



April 5, Easter Sunrise

Matthew 28:1-10

THE GOOD NEWS: JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE

It starts at dawn after grief, after silence, after loss.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb, not expecting a miracle, but simply being faithful. And that matters, because sometimes God meets us not in certainty, but in simple faithfulness.

On their way to the tomb, suddenly everything changes. The earth shakes, an angel appears, and the stone is rolled away. What was sealed by human hands is undone by divine power.

The first message the women hear from the Angel is this: "Do not be afraid."

I don't know what you may be going through today, but God does. Today is a celebration in the Christian world. Back in East Africa, many people, especially the wealthy ones, prepare big parties and invite others to their homes. However, I know that back in the village where I come from, some people are worried about whether they will have enough to eat after the service. Some are wondering if they will have anything at all. And here we are, blessed, some of us worried about being late in church, because we are excited and ready to celebrate.

I don't say this to make anyone feel sad, but just to remind all of us, while we are celebrating, others are carrying heavy burdens. Some are worried about their health. Some are grieving the loss of someone they love. We all know what is happening around the world.

These are all real worries. Different, yes, but real. And into every one of those situations, God speaks the same word: In Isaiah 41:10, God says, "Do not fear, for I am with you." That same message still speaks to us today. In uncertainty, in loss, in confusion, God says, "Do not fear, for I am with you."

Then comes the declaration that changed the history of the entire world and everything: the Angel said to the women, "He is not here; He has risen." This announcement changed the history of the world, and it is the foundation of our faith. As 1 Corinthians 15:20 says, Christ is risen, the first fruits of those who have died. Because He lives, we know that death is not the end. How many of us believe in resurrection? My grandpa accepted Christ after he was told that "there is life after death". "Death is not the end."

Siblings in Christ, there is life after death.

Then the angel gives a calling: He said to the women, "Come and see; then go and tell."

That is the rhythm of our lives as Christians. When we encounter Jesus Christ, we don't keep Him to ourselves; but we share Him.

Why do we share this good news?

Romans 10:14 reminds us that people cannot believe unless they hear, and they cannot hear unless someone tells them. Someone once told us about Christ. That's why we are here today. And now, it is our turn. Matthew tells us the women were filled with fear and great joy as they ran to tell the disciples. That's what happens when we encounter God; there is awe, and there is overwhelming joy. A joy beyond words.

And then, Jesus meets them on the way. They did not find Him by staying at the tomb. They found Him as they obeyed. They fall at His feet and worship Him. And once again, Jesus says to them: “Do not be afraid... go and tell.”

So here is the question for us today: Are we still standing at the tomb, focused on what is gone?
Or are we walking in resurrection, sharing what God has done?

We must leave the tomb, because Jesus is no longer there, and He still meets us today.
He still replaces fear with joy.

And notice this: He calls His disciples siblings. He says, “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The same Jesus—our Lord and Savior—still calls us brothers and sisters. He calls us siblings.
Go and tell. Proclaim the good news. Tell the world that Jesus Christ is risen.

Christ is risen... He is risen indeed.

Amen.

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