

4. The Building Block of Mission

Hey, welcome to The Journey New York City. I'm Kerrick, I want to thank you for joining me today as we wrap up our building blocks teaching series, and get ready next week to turn the corner to a new teaching series that I'm really excited about, called the relationship code. I'll say a little bit more about that in just a few moments. But first of all, if you haven't yet, go ahead and download your message notes for today for our final building blocks message, just click the button beside the live stream player, you can download those notes, so you can take notes and follow along during the message today. Now, as you're doing that, in this building blocks teaching series, we've been showing you how to build a foundation to a great life, the kind of life that God can bless the kind of life that can stand strong in the face of life's storms. In fact, our memory verse for this entire teaching series is found in Matthew chapter seven. It's the words of Jesus. And here, Jesus is showing us how to build this kind of great foundation for your life. So since this is our memory verse, let's begin today by reading it out loud together.

So wherever you're joining us for church online today, look in your notes, I'll put it up on the screen. And let's read Matthew chapter seven, verses 24 and 25. Out Loud, together. Are you ready? Go. Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock, though the rain comes in Torrance and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on bedrock. So you see during this series, as we begin the year, we've been showing you how to build a foundation, an unshakable foundation so you can have a great life. And to do that we've looked at three great statements from Jesus found in the New Testament of the Bible, we began by looking at the great commandments, love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. And then last week, we looked at the great compassion. And we talked about why it's so important, especially living here in New York City to have is a building block of your life, love and care for the less fortunate. Well, today, we're going to look at the last of Jesus's great statements.

In fact, we're gonna look at the final words of Jesus, here on this earth, we're gonna look at the Great Commission. In fact, I want you to write this down. Look back in your notes, you see the box, this is the foundations of a great life, right, the sin, a great commitment to the great commandments. And the Great Commission, right that in the Great Commission, a great commitment to the great commandments. And the Great Commission, done with great compassion will grow a great church, a great Christian, and a great church. So what is the Great Commission? And what is so great about it, when we find the Great Commission, in Matthew, chapter 28, in the New Testament, and here, Jesus has been on Earth for 33 years, and he's just given his life for us on the cross so we can have eternal life. And he was raised from the dead on that first Easter, and now he's about to ascend into heaven. But before Jesus leaves, he meets with his disciples one final time, on the side of a mountain in Galilee. And there he imparts on them, his final words, his parting words.

Now, the truth is final words, parting words carry with them special significance, because when we share our final words with someone, we mostly share with them, what is most important what we don't want them to forget, we say, Hey, if you remember anything, remember this. So there's power in the

final words, and it's no different when it comes to Jesus's final words, because here he's looking at his disciples, and he's telling them, Hey, if you remember anything, remember this. If you do anything with your life, do this. Be sure you do this. In fact, the Great Commission, Jesus's final words carry special significance for you and me, because here Jesus tells us our mission. See, the Great Commission is Jesus's mission for your life, and for my life. So let's look at the Great Commission right now. It's Matthew chapter 28, verses 18 through 20. These are the words of Jesus. Look at what he says. He says, I have been given again, final words, I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.

And be sure of this. I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Listen today, I want to talk to you about how to build your life on these words. But before we do, I want to look really closely at what the Great Commission really mean? So you have it there in your notes, I'm going to break it down phrase by phrase. And we're going to look at what Jesus is really saying to us, in his final words. Now, first of all, Jesus says, I had been given all authority in heaven. And on earth, I want you to circle that word authority there in your notes. Now, another word for authority is power.

So what Jesus is doing here is he's giving us his power to carry out our mission, this mission. Now I want you to notice, this isn't our power. It's Jesus's power, which means that when you live out the Great Commission, you are going in, you're filled with Jesus's power. That's exciting news that you can be filled with, with his power. Then Jesus says this, after he says, I've been given authority in heaven and earth, and He says, Therefore, there was that next word, go, circle the word go, he says, Therefore, go, now go and do what he says, Go and make disciples of all the nations. Now, what's interesting here is that word go can actually be translated, when you look at the Greek it can actually be translated as, as you are going, as you are going do this. In other words, to complete the Great Commission.

You don't have to travel all the way around the world, and become a missionary. You don't have to go to seminary and become a pastor. You can live out the Great Commission, where you are right now as you go about your normal daily life. And so Jesus says, Go and then he says, make disciples, underline those two words, make disciples, He says, Go as you're going, make disciples. Now, this is the ultimate goal of the Great Commission, to make disciples, in other words, to help other people come to know Jesus themselves, and then to grow in their faith. So Jesus says, Listen, I'm giving you my power, so that you can go or as you are going, you're my powers with the edge we're going so that you can make disciples of all the nations.

Then he says, baptizing circle that word, baptizing, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit's TCS, new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. You see, once someone makes the decision to follow Jesus, as a church, we baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son in the Holy Spirit. Now, I love this part, that's one of my favorite things is when we have a baptism at the journey, just last year, we baptized 109 people here at the journey, even in the midst of the pandemic, we baptized 2987 people over the first 19 years of our church, this is a mission that we're passionate about, and that we together, we're living it out and following the Great Commission, and then don't miss this at the end. Jesus concludes by saying, and be sure of this, I am with you

always, Underline that phrase I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Jesus says this, I'm giving you this mission. But you don't have to go on your own. I'm going with you. I'll be right there. I'm giving you my power. So let's go. Let's go do this together. And I'm going to show you how to really live, I'm going to show you how to really make your life count. Don't you want that today? Don't you want to know how to really live to live with purpose and meaning don't don't do what you don't want to know how to make your life really count. Listen, these words that just read. Or the reason that you and I are here, right now. There's a reason God doesn't just take you up into heaven once you become a Christian, because you have a mission. Here a mission to help others who don't know Jesus helped him define God. And that's why this is a great statement to build your life on. And listen, if you live it out. The Great Commission has the power to change not just your life, but it has the power to change the lives of those you care about, and even the entire world. To me, that's exciting to think about.

I get excited every time I think about the Great Commission. But I also realize that the Great Commission is also a challenging commission. And I realized that as we're talking about this for some of you, as you read these words of Jesus, the idea of the Great Commission seems to you to be something that's that scary. That's overwhelming. That's frightening. Maybe for for others of you, you've bought into the myth that the Great Commission is someone else's job that this is here, Jesus, he's just talking to missionaries into pastors. And that's why I'm so excited about today's message. Because fulfilling the Great Commission helping other people come to know Jesus and the life he has for them. It's not supposed to be scary or confusing, and it's not just supposed to be the job of a selected few people. It's the privilege of every follower of Jesus, and we tell you this, it's also the most exciting, meaningful and fulfilling thing you will ever do with your life.

Here's the truth, you will never live a great life, or be a great Christian. If you don't live out the Great Commission, you'll never live a great life, you'll never be a great Christian. If you don't live out the Great Commission, you'll never truly grow in your faith if you don't share your faith. So let's talk today about how to build your life on this great statement on the Great Commission so that you can live a great life and have a great impact for Jesus Christ. So if you look in your notes, let's talk about this. Let's look at how to build my life on the Great Commission. How do I build a great life on the Great Commission? Well, here's the first step I want you to write this in. It begins by doing this, celebrate what Jesus has done for me celebrate what Jesus has done for me. See, the first step to building your life. And the great commission is to celebrate what Jesus has already done for you. This is where you're going to find the fuel to live out the Great Commission. This is where you're going to find the passion to pursue the mission that Jesus has given you.

Take a moment right now, I want you to think about this pause, set aside all the distractions, all the worries you have. And I just want you to think for a moment about how good God has been to you all the blessings that He has given you. Well, for starters, he made you he gave you life. The Bible tells us that we have breath in life because of Jesus. And you also know this that Jesus loves you. The Bible says that Jesus loves you so much that he was willing to lay down his life where he was willing to die a horrible death and excruciating criminal's death on the cross so that your sins can be forgiven so that you could know God so that you could spend eternity in heaven, that He rose from the dead to overcome the power of sin and death. See, you and I were lost. And we were headed for an eternity separated from God, inhale, until Jesus stepped in. And he gave his life for us, so that we could know

God and spend eternity in heaven. I don't know about you. That's something worth celebrating. Romans, chapter five, verse 11, the apostle Paul writes, so now we can what? Rejoice. He says, we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God, because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Let me ask you this.

When was the last time you really celebrated all that Jesus has done for you? Free, you just paused and said, Thank You, Jesus. And he thought about all the blessings He has given you. It's so easy to take for granted all that Jesus has done. And you know what happens when we do that we take for granted what Jesus has done for us. It's so easy for us to lose our concern for those around us who are lost, and who don't know God. But when you pause, and you celebrate all that Jesus has done for you, you know what happens, you're filled with love, you're filled with passion, to help other people meet Jesus, too. So the first step to building your life on the great commission is to celebrate what Jesus has already done for you. And then back in your notes. Here's the second step, the second step to living out the Great Commission, contemplate the reality of heaven.

For those who know Jesus, contemplate the reality of heaven. For those who know Jesus, and endless if you want to build your life on the Great Commission, contemplate the reality that Jesus has an eternity set aside for you, and all those who know him that's full of absolute joy, and happiness, waiting for everyone who believes in Him. Now, listen, if we're honest, heaven isn't something that we think about all the time. We're usually too busy. And here's why. The reason we don't think about heaven all the time is because it we're too busy right now, trying to create heaven on earth for ourselves. Because here's what we do. We spend all of our time, all of our money, all of our resources, trying to get things into our lives that we think will make us happy that will make us feel fulfilled. And we're trying to turn our lives here on earth into heaven.

But if you noticed, that no matter how much you have, it never seems like it's enough. It never satisfies why is that? Why? Why does it feel like he doesn't matter who you bring into your life or what you bring into your life? Why does it never feel the emptiness that's in us? Well, the reason is, because there's nothing in this world that can ever compare to what God has created you for that the eternity that he is waiting for you in Heaven. And you longed for that every day. You are created for heaven. You are created to know God and spend eternity with God forever in a place of absolute joy, absolute meaning absolute fulfillment. But because of sin, our lives here on Earth. They're difficult, they're painful. And so while we're here we long for more we long for heaven, but the problem is most of us settle for a lot less than one God is offered yet look at what God has promised for those who know Jesus in Revelation chapter 21, beginning of verse three talking about heaven, look at what it says. This is I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying what God's home is now among his people, he will live with him and they will be his people, God himself will be with them, He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain, all of these things are gone forever.

This is what God has waiting for those who believe in Jesus who know him. Listen, no matter how good you try to make your life you're on this earth, it won't hold the candle to what he has prepared for you in heaven. Now, unfortunately, sometimes as followers of Jesus, we get complacent in carrying out the Great Commission, because, you know, we know we're going to have and we have heaven to look forward to. And we lose sight of the fact that God wants everybody to go to heaven. That's why you're

here on Earth. This is your mission to help point your friends, your family, your neighbors, your co workers, your classmates, the point those in your life who don't know Jesus, to point them to heaven. So take time to think about the reality of heaven and focus not just on what heaven will be like for you. But also focus on who God wants you to bring to heaven with you. Because when you help people get to heaven, you're also helping them not go to hell. And that's the next step to building your life. On the Great Commission. Write this in compassionately, remember the reality of Hill, write that in compassionately, remember, the reality of Hill Look, just like we don't often think about heaven. We don't often think about the agony of Hill either and, hey, listen, I get it, I understand it. It's not pleasant to think of Hill, it's not a pleasant place to think about. And the truth is, we even mentioned the word hell, it often offends our modern day sensibilities.

But listen as a follower of Jesus, it's important that you know that hell is a very real in a very eternal place. Jesus warned us about hell directly, at least 12 times in the New Testament, at least 12 times, Jesus warned us directly about Hell and about his desire for us not to go there. In fact, Jesus talked more about Hell than he did heaven. See, there's no denying the fact that Jesus knew about Hell and that he was warning us about the absolute reality of Hell. Hell was a place of suffering, of darkness, of loneliness, of absolute and utter destruction. And whether or not you choose to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, that's going to determine where you spend eternity, either in heaven, or in hell. Listen, I want you to hear me. This is why the Great Commission is so urgent. People in our city are dying every day without a relationship with Jesus, and they're going to hell every day. I was looking at the stats this week, and every year, every year in our city 73,000 New Yorkers die every year, an average of 200 New Yorkers die every single day. Now, that's not even including COVID into the count. And based on studies, we know that about 87% of the people who live in our city right now don't know Jesus, they're not followers of Jesus. You know what that means.

That means in the last two years during this pandemic, close to 150,000 New Yorkers may have died, without knowing Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. People who is as far as we know, are destined for an eternity, separated from God in hell. And that absolutely breaks my heart. And I hope it breaks your heart to in Philippians chapter three, beginning of verse 18. Look at what the Apostle Paul says. He says, For I had told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, I want you to understand your how passionate how heartbroken Pauline is when he he meets even one person who is not going to heaven. He says where I told you often before and a saint with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows that they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite. They brag about shameful things. And they think only about this life here on earth. You see, sometimes you and I sometimes we get the focus of the Great Commission all wrong.

Sometimes we think the Great Commission is about us. But the great commission is not about us at all. It's about those who don't know Jesus. It's not about how we feel it's not about even what we say the Great Commission isn't about you. But it's about helping others find the hope of Jesus so they can connect with God so they can spend eternity with God in heaven. And listen, that's why you're here. More than money, more than career, more than family more than happiness. We're here to help as many people as possible. Avoid Hell and find a relationship with God and go to heaven. Second Peter chapter two, verse nine, tells us that is exactly what God wants. Second Peter three, nine, it says the

Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think, no, he's being patient, for your sake, he does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. Hopefully, you're beginning to see the urgency the importance of building your life, on the Great Commission. Celebrate what Jesus has done for you contemplate the reality of Heaven compassionately remembered the reality of hell, then here's the next step to building your life on the Great Commission. Consider who I know that I could invest and invite to know Jesus.

Consider who I know that I could invest and invite to know, Jesus. Let me ask you this right now. Who are the people that God has put in your life right now who need the hope of Jesus, I want you to think of them right now, the people in your life who as far as you know, they don't go to church, they're not followers of Jesus, I want you to picture their faces in your mind right now. Because as I'm talking, I really believe that God is putting names and people and images into your mind of the people that he's intentionally brought into your life. And I want you to here's a step that you can take this week to live out the Great Commission on our life page, we've given you this resource that you can download. It's a simple tool that we've developed here at the journey called the invest and invite card, you can click that button by the live stream playmate the minimize your video to do that, we can download this invest in invite card. Now, if you want the one like I'm holding one that's printed out and prepared for you, we're going to have them at the in person services this coming week in the next week. So if you attend the in person service, you can pick one or more of these up, let me tell you why. Let me tell you why these are so important. This is a card that you can keep in your wallet or you can put on your desk at work as a reminder to build your life on the Great Commission.

On the front of the card. It has this verse from Colossians, chapter four, verse five, it says this, and I put it in your notes as well. It says live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Paul says it's important for you to live wisely among those who are not yet believers, which means you need to live in such a way that when people look at you, they see that there's something different about you, you stand out, they see God in you, and it draws them to God. That means that your life points others to Jesus. And then Paul says, Make the most of every opportunity. In other words, you never know when the opportunity to invest in someone else, and invite them to take a step towards Jesus will come. So be ready be looking around you for those. That's what the card says. It says I will seek to invest in others who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and invite them to the journey.

How do you do that? Well, if you flip the card over to the back, you're gonna see a very practical way to invest and invite the people in your life to come to Jesus. It says this, it says the following is a list of three people I am attempting to invest in and invite to the journey. And the idea here is that you will intentionally write down the names of three people in your life right now, who don't know Jesus, as far as you know, they don't go to church, they don't have a relationship with God, all you do is take a moment and write down the names of three people you're not turning this in this is this is what you keep you write their names down. And then as you write those names down, how do you invest in them? How do you invite them? Well, on the, on the card, it shows you how to do that. It says I will pray daily for them, I will share my own verbal witness, and I will invite them to the journey. Now I want you to notice this. The first act of carrying out the Great Commission is simply to pray for those in your life who don't know Jesus. The idea is for you to talk to Jesus about your friend before you talk to your friend

about Jesus. Listen, you can do this. You can pray for the people in your life. You don't have a relationship with God, because you love them. You don't you want them to spend eternity in heaven. Pray that they would open their hearts to God. Pray for the individual circumstances that are going on in their lives. Pray that God would give you an opportunity to talk about your faith and help them take a step towards Jesus. And then it says pray for them.

They then share my own verbal witness should share with them a little bit about what God has done in your life. Let them know why you're a follower of Jesus. It doesn't have to be fancy or difficult. It's your personal story. of what Jesus has done in your life. And then the final way to invest is to invite them to the journey. You know, one of the easiest ways to carry out the Great Commission is simply to invite a friend or a co worker or a family member to come to church with you. And next Sunday, we've got an incredible opportunity to do just that, you know, next Sunday, we're kicking off this new teaching series, it's called the relationship code, unlocking the secrets to healthy relationships. And let me just say this, this is a series that you and I need, but it's also a series that the people in your life desperately need.

Because this I don't know if you've noticed, but the landscape of modern relationships is changing more rapidly right now than it ever has online dating a swipe bright culture, you know, we're moving in with one another sooner, we're getting married later, if at all, we're having kids later in our lives, the studies are showing we're having left less six now than ever before, but we're watching more porn than in the history, the history of the world. And it's not always clear how we're going to move forward in this, well listen to this series, we're really going to step back. And we're going to take a look at what's really happening in our culture in our world. When it comes to modern relationships, we're gonna look at the good things, the bad things, and also the ugly, dangerous things, then we're going to look at how to unlock God's code for our dating lives, for our marriages for our families, for our sex lives, there. And we're going to talk about even more than that. So listen, here's the point, why not put into practice.

What we're talking about here today, why not begin living off the great commission this week, and invite the people that you've been thinking about the people that you just maybe wrote down on your investment invite card, or maybe just wrote, in your notes, invite him to come to church with you next Sunday, as we kick off the relationship code. In fact, that's one of the next steps on your online connection card. If you haven't fill that out yet. If you scroll down below the video player, just click that online connection card, you put in your information, click Next. Share prayer requests that last page on your online connection card, you see those next steps. And one of them says pray for an invite three friends to the kickoff of the relationship code. Next Sunday, January 30. Would you do that you can invite them in you can come in person together to our Time Square location 11am service next Sunday, do it in person, we're gonna have coffee and doughnuts, it'll be a great experience in person. If you're not ready yet to come back in person didn't invite them to join you online. As you watch online, they can watch with you, and keep this card with you during this week.

Pray for the people that are on your card, pray for the people in your life who don't know Jesus, pray for them every day, this week, and be ready to invite them to come to church with you to share your faith with them. That's what Peter is saying. In First Peter chapter three, verse 15. He says, You must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope, as a believer, always be ready to explain it. And then back in your notes. Here's the final step to building your life on the Great

Commission. Write this in, commit to a great commission lifestyle, commit to a great commission, lifestyle. Listen, if you're going to build a great life, if we are going to build a great church. And if you believe what we've talked about today, if you believe what Jesus says in the Great Commission, you believe that Jesus has given us a mission to tell others about Him. You believe that Jesus has given us the power to go and that he's with us as we go and live out this mission. If you believe what Jesus says that there is a real heaven and a real Hell, and what we do with Jesus in this lifetime determines where we're going to spend eternity. If you believe this, and you know that you're going to heaven, then you have a responsibility to do every thing you can to help the other people in your life, get to heaven as well. When you get to heaven, there will only be two things that you cannot do.

Two things you can't do in heaven. The first is sin, you won't be able to sin in heaven. You know why? Because the Bible says there's gonna be no pain, no hurt in heaven, it's gonna be a perfect place full of joy. You won't be able to sin in heaven. But there's one other thing you won't be able to do in heaven. You won't be able to tell the people you care about who don't know Jesus, about Jesus. It will be too late, then. This is a mission that you can only do right now. And that's why it is so urgent. And that's why the Great Commission isn't a single event. That's why it's a way of life. It's living every day celebrating what Jesus has already done for me living everyday contemplating the reality of hell and compassionately remembering the reality of hell. And considering who in my life I could invest and invest, invest in and invite today.

You know, the Great Commission. It's the greatest mission that Jesus has given you and me. In fact, I want you to look at the words of the Apostle Paul, in Acts, chapter 20, verse 24, look at what he says. He says, My life is worth nothing to me, unless I use it for finishing the work assigned to me by the Lord Jesus. What does that work, the work of telling others, the good news about the wonderful grace of God, I want you to hear me, Jesus didn't give us the great suggestion. He gave us the great commission, it's a command. Jesus cares about the people of New York City. He loves them. As much as He loves you. He gave his life for them on the cross, and He wants them to be saved. Let me ask you this. How are you doing right now, with leaving out the Great Commission? How many people do you think will be in heaven because of you? Because I know it can be difficult to talk to other people about faith and about Jesus and to invite them to church. But I want you to remember this. Jesus doesn't ask you to save anybody, he saves them. He just asked you to go. What if they don't believe me? Well, don't worry about that. It's not your job to convince them God will do the convincing. You just go. Well, what will they think of me if I tell them I'm a Christian, and I invite them to church don't make things really awkward or weird. Don't worry about that. You leave the results, you leave the situation to God. You just go trust God and go and listen as you go.

Ask God to help you live out this great commission. Every day. There are final verse, I put the Great Commission. Back in your notes, I'll put it back up on the screen. I want to see in the message today by reading the Great Commission out loud together, the last of Jesus's great statements, his final parting words to us as He ascended into heaven, let's read it together beginning I have, are you ready? Go. I had been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the son in the Holy Spirit, teaches new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this. I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Let's bow our heads together. And pray, would you do that wherever you're joining us for Church

Online, if you would bow your head, close your eyes and let's go to God in prayer. As we pray, I want you to think right now, about that person or the people that God has laid on your heart today. Maybe it's a friend, maybe it's a family member. Maybe it's a class, a classmate or co worker. Maybe it's it's a neighbor, I want you to think about those people right now.

I want you to envision their faces. Listen, God loves no matter how much you love them. God loves them more. Jesus died for them on the cross and He wants him to go to heaven. Would you just pray for them right now just quietly in your heart? Would you pray? God I pray that and then you fill in the blank I have some faces in my mind and some names I'm praying right now God, I pray that blank will come to know you use me God to bring them to Jesus. I want to live out the Great Commission. And then for some of you today, as we talked about the realities of death, Heaven and Hell you realize that you don't know for sure where you stand with God right now you don't know for sure if you're going to heaven. If you want to know for sure the answer to that question that you want, and you want to know that the answer is yes, than today. settle this once and for all. Don't put it off any longer. Just pray this prayer quietly in your heart as I prayed out loud. God today, I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and that He rose from the dead, come into my life and forgive me of my sins. I don't want to keep living the way that I have been living. I want to live for you. From this day forward. As a part of your church. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.