

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Application Notes

### Matt 28:19: Discipleship and Mission

According to the Barna Group<sup>1</sup>, one of their surveys revealed that almost all practicing Christians believe that part of their faith means being a witness about Jesus (ranging from 95% to 97% among all generational groups), but almost half of Millennials<sup>2</sup> (47%) agreed that it was wrong to share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith.<sup>3</sup>

And yet Jesus said, "go and make disciples of all nation",

which involves witnessing to others. Esther shared how, as a new Christian, she was full of evangelistic zeal to share Jesus with anyone, be they school friends or people on the platform of a railway station. But as we get older, we often seem to lose this enthusiasm and it becomes harder to tell people about Jesus. Add to this the changing attitudes of the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century Western World, as Christianity is increasingly marginalised, and it may seem that Jesus' command is becoming something of a Mission Impossible.



"the very end of the age".

Apart from the negative world we live in, Esther also suggested several reasons why we may not be so good at sharing the Good News about Jesus:

- Perhaps we are distracted?
- Maybe we have become apathetic?
- Maybe we fear what people will say of us or to us?
- Have we lost our compassion for other people?

And yet Jesus said, "I am with you always". And we have His example to follow, such as when He met the Samaritan Woman, in John 4. There were many reasons why this meeting should not have happened. He was a Jew, she was a Samaritan, He was a Man, she was a Woman, she was an outcast in her own society, He was a Rabbi. And yet Jesus asked her for a drink, and responded in a gentle, kind, but challenging way to her comments and questions.

So, although we should look for opportunities to share Jesus with others, maybe we need to listen to them first. We need to get to know someone, make time to be with that person, just as Jesus did when He met the Samaritan woman by the well. He asked for help. Maybe we should ask others for help before we offer to help them.

As members of the Together Church, we want to fulfil Jesus' command, to show the people of Torbay and South Devon God's love and compassion for them. Is there anything stopping us?

- Have we become apathetic, or fearful when it comes to sharing the Good News of Jesus?
  - **Ask God to rekindle a desire to tell people the Gospel.**
- Are there non-Christians you know who God is wanting you to befriend?
  - **Ask God to show you who they are.**
- Are there opportunities for *us* to ask for help *from* our neighbours and non-Christian friends?
  - **Ask God to give us the humility to ask for help from others.**
- Are we willing to listen before we speak?
  - **Ask God for the patience to listen so we can hear what the needs of others might be.**

*Prayer: Father God, help us by your Spirit to fulfil our Mission of making Disciples*



*The Great Commission, at the Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick in El Paso*

<sup>1</sup> The [Barna Group](https://www.barna.com) provides spiritual influencers with credible knowledge and clear thinking, enabling them to navigate a complex and changing culture

<sup>2</sup> Millennials were born between 1981 and 1996

<sup>3</sup> Full article can be found here@ <https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>