

GO, TELL PETER

(Mark 16: 1-8)

Intro: "He has been raised."
- "He is not here."
- "Go, tell his disciples and Peter."
 # "That he is going ahead of you into Galilee."
 * Mark 16: 6-7.
- "Go, tell Peter."

The Easter story is recorded in all four gospels.

- Matthew.
- Mark.
- Luke.
- John.

Only Mark's gospel makes special mention of Peter.

- "Go, tell his disciples and Peter."
 # Mark 16: 7.

I. Why Does Peter Get Special Mention?

A. Could It Be?

1. Peter was a special person.
 - a. Sure he was.
 - b. Peter was one of Jesus' inner circle of disciples.
 - Along with:
 - # James.
 - # John.
 - Although James and John don't get special mention here.
2. Peter had a special relationship with Mark.
 - a. Or with whoever wrote the second gospel.
 - b. Sure he did.
 - Or so tradition tells us.
 - # Mark wrote what he (or she) had learned from Peter.
 - * Writing:
 - + After Peter was dead.
 - + While he was still alive.
 - = Tradition grew over the years.

3. Peter needed to hear the good news of resurrection more than anyone else.
 - a. All of the disciples had run away.
 - After Jesus was arrested.
 - Mark 14:50.
 - b. Judas had betrayed him.
 - Then:
 - #Showing remorse.
 - #Attempting to return the money.
 - #Hanging himself.
 - *According to Matthew's account.
 - +Matthew 27:3-10.
 - Or not.
 - #Taking the money.
 - #Buying a field.
 - #Falling to his death.
 - *According to Luke's account.
 - +Acts 1:15-20.
 - But Mark makes no further mention of Judas.
 - #After Judas sold out Jesus.
 - #Judas is simply gone.
 - *Gone from the scene.
 - *Gone from the story.
 - +Dead. +Alive.
 - c. Peter had denied Jesus.
 - After having insisted.
 - #He would go to jail first.
 - #He would die first.
 - *Luke 22:33. *Mark 14:31.
 - Peter denied Jesus.
 - #Not once.
 - #But three times.
 - *Before the cock crowed twice.
 - +Mark 14:72.
 - *Before the night was over.
 - *Before the sun came up.
 - Who needed to hear the Easter message more than Peter?
 - #So the messenger at the tomb said to the women:
 - *"He has been raised."
 - *"He is not here."
 - *"Go, tell his disciples."
 - *"Go, tell Peter."
 - +Mark 16:6-7.
 - #Peter had struck out.
 - *Peter would get to bat again.

- B. Peter Told Cornelius.
1. Our first reading.
 - a. Acts 10: 34-43.
 - b. Sermon or speech given by Peter.
 2. Following:
 - a. Dream.
 - b. Vision.
 - Peter saw a large sheet.
 - #Descending from heaven.
 - #Filled with all kinds of animals.
 - *Clean.
 - *Unclean.
 - Peter heard a voice:
 - #“Peter, rise, kill and eat.”
 - Peter said:
 - #“No way!”
 - #“God forbid.”
 - #“I have never eaten anything unclean.”
 - Voice said:
 - #“Don’t consider anything that God has made unclean.”
 - Three times the vision was repeated.
 - #Acts 10: 9-16.
 3. Then there was a knock on Peter’s door.
 - a. Three messengers from Cornelius.
 - Centurion in the Italian Regiment.
 - Foreigner.
 - Gentile.
 - b. Inviting Peter:
 - To come to Ceasarea.
 - To meet with Cornelius.
 - c. Peter went.
 - To this foreigner.
 - To this Gentile.
 - To this commander of the Roman occupation troops.
 - #Troops who on another day.
 - *Had carried out the execution of Jesus.
 4. After his visit with Cornelius, Peter launched into this sermon.
 - a. “Now I get it.”
 - b. “Vision wasn’t simply about clean and unclean animals.”
 - c. “It was also about clean and unclean people.”
 - d. “There is no distinction in God’s eyes.”
 - e. “There should be no distinction in our eyes.”
 - g. “Jesus was crucified and raised for all.”
 - f. “Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.”

5. Go, tell Peter.
 - a. Peter needs to hear.
 - b. So does Cornelius.
 - “He has been raised.”
 - “He is not here.”
 - “He is going before you.”

II. Maybe You Are Peter This Morning.

A. Maybe You Are Feeling:

1. Guilt.
2. Shame.
3. Grief.
4. Loneliness.
5. Fear.
6. Pain.
 - a. Body.
 - b. Mind.
 - c. Spirit.

B. Then I Am Here To Tell You:

1. “He has been raised.”
2. “He is not here.”
3. “He is going before you.”
4. “You will see him.”
 - a. In the midst of your:
 - Guilt.
 - Shame.
 - Grief.
 - Loneliness.
 - Fear.
 - Pain.
 - b. You are not alone.
 - God who brings:
 - #Life out of death.
 - #Resurrection out of crucifixion.
 - Is with you.
 - #In water and word.
 - #In bread and wine.
 - #In the hearts and hands.
 - *Of fellow disciples.
 - *Of sisters and brothers in Christ.
5. If you are Peter, I am here to tell you.

III. Who Is Peter For You?

A. Who Needs To Hear The Good News Of Easter From You?

1. What one person needs to hear?
 - a. Message of:
 - Faith.
 - Hope.
 - Love.
 - b. From you.
2. Don't:
 - a. Tell the world.
 - b. Make disciples of all nations.
 - That's another lesson.
 - For another day.
3. Who is Peter for you?
 - a. Who needs to hear from you?
 - If not today.
 - This week.
 - b. You know who that person is.
 - c. You know a Peter.

B. Go, Tell Peter.

1. That's where fear can get in the way.
 - a. We become like the women in Mark's gospel.
 - “They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”
 - b. What are we afraid of?
 - That we won't be welcomed.
 - That we won't know what to say.
 - That our words won't be understood.
2. We don't seem to have any trouble sharing other good news.
 - a. Good movie.
 - b. Good restaurant.
 - c. Good museum.
 - d. Good vacation spot.
3. But when it comes to sharing THE GOOD NEWS, we can become fearful.
 - a. That's why you were given a palm cross this morning.
 - It's not:
 - #To decorate your wall.
 - #To clutter a drawer.
 - It's to give to Peter.
 - #It's a way of saying:
 - *“I've been thinking about you.”
 - *“I'm going to keep you in my prayers.”

- b. Maybe we just need to practice.
 - When I studied Greek.
 - #I learned to read.
 - #I learned to translate.
 - #But I never learned to speak.
 - *We never practiced conversational Greek.
 - When I studied Hebrew.
 - #One day a week was spent on conversational Hebrew.
 - *I learned to speak.
 - +Because I practiced.
 - c. Maybe we need some Book of Faith resources.
 - Not just to help us understand the Scriptures.
 - But to help us tell the good news of the Scriptures.
 - #So that we can "Go, tell Peter."
- C. Maybe We Simply Learn To Be The Good News.
- 1. When I was in graduate school.
 - a. At Luther Seminary.
 - In St. Paul, Minnesota.
 - b. I studied under Professor Bill Hulme.
 - Who wrote more books.
 - #Than some people have read.
 - But one of my favorites was a little book.
 - #Two Ways of Caring.
 - My favorite quote:
 - #"Help me with my frustrations as I see them."
 - *"And I will listen to your good news."
 - #"For in helping me where I feel my hurt,"
 - *"You have already begun to be good news."
 - +Page 104.
 - 2. Let me tell you a story about "being the good news."
 - a. College student.
 - Nick was his name.
 - #Very bright.
 - #But his appearance was something else.
 - *Wild, unkempt hair.
 - *Ratty T-shirt.
 - *Jeans with holes in the knees.
 - *No shoes.
 - b. Across the street from the campus was a church.
 - Very staid.
 - Its members always well-dressed.
 - Wanted to reach out to the campus community.
 - #But wasn't sure how to do it.

Concl: You have perhaps heard the chant at athletic events:
-We're #1.
-We're #1.

We're going to make our own Easter chant:
-Go, tell Peter.
-Go, tell Peter.
-Go, tell Peter.
-Go, tell Peter.
-Go, tell Peter.

