

# MATTHEW 28

## Questions & Answers

*(created from our 10/4 Listening Session and other questions asked)*

### General Questions:

**1. I've heard Matthew 28 is all about money and numbers...is this true?**

Matthew 28 is not all about money and numbers. Matthew 28 is about focusing our ministry toward those who are not already a part of Grace Church. It is about reaching the least, last, and lost...those who are outside of Grace Church's walls.

Prescription #4 does indeed deal with Finances. This prescription is designed to educate us on the Biblical concept of tithing and stewardship of our gifts. It also invites us to conduct a "Consecration Sunday" that will help us to address capital needs (care of our facilities, etc.). Any church needs money to function...this was true last year, it is true today, and will be true tomorrow, whether or not we enter into Matthew 28. Rather than relying on fundraisers or special pleas, Matthew 28 is calling us to be proactive on this front. We won't wait until we're in a crisis situation to talk about stewardship. Rather, we'll begin to create an environment where stewardship will be a regular part of our faith journey, allowing us to hopefully be in a stronger place financially in the years that lie ahead.

**2. Prescription #1 talks about asking that God will "break the hearts of members of the congregation for those in the community who do not yet know Jesus." What does this mean?**

As we see throughout Scripture, God is continually reaching out to those who are not already a part of his family. (*Matt. 18:10-14, Luke 15*). It is apparent that God wants us to also be reaching out to make *new* disciples (*Matt. 28*). This prescription is simply inviting us to pray that we would be moved with the same passion to reach out to the least, last, and lost as God has for those who do not yet know Jesus.

**3. How is the prayer team, mentioned in Prescription #1, chosen?**

We will both open up this opportunity to those who feel led to participate in this important group *and* be intentional about inviting specific persons who are gifted as persons of prayer to be a part of this team. We may have various opportunities to participate in prayer groups, with groups meeting at different times, with varying frequency, and for different purposes.

**4. How do we go about following Prescriptions #1's call to “develop a relationship with and eventually share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with one or two un-churched persons?”**

This part of Prescription #1 is for those persons who choose to do so. As we begin Matthew 28, we will spend significant time meeting and talking together as to what this means and how it can be done. By the time we reach this point of building relationships, everyone who chooses to participate will be comfortable and led by God to follow this call.

**5. What is a “big event” that we are called to conduct in Prescription #2?**

A “big event” is anything we can come up with that will be specifically designed and intentionally aimed at those persons in our community who are not already a part of our church family. A big event can be anything, depending upon how God leads us.

In many ways, Grace Church is already doing these big events. Examples could be our Easter Egg Hunt, our Community Health Fairs, a Sunday morning follow-up to Vacation Bible School, etc. We can be as creative as we need to be in order to come up with these big events.

**6. What are the details regarding the new structure we see in Prescription #3?**

The new structure would create a primary “Church Council” or “Board” that would have primary responsibility for the functioning of the church. The Council would consist of around 12 persons, divided into 3 classes, with each class serving a 3 year term. So, each year we would elect 4 new members of the Council to a 3 year term as 4 members rotate off.

Within this 12 person Council, different members would have primary areas of responsibility. For example, 2 persons would be charged with primarily handling “Trustees” matters...2 persons would be charged with primarily handling “Staff Parish Relations” matters...2 persons would be charged with primarily handling “Finance” matters, etc.

When an issue arose, such as a major Trustee issue, the 2 Council members who deal with Trustees issues would recruit others from the congregation to help with this issue, but the final decisions on the issue would come from the 12 person Council.

This new structure would eliminate most of our current standing committees, and seek to streamline the work of the church by simply having the Council as the body responsible for setting policies of the church. This Council would meet monthly.

However, the Council would be responsible for more than just business matters, but would also be responsible for the spiritual life of the congregation, developing leaders, and casting a vision and setting goals

for our congregation. Monthly meetings would be heavily focused on prayer and visioning, along with the business of the church.

Along with the Council, there would be around 8 “*Staff*” positions created. The Staff would not necessarily be paid positions, but would be 8 persons from the congregation designated to care for particular areas of our church ministry. Examples of these areas would be; worship, small groups, newcomer/member care, family needs, education, etc. These areas would vary depending upon the current needs of the congregation.

The staff would meet regularly with Pastor Mark and would set measurable goals that we would work towards together. Pastor Mark would then meet regularly with the Council to make sure goals are being met and the various goals are in line with the larger vision of the church.

By focusing more on the future and setting goals and casting a vision, our congregation would be prepared and ready to grow and make sure that all we do has the focus of making new disciples for Jesus Christ.

**7. What does Prescription #5 mean when it talks about “assimilation?”**

The word “*assimilation*” in Prescription #5 is NOT a good word! Better words would be “*connection*” or “*belonging*.” We will NOT be like the BORG of Star Trek: The Next Generation...trying to make everyone who enters Grace Church like us! Rather, Prescription #5 is inviting us to be more intentional and have a better process for helping visitors and new members of our church feel *connected* and feel as if they truly *belong* here at Grace Church. We will celebrate the many and varied gifts that all persons bring to our Grace Church family!

**\*\*\*For further clarification and/or other questions you have, please come to our FINAL listening session on: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 at 2pm in our SANCTUARY.**