

Pastor Keith E. Wiens

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Text: Matthew 28:1-10

The Resurrection of our Lord

THERE'S MORE TO COME

He did it! Jesus broke through the barrier of death. He died and was buried and then he burst open the grave and stepped out of it, alive and well. And he said, "I did it for you!"

Yes, he did it for you! He smashed through every obstacle that prevents you from having a great relationship with God. He tore down every barrier that separates you from God and the blessings of God. He has opened up the future for you. He makes it possible for you to have a new life. He did it for you and he did it for the whole world.

But that's not all. There's more! What's going on in your life right now? What are you dealing with? Are you facing a difficult challenge? *"With God, all things are possible,"* says the Risen Jesus. (Matthew 19:26) Not sure what to do? *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life,"* says the Risen Jesus. (John 14:6) Feeling overwhelmed? *"Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world,"* says the Risen Jesus. (John 16:33) Are you feeling guilty? *"Take heart,"* says the Risen Jesus, *"your sins are forgiven."* (Matthew 9:2) Are you worried about the future? *"Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me,"* says the Risen Jesus. (John 14:1) Are you mourning the death of a loved one? *"I am the resurrection and the life,"* says the Risen Jesus. (John 11:25)

Jesus is alive and well and he is here for you - today, tomorrow, when you die, for all eternity. Nothing separates you from the love of God! He did it!

And there's more! There's more to the Easter story.

Can you imagine the disciples talking on Easter morning and saying to one another, "Wow! This is good. Jesus is alive. The terrible ordeal of the trial and crucifixion is behind us. Now we can sit back, relax and take it easy." The disciples may have had thoughts like that.

Certainly such thoughts cross our minds. "We made it to Easter. We've gone to church. Now we can sit back, relax, and take it easy."

But what did Jesus say to the disciples? "Go!" he said. No time to sit back and relax. "Go!" said Jesus. No time to take it easy. "Go!" said Jesus. Go, tell the others!

And in Matthew's gospel, just eight verses after the Easter story, we have the Great Commission. "Go!" said Jesus. "Go, make disciples of all nations!"

There are people all around us who are struggling. There are people who wonder if anyone cares. There are people who have lost hope. There are people who are worried about the economy. There are people who have lost jobs. There are people who are hungry. There are people who need health care. There are soldiers and their families who are making huge sacrifices for their country. There are students who are fearful of the future. "Go!" says Jesus. Go to them!

There are people all around us who need to hear the Easter message. There are people who need to hear that death does not have the last word. There are people who need to hear that there is help for them as they face the difficulties of life. There are people who need to hear that a new life is possible. There are people who need the assurance that God is for them, that God loves them, that God will come to their aid. "Go!" says Jesus. Go to them!

There are people who need you. They need you because you are light in their darkness. They need you because you are salt for their tasteless world. They need you because you are hope in the midst of their troubles. "Go!" says Jesus. Go to them!

Reach out to your friends and neighbors, to your co-workers and dorm mates. Reach out to the poor and needy, to the lost and lonely, to the sick and dying. Reach out to them. Care for them. Encourage them. Help them. Share the good news that Christ is alive and well, that he loves them, that he is with them, and that he will be their Savior. "Go!" says Jesus. Go to them!

Easter declares there is more to come. Troubles and problems are not the end. Doubt and despair will not prevail. Division and destruction do not spell the end for this world. Abuse and violence will not have the final word. Illness and death are not the end. There is more to come.

We can dare to believe that there are better days ahead. There is hope for the future. A new life is possible. A new heart is possible. A new spirit is possible. There is more to come. Yes, Easter declares there is more to come. So, go!

Go, share the good news. Go, make disciples. Go, care for the people around you. Go, serve those in need. Go, says Jesus.

Go! Because Easter is only the beginning!