

**This sermon was prepared but not delivered as Pastor Jordan was ill on Easter Sunday.**

Christ is Risen! Yes Christ is Risen! I'm hearing it but I need to feel it, Christ is Risen

One more time to reiterate the point that we are all here today. Christ Is Risen!

Go and tell, go and share, go and convince them of this truth, it must be made known.

That's what Jesus told these first deliverers of the gospel. Go and tell these people who are lost in sorrow and darkness, lost in a world that seeks their destruction, blinded by grief and lies. You hold the key that binds them, you hold the lamp which will show the way, your voice will guide them in hope. Your Voice. Your Voice. Your Voice

Go and tell. Lift your voices up! Go and tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and go tell it everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain that **Jesus Christ is Risen!** By the way that's a way better version of the song. Those should be the real words. Tomorrow let's redo the verses. I'm already feelin it; *and the stone was rolled away AY.*

Go and tell. It's simple. Go and tell he is risen. Go and tell that you are loved and that they are loved. Tell of compassion and show compassion. Go and tell that this is for all human beings in every corner of the earth, no matter color, nor creed, nor background or future. GO AND TELL.

These 2 women, they had only this one truth to give. One thing that would change everything. Go and make sure they know, understand to the depth of there being what is true. Go tell them that Jesus Christ is Risen that you have seen him with your own eyes.

Go! Jesus is always telling us to Go, Telling his disciples to GO. Sends them out 2 by 2, Go and tell them that the messiah is here! Jesus tells the woman who was about to be stoned (and us by the way) Go and sin no more. Jesus Say Go and do like that Samaritan did for that poor hurt man. He sends the Angels to free the disciples and tell them Go and preach the gospel in the temple. GO! Go and tell them what is right before them be they just cannot not grasp.

And of course there's Jesus making his grand exit with one Last GO. Go and make disciples of all nations. Go and tell them about what you have seen, love them, and baptize them. All nations. Did he know what he was asking of us?

Go.

Feeling ready to Go and tell?

There is this story in Acts, not too long after the Resurrection, the disciples have listened to Jesus and they go and they are telling and they get thrown in prison. But then they are freed by an angel, and do you want to guess what the angel said? It wasn't hide from the Jews and Romans "Go, stand in the temple and tell the people? Go and Tell

We're feeling a little more confident now that maybe we aren't going to be thrown in prison.

So right now I can hear all of you thinking, that's right I can hear it, you are all thinking Go and tell, great Easter message, I really hope that person in front of me hears it and go out and does it and just tells everybody. And to you I say don't worry they probably will. But also, just for you, I'll offer this word for St Francis of Assisi

"Share the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words!"

Now this is in no way letting us off the hook, Jesus told those first witnesses GO and TELL. Jesus is telling us to go and tell. It's time to obey. But if you're not the person who can or wants to go and directly go and tell, what about Go and invite, Go and share, go and give, Go and Show.

Because we are always left with this image of the garden and the empty tomb Easter; Jesus is alive but still tells Mary and Martha to go and tell the disciples instead of going himself. Now we are now Mary and Martha.

It's not Jesus Himself that goes out into the world and telling everybody, look who's back! Look who you killed and is back. Don't you have egg on your face? But it's ok because I'll forgive you! If he did that we would just try to kill him again. The resurrection changes how we look at everything and it is scary, it is dangerous, and it flips everything understand on its head.

It's not enough to just Go and Tell. We also must Go and Do. That is the implicit imperative in in these words. **To tell is also to do.** Mary and Martha where going to have to do more then just meekly share this good news. They were going to have to look those doubting disciples right in the eye grab them by their cloaks and make sure they understood. Christ is risen! And after they did, they also were told to Go and Tell, and Go And Do. The disciples went and did exactly that. They didn't just tell the good news, they lived the good news. They taught, they healed, they fed. The church and all of Christianity has done that for thousands of years and now that calling is laid before us.

Jesus Said "Go and do Likewise" in the parable of the Good Samaritan – Go and show love, mercy kindness, to those who are different than you and those whom your hate. And we are told explicitly. Go and do likewise.

There is this belief that we and all Christians all over the world hold dear: It's that the Holy Spirit is alive and moving in this world. Moving and opening up these possibilities for us to go and Tell, Go and Do. The Holy Spirit is acting as this point of connection between us all. And it will be scary when you start to recognize it at work.

So now Go and Tell of this amazing news of reality changing new life that we know now because our Lord died and was raised for us. Go and Do these things that have been set before us so that others may know.

Empowered by Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, We Now **Go and Tell**. Amen