

# Beginnings Famous & Endings

## **Matthew 28:19**

***“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,”***

This is probably a big one in Christian circles. I have also believed it to be the biggest crutch or curse of the church. Christians have been so consumed with missions. So, consumed! They have left foodbanks dry. They have abandoned jails. They have ignored their own poor. All for the great commission. Jesus said “only go to the other countries and spread the word.” Wrong!

Matthew 25:31-46 is a damning report on the state of the church. Jesus gives us a parable of the righteous. It was an example between those who thought they were going to heaven and those who really will enter heaven. Between them was the invisible people. Those who were hungry, poor, in jail, and rejected by society. Jesus wasn't throwing the world under the bus. He wasn't throwing the unbelievers. No, he had his eyes focused directly on the so-called saints.

Yes, we should spread the word to the whole world. Yet, is one verse more important than another? People read something that is important and then we put on our horse blinders. They see missions and nothing else. We see a list of sins like those in 1 Corinthians 6 and only avoid those. Today, we are so eerily similar to Paul saying some followed him and others followed Apollos. Then Paul questioned what they were doing?

I don't want to bash the church. Yet, I do want to give them a swift kick in the donkey. Jesus is many things to many people. Some believe he is a good man. Others believe he is a prophet or teacher. Some say God. Yet, we focus on following the Ten Commandments. Maybe we trust the Sermon on the mount. Do we focus solely on 1 Corinthians 6? Which part of the Bible is the best to focus on? How about all of it?

Matthew 25:45 says *"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"* How do you spread the word? Make missionaries? Jesus knew the truth. To go forth and tell the world, you need to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Did you read that Jesus went to the segregated Samaritans? He touched the leper. He honored the poor, the shunned, and neglected. Jesus did more than one verse would suggest.

Be very mindful that the great commission is great. We need to speak the words of God to the whole world. Yet, we should do it at home and abroad. We should do it with our family, friends, and neighbors. We should do it with those who can't come to church. However, first and foremost, we should represent Jesus to the poor, shunned, neglected, and lame. Being a friend like Jesus will win the world. Not some program, single verse, or mission trip.

John 4:25-26 **"The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."**