

Easter 3 4/15/18
Luke 24:36-49 B

THEN HE OPENED THEIR MINDS TO UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES, AND SAID TO THEM, "THUS IT IS WRITTEN, THAT THE CHRIST SHOULD SUFFER AND ON THE THIRD DAY RISE FROM THE DEAD, AND THAT REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS SHOULD BE PROCLAIMED IN HIS NAME TO ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING FROM JERUSALEM. YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS. AND BEHOLD, I AM SENDING THE PROMISE OF MY FATHER UPON YOU. BUT STAY IN THE CITY UNTIL YOU ARE CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH."

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to the tomb in order to anoint the body of Jesus. There, they met a young man dressed in white and he said this to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you" (Mk 16:6-7).

One guy. Few ladies. "Go and tell." But, they don't go and they don't tell. Because, the Scriptures tell us, they were afraid. We can understand that. Consider that they had stumbled upon. They had gone to the tomb expecting to find a dead body; instead, the stone is rolled away, the grave is empty, a young man dressed in white tells them "Go and tell," and that is a frightening thing.

But, there is more to it than that. You know the fear they had. There is always fear going and telling others about Jesus. "Am I going to get the story right? Am I going to leave something important out? What if they ask me a question I can't answer?" Even worse, "How is this person going to react when I tell them about Jesus? Are they going to be offended? Will they get angry?"

Jesus knows all about that fear and He knows the need to go and tell, which is why the message of Jesus on this 3rd Sunday of Easter is Go and Tell, the same message as the young man dressed in white on Easter morning gave to the women. Jesus appears and says, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins

should be proclaimed in His name to all nations beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (vv. 46-48). He wants us to go and tell. Jesus wants us to tell of His suffering and death and resurrection to all nations because you are witnesses. Now, now, you have a way out – you were not a witness. You were not there when they crucified Jesus. You did not see Jesus risen from the grave. So, I guess that means you don’t have to tell anyone about Jesus. You can stay out of it and keep my mouth shut. Who can argue with that logic?

Well, namely, the Apostle St. Paul. He says, “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death” (Rom 6:3)? When you were baptized, you were joined to Jesus’ crucifixion; joined to His death; joined to His burial; joined to the resurrection, so that so that, in a very real sense, you can say, “I was there. I was made a witness. This is a part of me, for I was made a part of Christ.” So, that being the case, go, tell, witness, proclaim Jesus’ suffering and resurrection to all you meet.

And, you say, “Wow, I would like to but I still have that FEAR. Will I say the right thing? What will be their reaction if I tell someone about Jesus?” Jesus knows all about that. He doesn’t send you out there to witness on your own. He gives to you the promise of His Father. He promises to clothe you with power from on high. What Jesus is saying is that He is going to send the Holy Spirit to teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that He said to you. In other words, when you go and tell of the suffering and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit goes with you, He tells you what to say, He supplies the words, so you can go and tell people about Jesus.

So, Jesus says, “Go and tell”. And, He tells His disciples to start in Jerusalem. Great idea. You know why? They were in Jerusalem. Start where you are at. That is what Jesus is saying to them. It doesn’t make any sense for you to start in Jerusalem because you don’t live in Jerusalem. There is no need for you to get on a plane or hop on a ship and travel to Jerusalem because [\[Glen Ullin\]](#) Beulah is a great place to start. [\[Glen Ullin\]](#) Beulah is full of people who need to hear about the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for them. [\[Glen Ullin\]](#) Beulah is filled with people enslaved to sin, and death, and the devil. These are the people going to hell when they die because they do not have saving faith in Jesus. And here is the real kicker in all of this: You know these people.

They are your classmates, your family, your friends, your co-workers. There are the people right here in [\[Glenn Ullin\]](#) Beulah to whom God sends you to tell them the message of Jesus' suffering and resurrection for them.

You go and tell because someone told you. Consider this: In your inmost being, you think you are a really good person. Especially, when you compare yourself to your neighbor, you don't look so bad in the eyes of the world. But here's the thing: When it comes to being right with God, being a child of God and possessing eternal life, being "good" is not good enough, because God's standard is 100% perfect obedience to His Commandments. You're not perfect. You think your will is better than God's. You hate other people. You have said things you should not have said. You have done things you should not have done. You have failed. You've done stuff you are not supposed to do to and you've not done stuff that you are supposed to do. You've known anger, shame, guilt, jealousy, greed, envy; it has all come upon you. And the reason it has all come upon you is because you are a sinner. Born a sinner and live a life of sin. And the Bible is very clear: You deserve God's temporal and eternal punishment. You deserve to die and go to hell because of your sin.

Because you are a sinner, I say to you what Jesus said, Repent and believe the Gospel. Turn away from your sins and believe Jesus Christ is true God who became true man for you. He saved you by living a life of perfect obedience to God's Commandments for you, as your substitute. And, as your substitute, because you did not perfectly keep God's commandments, He took the punishment that you deserved. He was abandoned by His friends, endured the mockery of a sham trial on trumped-up charges, stripped naked, and beaten for what you have done and ... what you failed to do. He was taken outside the city and nailed to the tree of Calvary to suffer crucifixion; to suffer the abandonment of God. All that He did for you. Because He did all that, God has forgiven you all your sins. All your sins are gone in Christ. You can be sure of it because three days after He died, Jesus rose again from the dead, the Victor of sin, and death, and the devil, and hell itself.

He gives you that victory to you to be our very own. And He does it by water and the Word of Holy Baptism; by His body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion; in the absolving of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You know what else? He gives it to you right here, right now, in the words that I am speaking.

This is going and telling. This is proclaiming Jesus' suffering and resurrection. This is the very message that God the Holy Spirit used to bring you to saving faith. And, as you go and tell, witness and proclaim, it is the very same message He will use to bring those you now and love to saving faith in Jesus.

Easter morning. One young man dressed in white. Handful of ladies.
Go and Tell. And, you are here this morning. So, Go and Tell.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.