

Matthew Opening Illustration – (Every Sack for Aaron Donald in 2018-2019 YouTube)

- His name is Aaron Donald (#99)
- He plays Defensive Tackle for the Los Angeles Rams.
- 1st Draft Pick in 2014 (College at Pittsburg)
- He is 27 years old.
- He weighs 280 pounds and is 6' 1" tall.
- In the 2018-2019 season he had 41 tackles, 20.5 sacks, and 4 forced fumbles.
- 2018 Defensive Player of the year.

(Insert picture #1 of Sarah Thomas here)

Her name is Sarah Thomas and she is a motivational public speaker, but you may recognize this second picture of her. (Insert the #2 picture of Sarah Thomas here)

- She is the first female NFL Referee.
- Now I would venture to say that Donald is taller, heavier, faster, and stronger but when Thomas blows her whistle on the football field all 22 players come to a stop.
- Why
- Because behind that whistle is the authority of the NFL.

Today we come to the end of our Sermon Series, *Bless Every Home*.

- Week #1 – Pray for our neighbors.
- Week #2 – Care for our neighbors.
- Week #3 – Share (Gospel) with our neighbors.

We come to the last step in being Gospel Lights in our neighborhoods and that is to disciple our neighbors.

Join me in **Matthew 28:16-20**

- We know this to be “*The Great Commission*”.
 - Command
 - Directive
 - Instruction
 - When Matthew pens these final words, he put his pen down and the Gospel he is called to write comes to an end.

(Insert the picture of The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier here) If you go to our Nation's Capital there are many great historic sights to see, one of these is Arlington National Cemetery.

- Part of this sight is what is known is the *Tomb Of The Unknown Solider*.
- “*Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.*”
- Since 1937 (8 decades), 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week there has been a Sentry set at this tomb.
- When the Changing Of The Guard takes place every hour, the Sentry being relived will say to the Sentry coming on duty these 5 words, “*Orders Remain As Directed.*”

In these 5 verses that close out the Gospel of Matthew we see

- An authority given.
- An action required.
- A mission to accomplish.
- A promise to encourage.

An Authority Given: - Verse 18

- Jesus demonstrated that authority in His earthly ministry in His:
 - Teaching (He teaches with authority unlike any other teacher)
 - Healing (He healed without even having to be present)
 - Weather (not even one more clap of thunder)
 - Forgiving of sins (Who can forgive sins but God)
 - Over satan (demons know who He is and obey His voice)
- By His resurrection, (the stamp of His authority) Jesus was granted authority over all things.

An Action Required: Verse 19

- The Greek word “go” here is actually not a command but rather is a present participle.
 - While you are going.
 - Acts 11:19-21
 - “*While you are going make disciples of all nations.*”
 - “*No matter where we are, we should be witnesses for Jesus Christ and seeking to win others to Him.*” (Warren Wiersbe)

A Mission To Accomplish: Verses 19-20

- To make disciples.
- Jesus called 12 disciples.
 - He did not give them a book and a syllabus to follow but rather He said, “*Come and walk and learn from Me (follow Me)*”

- For 3 ½ years these men walked with Jesus, witnessed Jesus' actions, and how He ministered to people.
- He taught them about grace, mercy, forgiveness, authority, power, that would soon be theirs.
- Now, John MacArthur says, Pastor's are paid to preach, win the lost, and build up the saved.
 - Cheerleaders / Spectators

A Promise To Encourage: Verse 20

- Matthew Henry says – *They shall have His constant presence, always, all days, every day. I will be with you on the Sabbath Days and the week days, the fair days, and the foul days, winter days and summer days.*
- Jesus is no “fair weather friend”.

In a book called *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. It is a compilation of eighty essays based on the National Public Radio series of the same name. One of the essays that I found most moving is entitled “*The God Who Embraced Me*” by John W. Fountain. He writes: I believe in God. Not that cosmic, intangible spirit-in-the-sky that Mama told me as a little boy “always was and always will be.” But the God who embraced me when my daddy disappeared from our lives when I was just four years old—the night police led him away from our front door, down the stairs in handcuffs. The God who warmed me when we could see our breath inside our freezing apartment, where the gas was disconnected in the dead of another wind-whipped Chicago winter, and there was no food, little hope, and no hot water. The God who held my hand when I witnessed boys in my ’hood” swallowed by the elements, by death, and by hopelessness; the God who claimed me when I felt like “no-man’s son,” amid the absence of any man to wrap his arms around me and tell me, “everything’s going to be okay,” to speak proudly of me, to call me son. I believe in God, God the Father, embodied in his son Jesus Christ. The God who allowed me to feel His presence—whether by the warmth that filled my belly like a hot chocolate on a cold afternoon, or that voice, whenever I found myself in the tempest of life’s storms, telling me, even when I was told I was “nothing”, that I was something, that I was His, and that even amid the desertion of the man who gave me his name and his DNA and little else, that I might find in Christ sustenance.

John 19:28-30 - The Greek word translated “it is finished” is *tetelestai*, an accounting term that means “paid in full.” When Jesus uttered those words, He was declaring the debt owed to His Father was wiped away completely and forever.

Not that Jesus wiped away any debt that He owed to the Father; rather, Jesus eliminated the debt owed by mankind—the debt of sin.

See the sin payment is finished but not the mission of the Cross.