s kingdom reign.

“Rather, **go** [verb/present/**imperative**/middle or passive] to the lost sheep of Israel.  
 And **as you go** [verb/present/middle or passive/**participle**]  
**Proclaim [Imperative]**, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is near’

<sup>2</sup> [www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)

## 7. Summary

- It is about where we place our emphasis! And not, necessarily, on how we translate the verse.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** has been elevated as the “Great Commission” and we place our emphasis on the *going* rather than the *make disciples*.

## 8. *Discipling the Nations* by Richard R. De Ridder – page 184:

“It should be noted that the command of Jesus in Matt. 28:19 finds its center in ‘make disciples of all nations.’ Three participial clauses modify this main verb... These participle clauses are: (1) “having gone,” in the sense of “when you go”; (2) “baptizing”; (3) “teaching.” They elaborate the command to make disciples; the disciples are to help other nations to become what they are, disciples of Jesus.”

“There has been and still is current a popular misrepresentation of this command of Christ. The emphasis is placed on the going, whereas actually the emphasis is on the task of making disciples, for that is the primary verb.

Even if one takes ... “go” in Greek – in the sense of an imperative, this does not change the main verb for the central commission.

What is tragic about this wrong emphasis so frequently attributed to this command of Christ is that the entire demand is isolated from the whole witness of the Bible, and the “going into all the world” becomes the fulfillment of what Christ demands. Obviously, not everyone can go into all the world, but each can start from where he is.”

## 9. **The Great Commission** – a variation to consider

“Therefore, **go [from here]**  
and **make disciples** of [people from all nations],  
**[immersing]** them  
*into* the [reality<sup>3</sup> of]  
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and  
**teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded.  
[And if you do this], I will be with you until the end of the age.”

- *Immersing* and *teaching* are ongoing in support of the main verb, to make disciples.

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<sup>3</sup> See David H. Stern, (1992), *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, pg. 85.