

## Sermon Discussion – 29 September 2024

Read Matthew 28:18-20

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

If you had an opportunity to write a personal message to King Charles for his eyes only, what would you write?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

The final words of Jesus recorded by Matthew were a promise that He would be with His disciples always until the very end of the Age. Though He did not remain physically with them, His spiritual presence was with them until their tasks on earth were finished. These final words were carried out by the apostles as they went everywhere, proclaiming the story of their Messiah, Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews.

- Over the past few weeks, we've used a row of chairs to illustrate progress and movement (or lack thereof) along the pathway of discipleship. Where do you think you are along that pathway?
- Do you feel like you have clarity about what's next? Where do you feel God is stirring in your life?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Read Romans 10:9-10. Have you ever had doubts about your salvation or felt unsure of your relationship with Jesus? How did you or how might you work through those doubts?
2. Discuss the illustration of the monkey trap metaphor to describe how sin can keep us stuck. What is something you feel is hard to "let go of" in your life, and how might repentance free you from that?
3. How does Joel's call to "tear your hearts, not your garments" (Joel 2:12-13) resonate with you when it comes to genuine inward repentance vs. outward behaviour change?
4. Think about "holy habits" or spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, and Scripture reading. What disciplines have been most transformative for you and which ones do you find challenging?

5. What does being intentional in discipling others look like in your context? Who in your life might God be calling you to invest in and help grow in their faith?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Where do you feel like you need more training or growth in discipling others? How could Bethany help you more?
- What does it mean for you to be part of the "next link in the chain" of the Great Commission? How does this motivate or challenge you in your daily walk with Christ?