

## Study guide

### Lesson 4

#### UNDER THE MANDATE OF THE KING

*The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all the nations; then the end will come.  
Matthew 24:14*

The book of Matthew demonstrates that Jesus is the King. As King, Jesus has the privilege and the authority of establishing certain mandates for all who live under His Lordship. As King, Jesus foretold that the message of the Kingdom would be preached to all of the world. Who lives in this world? It is estimated that there are 22,000 cultural groups around the world. Jesus said that each one of them would have the opportunity to listen to the message. The message is so powerful that it is born from the most important event in history; the Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus seals that the message is not only applicable for a specific generation but that it is also for every generation on the face of the earth.

#### THE EVIDENCE THAT THIS KING IS ALL POWERFUL – HIS RESURRECTION

*The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you.” So, the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.  
Matthew 28:5-8*

Why is it important to know that Jesus resurrected? The mandate of the Kingdom requires the propagation of this message by those who have been promised that not only they would be saved through His death and resurrection, but that they would be witnesses to this reality. First, the women found the empty tomb, then they ran to give the good news to the rest. When someone has such a powerful message, they do all they can in order for this message to be known everywhere. It is a good message that brings “great joy” and motivates you to “run and share the good news.” This message does not inspire indifference or passivity; it represents transformation and action. We are a part of those who received that promise and saw the evidence and we cannot stop.

#### JESUS GIVES THE FIRST MANDATE – GIVE THE NEWS TO MY BROTHERS

*While they ran to tell the disciples, suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”  
Matthew 28:8b-10*

Jesus knows that if His most beloved disciples do not listen to the good news, they will not know what to say. It is the same for us. If we do not know that the good news of His resurrection are for us, then it will be very difficult to obey the second mandate. The first mandate is for those who walked with Him, who saw His miracles, who enjoyed His teaching and who saw, Him be abused and beaten physically. They saw Him hanging on a cross and later die. Without a doubt, their human mind could not take the last step. They could not believe and accept that He would be resurrected and so they went back home. Discouraged, maybe, now they went back to their community and their routine. They then had a great and pleasant surprise!

The women came and shared the unbelievable. Jesus was alive and wanted to see them. This first mandate was going to be the platform for the second mandate.

#### EVERY MANDATE HAS ITS OPOSITION

##### *The guards' report*

*While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep. If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So, the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.*

If someone promises something and keeps their promise, it makes them look good. If someone promises something and does not keep their promise, those who did not believe to begin with celebrate. If it is kept, those people will do everything possible to oppose the fulfilling of the promise. It is that easy and that problematic. When Jesus resurrected, His opposition did not have any other option but to invent false stories to deny the most extraordinary fact in the world.

When the resurrected kept His promise, the opposition would be fierce. The people will not want to accept that He resurrected. For us, it means that there are going to be some obstacles and arguments about our faith. In many cases, someone will try to invent all kinds of arguments to deny that Jesus is the Savior of the world. That should not keep us from firmly believing in Him and in His message!

THE SECOND MANDATE – GO TO ALL THE WORLD

### *The Great Commission*

*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."*

*Matthew 28:16-20*

After having presented Himself to His disciples and to many of His followers, Jesus is ready to give them The Great Commission and The Second Mandate. We say the Second Mandate because those who received the first should now go and share what they had received.

This is the most important Mandate that has been given in history. This mandate has eternal implications and benefits for whoever accept and receive them. The church and the families of the church should do whatever is possible so that every detail of the Great Commission is fulfilled.

Go – This action verb requires that we do something. In simply opening our homes and speaking with others about Christ, we are obeying this first part.

Make disciples – Just as we are each following Jesus' road and obeying His teachings, it is necessary that we teach others to do the same. Baptizing them – The church celebrates a transformed life because of the message of Jesus and the act of baptism. Baptism is our way of publically declaring that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Each time that someone is baptized, the Great Commission is fulfilled. Teaching – Christ left us many teachings and principles that we should apply to our daily life. If someone does not teach us which they are, how then can we practice them? You should be a teacher to others about these principles.

CONCLUSION:

The church has a firm and powerful mandate. All that has to be done is to affirm it and practice it. Jesus will take care of the rest.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

### **Ice-breaker questions**

Have you ever been before a King? How do you behave or how should you behave before royalty? Did you know that in the royal protocol, if the king or queen begins or finishes eating, everyone should do the same? What do you think about that?

### **Questions for the Life Group:**

Our King has given us a mandate.

Who should fulfill it?

How do you feel, knowing that God has given us such an important mandate?

How do you feel in fulfilling the mandate of God?

How can others be disciples of God?

## Prayer