
Matthew 28:19-20: Make disciples, baptising and teaching

Second reading John 14:23-26

1. The arrival of a new minister might mean a new programme, or at least new priorities.

Will there be a KBC 2.0? No, because I am not Jesus and I am no revolutionary.

So let's say there will be a refocus, a 'new old programme'.

I want to take us back to the basics, and then go deeper. Hence I have chosen this familiar passage from Matthew 28! These words are important because they are Jesus' last instruction on earth.

2. The text literally says: 'Going, make disciples of all nations,

baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to keep everything I have commanded you.'

So the making of disciples is central. Yet in our time there are already disciples in all nations. Most of you will already be disciples – but have you been baptised? Most of you will already be disciples – but have you been taught? How much?

3. Hetty will play her part especially in the going out and the discipling. I will do all that can be expected of a minister, yet my strength is teaching. I was a college tutor after all! You will surely get sermons and maybe further teaching on Revelation (my favourite book) and on the Old Testament.
 4. But ... Jesus gives this task to all eleven disciples, so to all the church. You may be tired after the period without a minister, but you share the responsibility with Hetty me. Yet we are here to help, guide, relieve you.
 5. We do not have to do this in our own strength. It all happens in Jesus' power, see verses 18 and 20b. And in John 14 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, at least for the teaching bit. The Spirit will convey Jesus' words to the church.
 6. And remember that teaching (knowledge) is not an aim in itself: the aim is obedience, sanctification, being more like Jesus.
 7. We are being sent by Jesus into the world in the power of the Spirit to teach his word. As your minister I am ready to lead from the front. Let us aim to fulfil the whole command.
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