

Vicar Andrew Wolfgram

Text: Matthew 28:16-20

Date: June 11, 2017

Setting: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

### Mic Drop

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Doing things by yourself can be a sign of growing up. Independence is a sought-after commodity in our society today. Toddlers shout out, I can do it by myself! Whether it is the buckle in the car or using the spoon at the dinner table by themselves. This independence continues throughout our lives. As we grow through elementary school kids learn to ride their bike without training wheels. Fast forward to teenage years and having mom or dad drop us off a block away from school so we aren't seen with our parents. Fast forward to when a driver's license is awarded and you can go wherever you want, whenever you want, or so you think...

Independence gives us the opportunity to do what we want to do. But there is a danger in independence. In our Old Testament reading we heard the account of when God created the world. Not long after man and woman were created, Adam and Eve were alone in the Garden of Eden and fell into the temptation that Satan had placed. We also fall into temptation that tempts us most to sin. If nobody's looking, then why shouldn't I do that sin I want to do. If I can do it in secret without anyone knowing, why shouldn't I do it? Because of this the accountability of having others with us is a valuable resource. This not only occurs in our temptations in this life, but also in the challenges and goals set before us.

The crucified, buried and now risen Jesus told His disciples that He had all the authority in heaven and on earth given to Him. Basically Jesus was saying, “There is no higher than I AM. I am where the buck stops.” When someone gives their credentials, they will most likely have something to say following what they say. We see it when we are reading articles or seeing news stories where the credentials are listed on an expert in the topic and so we are supposed to listen up. That was precisely what Jesus was doing.

So we wait, what will Jesus say next? Our culture has become fond of the phrase ,‘mic drop.’ The term mic drop refers to a person saying what they claim to be the, be all, end all of a conversation. Believing that no one could even possibly have an argument against them, they drop the mic and walk away. Jesus stating where He got his authority would be the ultimate mic drop.

Now that the mic has been dropped, Christ picks it back up to continue his speech. He doesn't abandon us as one would who does a mic drop. We hear what else Christ has to say on the mountain. Go. Christ says to go, not stay put where the disciples were but to go. As you sit at the stop light waiting for the red light to turn green you get antsy and want to go. You want to be moving. But where are you going? Go and do what? God calls us to go and make disciples.

Here at Our Redeemer we are about: Equipping disciples, to make disciples, for Jesus. We are called to go out and make disciples and are reminded each time we gather together here for worship. As we partake of Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. As we are reminded of what Christ did for us through His death on the cross and glorious resurrection on Easter. We are called to take this news with us and GO!

Where? We are called to go to all nations. Not only here, but around the US, North America, the entire world. As John 3:16 states: “For God so loved the world....world”. World, not only this little part over here or there but everywhere. As 1 Timothy 2:3-4 states: “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

What else are we to do? We are called to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God has given to His church, pastors who do the work of baptizing in the name of the Triune God. The Triune God who we praise and thank today especially on Trinity Sunday. That has to be the end of the list doesn't it? What have we been told so far: Go, to all nations, baptizing. But wait, there is more: teaching them everything that I have commanded you. We are called to guide and instruct those whom God has put in our care. Teach what God has done for us and what we are to do in response to what He has done.

This seems like a daunting list to accomplish. Much like a grocery list for the next month or a huge project that your boss has told you to have done. We may be tempted to go the road alone. We talk about independence and wanting to do things by ourselves. From our youth, riding a bike by ourselves, driving a car by ourselves, and going where we want by ourselves. Faced with this unbelievable task of going out into the world to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, we are not alone. We have our brothers and sisters in Christ sitting with us in the pew who go out with us. As we say in our prayers: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith.

We go out, not by ourselves, but with the Body of Christ, with Christ himself at our side. As Jesus says in verse 20: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We go out, not by ourselves without the support that we need, we go with Christ by our side. Christ is with us as we go proclaim His name to the nations. Christ is with us as we go about every aspect of our lives. We are never alone. As Christ says in the closing verse of the Gospel of Matthew, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Amen.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

*\*Disclaimer\**

*\*No mics were damaged in this sermon. The mic was an old one that no longer works and it was dropped on soft pillows.\**