

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

The Great Commission was Jesus' last words to the men he'd spent three years training and loving. It provided his men with the direction and end state he wanted them to accomplish. A *commander's intent* is a similar concept used by today's military leaders; a "concise expression of the purpose of the operation and the desired end state that serves as the initial stimulus for the planning process."

The Mission of Christ

Read Matthew 28.18-20 and answer the following questions.

- What objective/end state is Jesus after?
- What are the 3 processes required in making disciples? Why are these important?

What further clarity do the verses below give for carrying out our Commander's Intent?

Acts 1.8 –

Mark 16.15 –

Luke 24.46-49 –

John 20.21-23 –

In order to "make disciples" we must be clear on the characteristics of a disciple. What are some characteristics of a disciple? List several verses that support your thoughts.

Look at these verses and record the characteristics of a disciple found in them.

John 8.31-32 –

John 13.34-35 –

John 15.7-8 –

Luke 14.26 –

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

The Commission Restated

The priests of the Old Testament received a commission in Leviticus 10.10-11 much like the one we've received in Matthew 28. Since followers of Christ are the *new priests* (see 1 Peter 2.9) let's compare the two commissions and make some observations.

	Leviticus 10.10-11	Matthew 28.18-20
What were they to do?		
Who were the commissions given to?		
When were the commissions given?		
How would they accomplish their mission?		

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Joining Christ in his mission is not optional for disciples. Sadly, many "believers" never spend the time or energy trying to become, much less make, disciples of Jesus Christ. They are missing out on the most enjoyable and yet sacrificial aspect of following Jesus. Meditate on the following questions in order to determine any action steps God wants you to take in order to accomplish His mission.

- Is fulfilling the Great Commission **the** consuming passion of your life? What are some other things or people that absorb some of your passion in life?
- Who are you actively seeking training from in order to become a more mature disciple of Christ?
- Who are you actively training to become a more mature disciple of Christ?
- What has been the most difficult obstacle you've had to overcome in your quest to make disciples?
- From Acts 1.8: What might be the comparable Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth for a soldier in the United States Army?