

## Parish of Ferndown

Study sheet for week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Who we are in Christ: "We are commissioned"

Matthew 28:16-20

### Introduction

- Have you lived your life in one place, or have you moved a lot?
- Does becoming a Christian mean that God expects you to "go into the mission field and reap souls for Christ"?
- Does speaking about your faith come easily or with difficulty?

### Comment

David Wilkerson, the American evangelist of the 1960s, says "*Go ye into the world ... Don't jump to the conclusion that this means India, Africa and the like. The real "regions beyond" are those right under our influence where Christ is not Lord. The world Christ calls us to go into is the world we live in. Your world is the circle within your influence – where you work, the schools in your area, your friends. God did not save you from the "world", He saved you from "worldliness". The world will never come to the church: church members have to get out into the world. We have spent so much time trying to keep worldliness out of the churches that we have kept our churches from reaching the world*"

### Word

- Verse 18 mentions authority – who has this authority? If it is not us, then we are working under someone else's authority. Is that easier than doing things just on our own initiative?
- "Going" can mean anywhere, as DW says. Where can/do you go, and who can/do you talk to who isn't within the church at the moment?
- Is "making disciples" (v 19) the same as teaching – or is it about explaining what you've found out for yourself?
- Have you got anything to say? Sometimes new Christians make the best evangelists as they have just discovered something important for themselves and are desperate to share it. Has it been a long time since you were excited about your faith?

### Ministry time

- Pray for those who you come into contact with, on a regular basis.
- Is there anyone in particular God might be laying on your heart to talk to – not necessarily to "preach" to - but to come alongside and see if you can point them to the Lord from your own experience?

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