

Come and See, Go and Tell!

Matthew 28:1-10

March 31, 2024

Some of us are still scratching sleepers out of our eyes this morning. Reminds me of the man who always fell asleep in church. The pastor got so agitated about it that he gave one of the deacons a stick to hit him over the head every time he fell asleep. Once the man dozed off, the deacon tapped him on the head and woke him up. A few minutes later, he starting dozing again, so the deacon hit him again, this time a little harder, again waking him up, but only temporarily. When he fell asleep the third time, the deacon hit him so hard he knocked him out of the pew and onto the floor, almost knocking him out. The old men said, "Hit me again; I can still hear him preaching!"

If you don't stay awake for anything else this morning, I hope you will for our scripture which comes from Matt 28. Pew Bible. He is risen! Our theme this year is the Great what? Yes---And it comes from Matthew 28, but at the end of this chapter, not the beginning. However, it is given at the end because of what happens at the beginning. If you are able, please stand this morning as we read from Matt 28:1-10 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who **was** crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly **Jesus** met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. **Go and tell** my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Praise God for this greatest news ever told! We have here the retelling of the resurrection. It was at dawn, right about now, on the first day of the week, Sunday, Mark and Luke tell us they were bringing spices to give Jesus the proper burial He deserved. They weren't going to need them 😊. For instead of finding the **body** of Jesus, they find instead the stone rolled away, the guards passed out, and two angels, one of which gives them news their grieving ears could hardly believe. "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who **was** crucified." Praise God for past tense, amen? He is not here, He is risen!

And not just risen, but risen **as He said!** Just as He promised. It would be miracle enough if He had risen without telling them first, but He **had** told them first! In fact He told them it would happen on the third day! And it was now the third day and He had risen!

But then what happened next is crucial. The angel said, "Come and see the place where He lay." Say come and see. "Don't take my word for it," he said, "you see for yourself. Step inside, look at the stone slab His crucified bloody body had been lying on. See the linen lying there that had been wrapped around His broken flesh." And Mark 16:5 makes it clear that they did go in and see for themselves for they were so convinced by what they saw and what they didn't see that they then went and spread the news which we'll get to in a minute.

But you can't go and tell something you don't know. You're not going to be excited about something you don't believe. Have you ever come and seen? Have **you** ever looked in Jesus' tomb? You can go to Israel and visit both places people believe might be His tomb. And both of them are empty! But you don't have to go there to know. Examine the evidence for yourself as Lee Strobel did as an unbeliever. The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is overwhelming. Even non-Christians from the time record that Jesus rose from the dead. Jewish historian Josephus records it and Roman historian Tacitus implies it while not stating it outright.

To this day, no body has ever been produced to prove that His body had been moved, stolen, or misplaced. Even the Romans and the Jewish leaders both admit the tomb was empty. There are lots of great books in our church library providing evidence for the resurrection. Come and see Jesus' empty tomb.

Come and hear the testimony of the eyewitnesses, for we have many. Not only these women who meet Jesus a little later, but also His 11 remaining disciples. The fact that all of them but one died for preaching the resurrection is very convincing proof! Come and see! Come and hear!

Paul provides an extensive list of references for Jesus' bodily appearance after His resurrection in I Corinthians 15:5-8 where he says, "he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born." Obviously none of these eye witnesses are still alive today but they were when Paul wrote this! If you disbelieve the resurrection, you're calling them all liars! Men and women who staked not only their reputations and their characters on the truth of the resurrection, but their very lives! Come and see! Come and hear!

So those women did see. And then in vs 7 the angel, under orders from his commander Jesus, orders them, to “Go quickly and tell His disciples.” Say go and tell. After you have seen the truth, heard the truth, experienced the truth, been convinced of the truth, then go and tell others the truth! Don’t hide it under a bushel! The angel even told them to do it quickly. Say quickly! There was and is an urgency in sharing this resurrection message! The Greek word is tachy (takh-oo’) (bless you), and it means without delay, soon, or suddenly! Don’t dilly dally! Don’t stop to get coffee. Don’t meander and take your time. Go quickly! Put it in high gear! Get a move on! Get the lead out! Put the hammer down! Break a few speed limits! All of creation has been waiting 4500 years for this to happen! What a privilege those ladies had to be the first ones to see it and to share it! Because they came to see!

And praise God they did, amen? The angel says, “Now I have told you. I’ve done my job. I made my delivery. I’ve passed the baton to you, now it’s up to you to carry it and pass it on to others! I’m outta here.” Vs 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. They hurried just as the angel told them to do! Same Greek word-tach-oo! They made haste. They beat feet. They booked it! Spurred on by what I’m sure was a massive dose of adrenaline! Not only did they see an angel, they didn’t find Jesus, and they’ve been told He’s alive again! All of that’s better than the strongest Espresso!

And as they obey, what happens? Vs 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.” See what happens when we obey Jesus? He meets us! Many people complain that they’ve never had an experience with Jesus of any kind. Let me suggest they haven’t obeyed Him. I’m not saying you’ll meet Him physically as they did, I never have either, but I’ve had some pretty awesome times with Him in prayer and worship. Some in this very room. They met Jesus as they obeyed His command to go and tell! When we obey His Great Commission, He has some exciting things in store for us as well!

Then after He reveals Himself to them, Jesus repeats the command. Vs 10 “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” There it is again! Go and tell! And they did and the disciples did in fact meet Him in Galilee! They never would have if the women hadn’t gone and told. Or if the disciples had disobeyed. Imagine for a minute if the women had not gone and told. See how a refusal to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission can hurt the Kingdom and others? Sometimes we Christians enjoy celebrating the resurrection, we enjoy coming to worship on Easter Sunday to come and see. But we fail to go and tell.

This good news of Jesus’ resurrection is a baton. And as it is shared, it multiplies so that others can pass it on too. And the angel handed it to the women, the women handed it to the disciples, the disciples handed it to others, and it has eventually been

handed to you. Who will you hand it to? Batons aren't meant to be held, they're meant to be passed on! As is Good News!

Those disciples had had a bad weekend. They were grieving that morning. They, like many of our own friends and relatives, thought death had won... again. They were defeated, dejected, and depressed. But the good news of the resurrection turned all that around! And it can turn things all around for our friends too! Death is **not** the end, death is **not** the victor, Jesus is, for He is risen!

Come and See, go and tell. It's a simple formula but it is used over and over again. That's what the angel told the shepherds to do at Jesus' birth. Come and see the baby, and then they went and made it known abroad. It's what happened at the calling of Jesus' first disciples in John 1. Jesus challenged Andrew to come and see. He did, and then he went right away, quickly and told Peter who also came and saw and who became the leader of the early church and went and told thousands! Philip challenged Nathaniel to come and see the Messiah and he did and he became a disciple. This is what the woman at the well told the people in her hometown, "Come meet a man who told me everything I ever did." Come and see! Go and Tell!

Hear the angel's invitation, his command this morning, "come and see the resurrection. Check it out for yourself." And then after you have, go and tell someone else! Don't sit on the best news. Sometimes the resurrection is called the greatest story **never** told because too many Christians won't share it. I have to wonder if they've really seen it! Because once you do, you can't help but go and tell others! Like those women, you can't shut up! You can't keep quiet. And you shouldn't!

The women found the disciples and told them. When they did, some of them went to see. They went to find out. Luke tells us about how Jesus appeared to two on the road to Emmaus and John tells us about doubting-no-more Thomas as well as the breakfast Jesus fixed for them up on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. But Matthew goes pretty directly from the Resurrection to the Great Commission at the end of this very chapter. Mark does the same thing. Andreas Kostenberger states in his book, *The Final Days of Jesus*, that "for Matthew, the Great Commission summed up Jesus' entire post-resurrection message." The angel told the ladies, "Go and Tell," Jesus told the ladies, "Go and tell." Jesus told the disciples, "Go and tell." And if we are His disciples, that same message comes to us this Resurrection morning from the Great Commission at the end of this chapter, Vs 19-20, "Go and tell!"

And oh, by the way, Go quickly! Some of us have been dilly dallying. Assuming we have plenty of time. We don't. Our unsaved loved ones won't be with us in heaven unless they hear. We can't **make** them respond, but we can make sure they hear! We don't know when they'll die or when we will. We don't know when Jesus will return and

it will be too late to accept Him. Today is the day of salvation! The day to get saved! To get someone else saved! Go and tell!

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live! But how can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard and how can they hear unless someone tells them? And how can they tell unless someone sends them? Jesus **has** sent us! Go and tell! Without this message, our friends and loved ones will have no resurrection to eternal life. They will only experience everlasting suffering in hell. The stakes are **very** high and very long, eternally so. Their resurrection to everlasting life depends on them hearing and believing and trusting Jesus to save them. You can't make them believe or trust, but you can make sure they hear. One of the hardest things to do is to share a funeral for someone that isn't saved or you don't know if they are or not. Don't let people wonder about **your** faith and encourage them to make their own calling and election sure by going and telling.

How can you do it? When you go to work tomorrow, you can say, "Let me tell you what I heard yesterday. A man actually rose from the dead. Do you think that's possible? If He did, is there anything else He couldn't do? Do you believe in Him? Come and see this Jesus!"

Just as we visited the cross last week, we also need to visit the empty tomb today! The women went to both the cross and the tomb, and so should we! Just as we wept as His blood dripped down upon us, let us now rejoice as we hold His empty shroud in our hands. As we see the passed-out soldiers lying on the ground. As we encounter the Risen Savior for ourselves! As the truth sinks in that He is risen!

And then, fulfill His Great Commission to go and tell! The privilege the women enjoyed of sharing the news is now **our** privilege! With the triumphant victory of the resurrection freshly behind Him, Jesus declares in Matt 28:18-20 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Now, as the angel said, I have told **you**. Come and see, Go and tell, for He is risen!