

Moderation

“If you find honey, eat just enough—
too much of it, and you will vomit.” *Proverbs 25:16*

“Even a good thing can become destructive if taken to excess.”

- What are examples of the wisdom of this statement?

What is singlemindedness?

- When is singlemindedness better than moderation?

How are we to approach our lives with Christ?

1



The Whole Mission

Matthew 28:16-20

bib.ly/Mat28.NIV

2

- **The ministry of Jesus**
 - The 4 Gospels: Matthew / Mark / Luke / John
- **The Gospel according to Matthew**
 - Matthew: A disciple of Jesus
 - Jesus is the Messiah (God’s chosen messenger & hero) who brought the Kingdom of God to earth
- **Leading up to the climax in Matthew**
 - Jesus birth, teaching (5 major teaching sections), good works/miracles, and death
 - Resurrection: His appearance to the women with instructions to disciples: “meet me in Galilee”
 - Soldiers and Jewish leaders witnessed the resurrection ... and opposed it

3

Matthew 28:16-20

bib.ly/Mat28.NIV

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Then Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

4

Matthew 28:16-20bib.ly/Mat28.NIV

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Nothing could stop the coming of God's Kingdom in Jesus

- Not the betrayal of Jesus by Judas (1 of the 12)
- Not the abandonment of Jesus by the other 11
- Not the opposition of the Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities, even to death
- Not the hesitations of Jesus' disciples even when seeing Him!

I am thankful that we are told of their hesitations!
It gives me hope for me and for the Church

5

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Jesus is the initiator and power for His Kingdom

- His response to their hesitation: He came to them
- Even those who hesitated were a part of His command

His authority and goodness extend over all existence
There is no place or time outside of His authority and power

- Reaffirmation of authority rather than newly received

6

All peoples are to be part of His Kingdom

V

- Rooted in Jesus, though the disciples are slow to learn it
- ↳ **Disciples** are to go and work to include all peoples as disciples
- ↳ **Baptism**: initiation and commitment to submit to His authority
- ↳ **Obedience**: not merely belief → active obedience, following
 - “Formed into the values and ways of Jesus”
- ↳ **To every word of Son of God: the highest authority in everything**

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7

Jesus Himself is present in relationship and in work (like Acts)

V

- ↳ **Present in “the whole of every day”**
 - “To the very end of the age” promises presence to us too
- ↳ **He promises success of His Kingdom**
 - Continued life and growth of His Kingdom
 - His return will bring the full expression of His Kingdom
- ↳ **This is our hope, no matter how troubling the circumstances**
 - We work for justice and mercy in this age (obeying Jesus), but Jesus’ return will bring an end to this age and the beginning of the glorious new heaven and earth

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

8

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The Big Idea

**Jesus' full authority and goodness
over all creation**

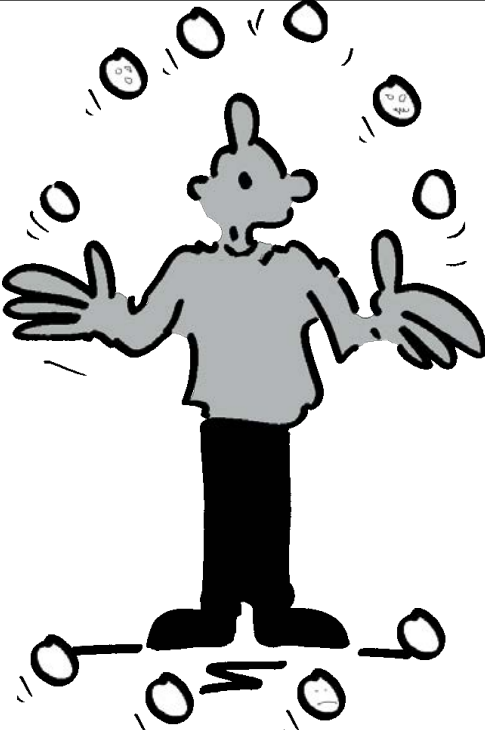
demands the church's tireless work

**to be and to make full disciples
among all peoples,**

empowered by His continual presence

and by the hope of His triumphant return

10



We are all limited: time, money, energy, attention, ability...

We try to juggle many things: work, family, friends, studies, health, news, hobbies, entertainment, rest, ...

When we drop things, sometimes they break

Something always drops

Sometimes:
Church and Christianity
are yet more things we try to juggle

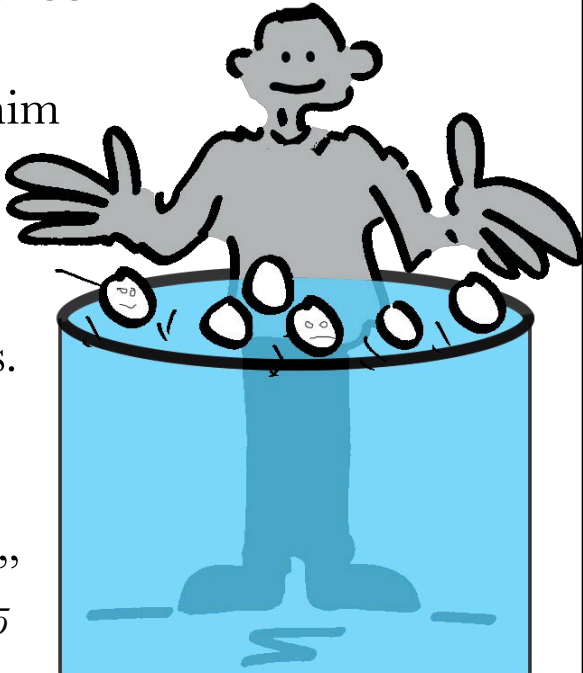
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Jesus Christ is not another thing to juggle!

- He is the one we live in

“Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” *Colossians 1:17*

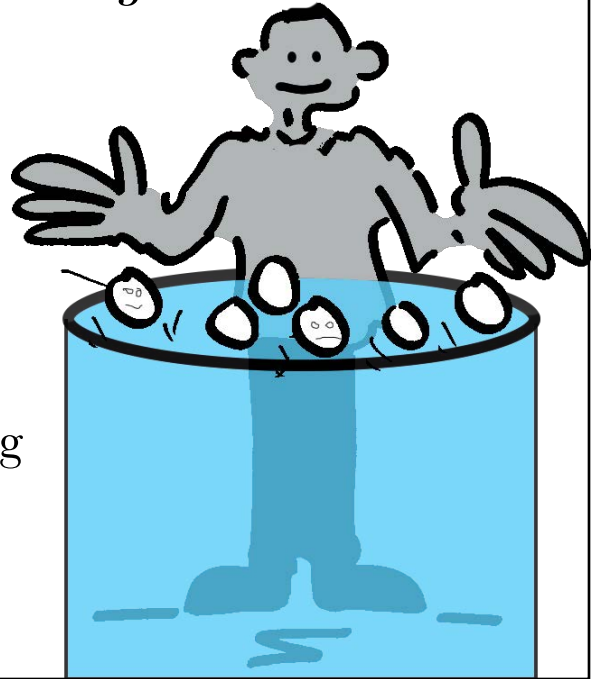
“You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.”
Psalm 139:3-5



12

There is never a benefit in having less of Jesus!

- For someone with poison ivy...
I want the healing cream
everywhere I have poison ivy!
- “Apart from You
I have no good thing.” *Psalm 16:2*
- There is no part of life that is
genuinely better apart from being
with and obeying Jesus!
- “He comes to make his blessings
flow far as the curse is found!”



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Application

We are called to full faith in and full obedience to Jesus

- We become God's children by faith alone
 - “Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, **having been buried with him in baptism**, in which **you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God**, who raised him from the dead.” *Colossians 2:11b-12*

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Application

We are called to full faith in and full obedience to Jesus

- We become God's children by faith alone
- God's children grow into full obedience to Jesus
 - A declaration: real children grow to be like parents
 - A command: real children work to grow to be like parents
 - “...present **everyone fully mature** in Christ” *Colossians 1:28*
 - Jesus' commands are not suggestions
 - Jesus' commands are not just for “super Christians”
 - Full obedience to all Jesus taught is an essential part of our relationship to God in Christ

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A few of the teachings of Jesus

Entertaining or satisfying sexual or romantic appetites apart from marriage is like adultery, which God hates

- You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully **has already committed adultery** with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. *Matthew 5:27-29*

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A few of the teachings of Jesus

We must work for the good of our enemies to be like God

- You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. *Matthew 5:43-45*

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A few of the teachings of Jesus

Seeking earthly treasures leads to unspeakable loss

- Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.... No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:20-21, 24

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A few of the teachings of Jesus

Lowliness is the only path to life with God

- Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, **you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.** Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:2-5

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A few of the teachings of Jesus

Jesus' commanded submission to the whole of the Bible

- Jesus said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” *Matthew 13:52*
- Jesus said, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” *John 16:13*

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 - Jesus' commands are not suggestions
 - Jesus' commands are not just for “super Christians”
 - Full obedience to all Jesus taught is an essential part of our relationship to God in Christ **The rest of the Bible too!**

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Application

We are called to full faith in and full obedience to Jesus

We are to lead all peoples into the joy of this new life **and** full obedience

- “Make disciples” includes forming faith and obedience
 - “Evangelism without discipleship” is like abandoning a newborn after giving birth
- ***Faith and obedience*** is the path to genuine joy and God’s goodness
- The best gift we can give: birth & growth in Christ
- An essential focus and work of our church

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Application

We are called to full faith in and full obedience to Jesus

We are to lead all peoples into the joy of this new life **and** full obedience

We are to hope in the presence and work of Christ always

- “To the end” = The whole of every day
- “In sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer, in conflict and in peace, ...”
- To the end of our lives
- To the end of the age and Christ’s return

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The Big Idea

**Jesus' full authority and goodness
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demands the church's tireless work
to be and to make full disciples
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25

“Jesus Christ is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.” *Colossians 1:17*

- God is not one of the many things we must juggle in life
- He is the One who works all things together
for the discipleship of His children to become like Jesus
- And Jesus will return to make all things new!
- So we join the work He commanded and He is doing:
to be and to make full disciples among all peoples!

Have you begun this journey in baptism through faith?

Are you seeking the joy of full obedience to all His wisdom?

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