



Scripture nugget - Last three things before Ascension

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20).

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me (Matthew 28:18). Jesus was about to ascend to heaven to return to the Heavenly Father. Thus, He was giving important instructions to His disciples. The first of the three last things Jesus spoke about before His ascension is to remind His disciples that all power rests in Him alone. God the Heavenly Father has given to Jesus, His only Begotten Son all power. It is important for His disciples to know there is no higher power than Jesus in the whole universe. Earlier on, Jesus told His disciples that to see Him is to see the Heavenly Father. *Philip said to Him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father.' (John 14:8-9).* To cap this, Jesus told us His Father and He are one (cf. John 10:30). Thus, to pray to Jesus is to pray to the Father.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you... (Matthew 28:20). It is clear that the mission of the Church and the followers of Christ is to spread the Good News of Christ and help all souls attain eternal salvation. Detractors of the Church who lack a true understanding of the mission of the Church would like to see the Church be actively involved in social missions such as involving the environment and immigration which, though worthy mission in themselves, is not the true mission of the Church. The Church has the highest mission on earth: to help souls attain eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. In the face of so much distraction which the Church would be subjected to, it was really necessary for Christ to remind His Apostles of the true mission of the Church before His Ascension. As baptized followers of Christ, we share the mission of the Church. At our Baptism, we were given the privilege of sharing Christ's priesthood, Christ's kingship and Christ's prophethood (cf. CCC 1241). *You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth (Revelation 5:10).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, I praise You for to You have been given all power in heaven and on earth by our Heavenly Father. There is no one more powerful than You, and there is nothing that You cannot do. Thank You for giving me a share in Your plan to save the world. With the gifts which You have given me, I have a unique role to play in the salvation of the world. Give me the grace and zeal to fight valiantly in this spiritual battle through love, good works, prayers and sacrifices to bring many souls to You. You promise to be with us always till the end of the age. Help me to live in Your Presence always so that I can imitate Your life, walk in Your footsteps and become an effective instrument in Your hands. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.