

# LONG STORY SHORT

## The Mission

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 9, 11, 13-20

### Paul took the Mission Literally.

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

*Therefore, **make disciples** of all the nations*

*by **going**,*

*by **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*by **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you;*

*and remember I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18–20, RHV)*

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, NLT)*

*Jesus’ last command is our first concern!*

### Paul took the Mission Personally.

*Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and **Saul**. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the **Holy Spirit** said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. So Barnabas and Saul were **sent out by the Holy Spirit**. (Acts 13:1–4, NLT)*

#### (1) Paul sold out to the Holy Spirit.

*Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the **Spirit** of Jesus did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having **concluded that God was calling** us to preach the Good News there. Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by **the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the **Spirit** of Jesus would not allow them to. (Acts 16:6–10, NLT)*

*God wants to write His story through us.*

#### (2) Paul reached out to Everyone, Everywhere.

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**. (Galatians 3:28, NIV)*

*We are not saved to sit; we are saved to go...*

#### (3) Paul Paid Out the Price of Sacrifice.

*Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me **thirty-nine lashes**. Three times I was **beaten with rods**. Once I was **stoned**. Three times I was **shipwrecked**. Once I spent a whole night and a day **adrift at sea**. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced **danger** from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have **worked hard and long**, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the daily **burden** of my concern for all the churches. (2 Corinthians 11:24–28, NLT)*

*I want to know Jesus and make Jesus known.*

*Be sure of this: **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20, NLT)*

**Our Mission is to Get In the Story and then Get Out the Story.**