

Adult Bible Studies

Current Events Supplement April 21, 2019

Called to Proclaim the Resurrection Matthew 28:1-15

A young Jewish student asked ordained Presbyterian Alfred Ackley, "Why should I worship a dead Jew?" Ackley responded, "He lives! I tell you, He is not dead, but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands." Ackley put his proclamation of the Resurrection and the risen Lord to poetry and music when he wrote the Easter hymn "He Lives."¹

Because the risen Jesus told the women at the tomb to go and tell the disciples what they had heard and seen, the student book author writes, "The good news of the Resurrection must be told."² What if the women never told the disciples what they had experienced? What if the disciples who saw the risen Jesus never told anyone else what they had witnessed? The good news of Jesus Christ is only good news to those who hear it if those who believe speak of what they have experienced.

Every believer has a story of faith. Every story of faith includes the good news of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ. Every story of faith includes the risen Lord in some way. You have a story; and your story is unique, which makes your story worthy of being told. Not all of us can write poetry and pen music. Not all of us will have our story sung by millions on Easter Sunday. But each of us has a story, and Jesus says to us as he said to the women, "Go and tell."

1. How does the hymn "He Lives" capture some of your experience with the living Lord?
2. Why must today's disciples tell what they have experienced and witnessed?
3. Why is your story of faith worthy of being told?

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¹From "History of Hymns: 'He Lives'," by C. Michael Hawn, Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church (umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-he-lives).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Spring 2019, by Taylor Mills (Cokesbury, 2018); page 58.

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