

# Bite Size Bible Study

The Great Commission #81

By Pastor Lee

*16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, 20 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 (NIV)

Mark mentioned this in his sermon (Living Sent) a couple of weeks ago, and it brought to my mind two concepts that dovetail into his sermon.

As he read the part of verse 19 *{baptizing them in the name}* the word "name" jumped out to me as I remembered that in Hebrew culture a persons name represents their identity within the community, in this case the Messianic Community. The word means more than just a handle (a name or nickname); it is a representation of ones reputation, authority, and honor.

Almost as quickly the word for baptism came to mind and what I believe is a fuller understanding of what Jesus was telling them began to congeal.

So baptizing them in the name means to baptize them in the reputation, authority and honor of Father, Son and Spirit.

Jesus wasn't just telling them (us) to baptize them in water but to immerse them in the reality of the Father, Son and Spirit. To make understandable through our actions and behavior, the triune God and what He stands for, and what He desires for them; in other words – to make it real for them as they see it in our actions.

I like the way the Hebrew translations state these two verses.

*19 Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim (disciples or followers), tevilah (immersing) them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*

The most effective teaching is by example not just by words. And dunking them in water only gets them wet unless their heartstrings are played (thanks for that illustration, Ariana).

Baptism by water is only an outward sign of an inner change of direction of ones life. It doesn't occur unless someone, (or many someones) mentors them. We live in a world that doesn't portray God's way of thinking and acting, so as we grow up most of us don't learn the way to live the way God intended for us to live.

Adam & Eve made the first mistake by thinking that they knew better than God and decided to use their free will to step outside of the plan for humanity. In doing so they set in action the world we see in our history and the one we live in today. The antidote for that mistake is to return to God's original plan and live differently than the rest of the world. But we cannot know that plan unless some tells us and demonstrates its value.

If we buy into that way of living, we become a part of the Messianic Community. Jesus was telling the disciples to go out into the world and show them what life is all about. Show them how to live in ways that give glory to the Father, Son and Spirit, so that others might find the same peace and well being (*shalom*) that we have. Not that everything is going to be easy but there is a peace of mind and an understanding of purpose that comes with living within God's plan.

Remember "Roses have thorns" but they are still beautiful.

My hope is that as you hear these various words that mean so much in Hebrew, that you will use them to amplify your understanding of the Bible and the precepts that it endeavors to teach, and that as you hear them the fuller meaning will readily come to mind.

I find that there is always a surface meaning or understanding but that the writers have purposely given a deeper meaning that is there for the one who cares to dig deeper into the writings.

As you find other words that amplify your understanding, I hope that you will share them with me.

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