

# Easter - Meeting Jesus

## Go and Make Disciples

### Foundation

**Bible passage : Matthew 28.18-20, Mark 16.14-15, Luke 24.46-48, John 20.21 & Acts 1.7-8.**

In the previous unit we looked at how on the day of the evening and afternoon of the resurrection Jesus taught the disciples from the scriptures. But he also told them that they were to go and be His witnesses, preaching in His name to all nations.

In fact in all four gospels, and Acts, we find Jesus speaking to the 11 Apostles, on different occasions, about the fact that he was sending them into the world. Indeed the word Apostle means someone who is sent by another, and John records Jesus saying “I also send you”, as He had been sent by the Father (Jn 20.21).

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

They are told to go and make disciples, teaching people what Jesus commanded (Mtt 28.19), to go and preach the gospel (16.15) to preach as witnesses (Lk 24.46) and be witnesses (Acts 1.8). In all these, except the time in John 20, reference is made to all nations, all the world, or all the earth.

We don't read much in the Bible about the Apostles going far and wide, in fact Acts focusses mostly on the missionary work of Paul, who was a later convert. But Paul was aided in His endeavours by the fact of the Roman empire, relatively good law and order, freedom of transport and in the old Greek empire a common language. But there is plenty evidence from other



sources that the twelve (including Matthias who replaced Judas) did go and preach far and wide.

In one early tradition it is said that they divided up the known world and drew lots as to where they should go. As was noted in Module 15 unit 2, where there is also a map, it was said that Thomas was not very happy when he drew India as his destination and at first refused to go. But, when Thomas finally did go many came to faith in Christ through His preaching.

Of course it would have been impossible for the twelve to go into all the world and therefore, though they did go far and wide others had to take up the task after them. For example the gospel seems to have reached the British Isles relatively quickly, but we don't know anything about who those first witnesses were.

In the previous module we saw how the gospel was also spread to the Anglo-Saxons. We also that today there are many Christian missionary organisations devoted to sharing the gospel around the world, as well as individuals and churches doing so in their own areas.



**The call of Jesus to go, to witness to Him and make disciples, remains vitally important today.**