ALL AUTHORITY



Step Out

The Jesus who met the disciples for the last time on a mountain in Galilee was the same Jesus they had traveled with for more than three years.

Yet something about him told them he was not the same.

This Jesus was the First-born of the New Creation.

This Jesus was Lord of heaven and earth.

No wonder they worshipped him!

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

All authority.

Jesus sent these men out under that authority.

An authority which set the world on fire.



Match Light Mindi Oaten

"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 lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Matthew 28

Soon disciples of Jesus were found everywhere in the Empire. Little gatherings of believers sprang up in cities, towns and villages throughout the Roman world.

There was joy, zeal, a love for God and neighbor in these folks which the world had never seen before.

One could say that they gladly sold all they had to buy the field with the treasure---God's Kingdom.

So what happened between then and now?

Only God knows.

But this much we do know: If God can raise up children to Abraham from stones (Luke 3:8) God can raise up laborers for his harvest out of "stones" like you and me.

He does it without violating our wills.

Jesus calls us each to follow him.

If we say "No" he moves on, and keeps moving on until he finds a "Yes".

The Lord then takes the "Yeses", empowers them, and sends them out....

not to build more churches,

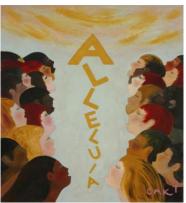
not to change the laws,

not to "take over the world",

but to make disciples.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...."



Praise the Lord All You Nations

Baptizing them into his death and resurrection.

So that their lives belong to him alone.

Teaching them, by word and example...

- --- The life Jesus portrays in his Sermon on the Mount
- ---In the admonitions Jesus gives in his final discourse in John 13-17.
- ---In the call to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow him.

The Lord of heaven and earth will make it happen.

With us, if we answer his call.

Without us, if we choose to say "No".

But it will happen.

It's happening now.



"And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Prayer-Jesus, Lord of Heaven and earth speak to our hearts so we can truly know your lordship, so we are awed, inspired and driven to not only seek you but to teach your commands, to make disciples for you. Help us to rise up and step out in the authority you give us to do this...knowing that we belong to you, knowing we are not alone and knowing we can set the world on fire because you are ever with us.

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Art: Step Out and Match Light by Mindi Oaten at mindioaten.com and Praise the Lord and I am with You by CMK at art4prayer.co.uk

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