

Readings

Scripture

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:16-20 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

"You are not the end of your education..."

- Dr. Donald Guthrie

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

- John 20:21-23 (English Standard Version)

I did not see that it is in the process of being worshiped that God communicates His presence to men. It is not of course the only way. But for many people at many times the "fair beauty of the Lord" is revealed chiefly or only while they worship Him together. Even in Judaism the essence of the sacrifice was not really that men gave bulls and goats to God, but that by their so doing God gave Himself to men; in the central act of our own worship of course this is far clearer – there it is manifestly, even physically, God who gives and we receive.

- CS Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms* (p. 93)

"...But you have been chosen, and you must therefore use such strength and heart and wits as you have."

'But I have so little of any of these things! You are wise and powerful. Will you not take the Ring?'

'No!' cried Gandalf, springing to his feet. 'With that power I should have power too great and terrible. And over me the Ring would gain a power still greater and more deadly.' His eyes flashed and his face was lit as by a fire within. 'Do not tempt me! For I do not wish to become like the Dark Lord himself. Yet the way of the Ring to my heart is by pity, pity for weakness and the desire for strength to do good. Do not tempt me! I dare not take it, not even to keep it safe, unused. The wish to wield it would be too great for my strength. I shall have such need of it. Great perils lie before me.'

- JRR Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings* (Kindle Version) p. 61 Location 1628

Sermon Outline

Sent by God to Serve our World Together
Matthew 28:16-20

Our Highest Calling
Brad Anderson

God sends us out to serve our world together...

How are the challenges of this service envisioned?

A dynamic environment... (Matthew 28:16-17)

- Betrayal...
- Doubt...
- Worship...

A community journey... (Matthew 28:18-20)

- Filled with a lifetime of learning...
- Across all areas of life...
- For a next generation...
- With Jesus, who promised to be with us always...

How does our weekly service re-present the gospel at this point in the story? (Sent by God to Serve Our World Together...)

- Closing Song / Hymn
- Benediction
