

May 31, 2026

“Living in a Christian Community”  
Lesson 5

Matt. 28:18-20  
Heb. 10:22-25

### **Intro**

The chores we give / gave our children aren't just busy work. They are a way of supporting and therefore strengthening the whole family. Each person's contribution in work is vital to the health and well-being of the whole unit, the family. Belonging to God's family likewise includes specific responsibilities to both God and other believers.

### **Read Matthew 28:18-20**

This first passage occurs post-resurrection. The disciples are on a mountaintop in Galilee, and Jesus gives them instructions for what they are to do next now that He won't be physically with them any more.

1. vs. 18: Jesus begins here by reminding them that “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.”

“Authority” can mean the right to do something, or the ability (power) to do something

Both of these definitions apply to Jesus

He has the right and power to do what He wants

He reminds the disciples of this, as He is about to pass some authority on to them

There is no place on earth or in heaven where Jesus does not have divine authority

He showed this authority on earth over disease, natural elements, and even death

His resurrection is absolute proof that He has power and authority over everything

According to John 1:1-3, Jesus possessed all power and authority from the beginning

2. vs. 19: Jesus gave them His authority in vs. 18; here He tells them what to do with it

They are to “go”; they are to “make disciples”

They are to teach others about the resurrection of Jesus

This “going” is to be to “all nations”, meaning Gentiles as well as Jews

Jesus taught this during His ministry as well in Matt. 8:11 and Luke 13:29

This idea also fulfills the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3

“All peoples on earth will be blessed through you”

In the second part, they are taught to “baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”

This is a continuation of the instruction to make disciples

Baptism is part of that process

Baptism is accompanied by repentance and the gift of the Holy Spirit

See Acts 2:38 and Acts 19:4-6

It is to be done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

This echoes Jesus' baptism, in which God spoke and the Spirit descended on Jesus

Becoming a disciple means identifying with Jesus and learning to walk in His ways

3. vs. 20: The third instruction (command?) from Jesus finishes in vs. 20

He says these new disciples are to be taught “everything I have commanded you”  
The original disciples now move from learners to teachers  
They will obviously continue to learn as well, but their responsibility has shifted

The instruction is to “teach them to *obey*” all the commands  
Just knowing them isn’t good enough—obedience is required as a disciple  
The new disciples are to put their learning into practice  
Jesus told His disciples to “learn from Me” in Matthew 11:29  
This is true for these new disciples, and for followers of Jesus today  
Following Him will look different depending on where we’re at in life—  
Teen, adult, spouse, parent, grandparent, etc  
Disciples are to become disciple-makers in every stage of their lives

### **Read Hebrews 10:22-25**

Our second passage was written to Jewish Christians suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus. The unnamed writer writes to encourage these believers to maintain their faith, here by reminding them of their benefits and responsibilities as Christians

4. vs. 22: This is the first of three “let us” phrases, exhortations on how Christians are to act

The first is for us to “draw near” to God  
The curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom when Jesus died  
This signified that all now had access to God  
We are told to come “with...full assurance” (confidence) because of Jesus’ blood  
James promises that God will come near those who draw near to Him (James 4:8)

The author connects our “full assurance” to having a “sincere heart”

This means we are to approach God filled with complete confidence in His faithfulness  
He will always do exactly what He has said He would  
Since He proved Himself faithful with earlier believers (Heb. 11:1-12:3), he will with us

The phrase about our hearts being “sprinkled” is an allusion to the temple sacrifices

The sacrificial blood sprinkled on the altar cleansed the people from impurity  
In Ezek. 36:25-27, God promises to sprinkle “clean water” and give a “new heart”  
These are what is coming in the new covenant under Jesus

The cleansing / sprinkling removes a “guilty conscience” based in unbelief  
Jesus offered a sacrifice “once for all time”—there is no need for the temple sacrifices any more  
Not only are our hearts to be sprinkled, but our bodies are to be washed “with pure water”

This is like the ritual cleansing done before one entered the temple to ensure purity  
This may also be a reference to baptism

The bigger picture is that believers experience spiritual cleansing through the blood of Christ

5. vs. 23: The second “let us” is to hold “unswervingly” to our hope in Christ

What He did on the cross to save us, we can hold onto boldly  
The author is encouraging those who are considering a return to the Law of Moses

He encourages them not to waver, to hold their faith in Christ “unswervingly”

Our circumstances are not to dictate our behavior

We are to remain faithful because God is faithful

He has been faithful in the past, and He never changes

6. vs. 24: The third “let us” deals with our relationship to other believers

We are asked to “consider one another”

“Consider” means to think about something attentively, purposefully

We are called to think of others, to try to influence or encourage their attitudes and actions

Our lives should stimulate love among our Christian brothers and sisters

Not only love, but “good deeds” as well

Our faith needs to make an observable difference in the lives of others

James says that faith without works is dead (2:17, 26)

The author of Hebrews gives several specific examples of behaviors showing Christ’s love

Practicing hospitality

Caring for those who are suffering

Maintaining purity in relationships

Contentment with material possessions

(see Heb. 13:1-5)

Loving actions should naturally follow from trusting a loving God

7. vs. 25: The author concludes with encouragement to never give up meeting together

He doesn’t just say, “Meet together”

He says “Don’t give up meeting together”

This shows it is crucial to continue this behavior

He says that some have stopped meeting together

This could be weekly worship meetings, or more informal gatherings

Either way, lack of regular commitment / fellowship is harmful to all

Regular gathering to worship, fellowship, and learn helps us function healthily

We are to do this “all the more as you see the Day approaching”

The “Day” refers to the Day of Judgment when Christ returns

Anticipation of this Day adds a sense of urgency to the writer’s instructions

Believers need to continue to obey and keep their commitment to other Christians

Application: Life in the kingdom of God is not supposed to be a solo undertaking, but a family endeavor. We all fill various roles as learners, proclaimers, mentors, guides, encouragers, worshipers, and those who serve. Matthew’s gospel urges disciples to participate by proclaimed the gospel, baptizing new disciples, and teaching the Jesus way. The Hebrews passage provides clear instructions on how believers are to behave within a Christian community. Though the word isn’t used in the passage, the actions are those of worship: drawing near to God in confident faith, remembering our cleansing through Jesus’ blood, holding onto hope with steadfastness, encouraging one another in good works of service, and regularly meeting together for worship and fellowship. Both of these passages remind us of what we are called to do in faithfully following Jesus.

Prayer: Father God, through your Son Jesus You invite us to participate in building Your Kingdom. Empower us through Your Spirit to make disciples. Strengthen us to live faithfully in light of Your promises. Show us how to continually improve how we love and serve one another as we wait for Jesus' return. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.