

Sermon Mark 5 19 Easter Sunday 2012

Sermon: Easter Sunday

Text: Mark 5:19: “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” (Watchword 2012)

Theme: Go... and tell!

Goal: The Easter news has to be shared!

Dear Friends,

Introduction: St. Thomas Watchword for this year matches several Easter records: GO... AND TELL! The news about the living Christ and the blessings He brings through His resurrection cannot be hidden! It is very good news that has to be shared with as many people as possible! It cannot remain inside the tomb of our hearts, but they have to break out, like Jesus came out of the tomb when the stone was removed by the angel. It has to come to light! This is Easter! Jesus lives!

I – The first Easter news

A) The first ones who shared the Good News about the resurrection of Christ were angels. Angels are God's messengers. As they were sent by God to announce the birth of God's Son to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem, now they are sent to the faithful women who wanted to honor the dead body of Jesus, to announce them that Jesus didn't remain in the tomb, but was resurrected and is alive! The angels came down from heaven to proclaim the Good News!

But this is not all: The angels said to the women: GO and TELL His disciples and Peter that Jesus has risen from the dead (Mark 16:7). The women couldn't hold the good news to themselves only. They had to share it with the disciples, who were sad and worried because of the death of Christ.

B) As the women hurried away from the tomb afraid and filled with joy to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus Himself appeared to them! God didn't want any doubt about Jesus' resurrection. After greeting the women, Jesus gave them the same commandment that the angels had given: GO and TELL my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me. (Matthew 28:10).

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene as well. And He gave her the same order: GO to my brothers and TELL them that I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (John 20:17).

The disciples couldn't believe the report of the women. They even didn't believe the report of the two that had seen Jesus on the way to Emmaus (Mark 16:11,13).

Then Jesus appeared personally to the disciples on Easter evening. There was no doubt any more. Jesus is alive! And among several teachings and warning, Jesus said to them again: GO and TELL, and promised His Holy Spirit to be with them as they go to spread the Good News of His resurrection.

C) The disciples began to accomplish their task telling Thomas that Jesus was alive. "We have seen the Lord!" they shared with Thomas. Thomas had missed the meeting on Easter Sunday evening. Jesus was gracious to him and reappeared on the next Sunday evening again. Thomas recognized that the living Jesus was his Saviour and his God. - Tradition tells us that St. Thomas went to India to share the Good News of the resurrected Jesus.

D) Finally Jesus appeared to the disciples in Galilee. And there He gave them the Great Commission officially: GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them.. and teaching them...

## II – Easter every day

Thanks God that the women and the disciples obeyed the commandment they had received from Jesus. They WENT and TOLD everybody that the crucified Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the world; and that He rose again from the dead and is alive! Easter was the first Christian festival celebrated from the very beginning of Christianity. Jesus is alive! He is among us! He brings the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation to all who believe in Him!

Pastor Fischer, our guest preacher last Sunday, said several times in his sermon: *The resurrection of Christ is not just an event that happened 2000 years ago. It happens daily in our life.* The new life that God gives us by faith in Jesus is refreshed daily by the forgiveness of our sins and by the hope of eternal life. We walk lifting our eyes to God promises in the resurrected Jesus. He gives hope to our lives in our distresses and sorrows. Suffering will not be for ever for those who believe in Jesus. God promises to wipe every tear from our eyes (Rev 21:4).

Now *we* are on the line to GO and TELL, like our forefathers and forepastors did to us. The first ones that we want to take with us to heaven by God's grace are our beloved ones. Therefore our Watchword for this year: “GO home to your family and TELL them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Our brother Buks wrote a nice testimony about the teaching opportunity we have at home with our children. We shared it in our Newsletter. And at our last Bible Study we realized that the Psalm 22:30 says (The Living Bible translation): "Our children too shall serve Him for they shall hear *from us* about the wonders of the Lord". Dennis shared this verse with Buks.

I'm happy to see the concerns of parents and grandparents to bring your children to the church and to the Sunday School. This is our first

mission. We don't need to be missionaries overseas; we have to begin inside our homes. “GO home to your family and TELL them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

Conclusion: I know that it was not easy for the disciples to believe the women, the first witnesses, who had seen Jesus. I know that it was not easy for Thomas to believe the witness of the disciples who had seen Jesus. I know that it is not easy for some of our beloved ones to believe the witness we give them at home. How many Thomases do we have in our family and around us?... But God is still gracious and calls people to faith in Jesus and into His Kingdom. GO and TELL is what we can do. God does His work of salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is our hope in the resurrected Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Pastor Carlos Walter Winterle  
Cape Town, 08 April 2012