



He Is ... Always With Us

Date: Sunday 19th April

Speaker: Aaron Smith

Key Verses: Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 8:35-39

Talk Summary:

1. **KNOW (that Jesus has all authority)**

Before Jesus tells the disciples to Go he wants them to understand the authority in which they go in. Jesus wants them and each of us to know that all authority has been given to him (v18).

It's important for two reasons:

- ***He is in control***

Understanding who Jesus is and the authority he has makes all the difference to us as we consider the rest of this passage. By understand Jesus' authority it gives us confidence and a sure hope that as we go, he is with us.

So where are each of us? Are we assured of Jesus' authority? Do we know that he is in control even when everything around us might be telling us he isn't?

- ***It means we have nothing to fear***

When we are following Jesus, when we 'go' we have nothing to fear – because Jesus has authority.

We 'go' in the full knowledge that we go in Jesus' name and authority and when it is difficult we trust we he is in control and we have nothing to fear.

John Lennox Book - <https://www.amazon.com/Where-Coronavirus-World-John-Lennox/dp/1784985694>

John Lennox RZM interview - <https://youtu.be/WvLfuMIAi18>

2. Go (tell all the nations)

The disciples were the first group charged with this and we, over 2,000 years are called to do the same thing. We are to go in Jesus authority to make disciples in all nations (around 16,000 different ethnic groups), to baptise them, teach them.

When we go, we go in the authority of Jesus. We go in the knowledge he has defeated death and sin. We go because he has gone before us paving the way. We go to tell people about what he has done for each of us.

Well now more than ever let me encourage you to be bold, creative and intentional about how you 'go' in the current state we are in.

3. KNOW (He is with you)

Jesus wants you to know that he is always with us. We are not alone. Here, Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit which is about to come on the lives of the disciples (Acts 2). When each of us choose to follow Jesus we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God living in us.

Therefore, we are changed, our priorities, mind-sets, our view of culture and people change because God is living in us through the Holy Spirit. We have confidence because we know that we aren't alone.

So wherever we go, whoever we talk to or interact with. When we show Jesus' love and kindness to others, when take the step to ask someone if we could pray for them or when we share the good news about Jesus to someone we do it in the full knowledge that God is with us, through the Holy Spirit.

We can be encouraged that nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love.

Group discussion

Worship

- Why not start your time together with one of the centring prayer exercises you received last week?
 - Go to bvc.so/sgprayer to access these exercises.

Word

1. "If God is in control, why is this happening?" – how would you answer that question?
2. How does knowing God is in control, help us not be afraid?
3. How do you feel about sharing your faith? Are you discouraged or jaded? Why? Why not??

Witness

- Who did you encourage last week? How did it go?
- How can we 'GO' even if we can't leave our house? How might God want you to share the good news about Jesus?
- Pick one of the creative mission ideas you have come up with and give it a go this week.