INTRODUCTION:
A. Some things do not need to be repeated.
   1. You may hear some juicy tidbit of gossip about someone and feel the urge to tell it
to someone but it really does no need to be repeated – especially if it has not
been validated.
   2. You may hear a criticism of another person but that doesn't mean you should
repeat it.
   3. A writer unknown to me wrote the following. “Who am I? I have no respect for
justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cruel and malicious
and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed. I
flourish at every level of society. My victims are helpless. They cannot protect
themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is
impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. I'm nobody's friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments and ruin
marriages. I destroy careers and cause heartache and sleepless nights. I wreck
churches and separate Christians. I spawn suspicion and generate grief, make
innocent people cry on their pillows. Even my name hisses. I am gossip.”
   4. Proverbs 18:8 states, “The words of a gossip are like choice morsels;
they go down to the inmost parts.”
B. My message tonight is not about gossip. I use that illustration in an antithetical way.
   In sharp contrast to gossip and other things we should not repeat there are messages
that are absolutely worthy of repeating.
   1. Messages that bring joy are worth repeating. When Jesus was born the angelic
host proclaimed, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the
Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). That was a message worth repeating.
   2. In Acts 15:4 Paul and Barnabas along with others from Antioch came to Jerusalem
to meet with the apostles. They shared everything God had done through them.
They had a message worth repeating.
   3. If you have experienced the birth of a child or a grandchild. If something wonderful
has happened to you. If you have received a clean bill of health following a serious
illness. If a member of your family has received an honor or award. If a soldier has returned home safely. All of these are messages worth repeating.

C. In your estimation, what is the greatest message worth repeating? Would it not be the same message that was shared this morning?
1. The message told by the angel on resurrection morning?
2. He is risen!

D. As we go to the final chapter of Mark’s gospel notice all of the ways in which the message of the resurrection was worth repeating.

I. TO THOSE WHO ARE DISCIPLES
A. In verse 6-7 the women saw a young man dressed in white who told them, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples.”
1. Where were His disciples? What were they doing? What was their frame of mind?
2. According to verse 10 they were mourning and weeping. They had invested themselves in Jesus. They had traveled with Him. They had shared their resources with Him. They had hoped in Him. As the crowds that followed Jesus grew and He performed so many signs and wonders the disciples’ anticipation grew.
3. Suddenly He was gone. Hope was gone. Everything changed. They were discouraged, disheartened and disillusioned.

B. Sometimes we need to repeat the message to people who know Jesus but are facing crisis in their faith.
1. Tonight there are families in Kenya much like your family. Mother, Father, sisters and brothers who are weeping because a young person was killed Thursday they said, “I am a Christian.”
2. There are Christians who are discouraged for a wide variety of reasons. We need to repeat the message to them.
3. When the writer of Hebrews wrote to Christians who were being persecuted, discouraged and tempted to turn away from their faith he sought to encourage them by reminding them of the blessings found in Christ that cannot be found anywhere else.
   a. Heb. 3:12-13 – “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”
   b. Heb. 10:23-24 - “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

C. When Paul wrote to the troubled Corinthian church he reminded them that it was the Gospel that saved them. It wasn’t their adherence to the works of the law or human wisdom. “Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I
preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.  

2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.  

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,  

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Cor. 15:1-3).

D. Song: “I love to tell the story, for those who know it best. Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest; And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.” – Anabella Katherine Hankey (1834-1911). The story of the resurrection is worth repeating to those who are disciples.

II. TO THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED

A. I find it interesting that the instructions to these women in verse 7 was, “Go, tell His disciples . . . and Peter.” Why was Peter singled out?

1. Remember that Peter had disassociated himself from Jesus. He had denied having any relationship with Him.

2. Afterwards he went out and wept because he realized he had denied the best friend he had ever known.

B. John Macefield wrote a poem entitled “The Widow In the Bye Street.” It tells of a poor widow who supported a meager existence through her work as a seamstress.

1. Those she sewed for were better dressed than she was. She had a son who was the only joy in her life.

2. She sacrificed her food so he might eat. “For all went to her son, always the same. He was first served whatever blessing came.”

3. As time passed the innocent son lost his innocence and became a criminal. He was executed by hanging. After the trap door had open and the body dropped the mother who had spent her life mending things wept and spoke of “broken things. Things too broken to mend.”

C. It wasn’t only Peter who had denied Christ. They had all denied Him. All of the apostles had forsaken Jesus. There was not one who stood up and said, “I’ll stand with Him.” All of them fled. None had been faithful.

1. Aren’t you glad that in those days following the resurrection even though Peter had not been faithful to Jesus. Jesus was faithful to Peter.

2. Aren’t you thankful that in those times when we are not faithful to Jesus He remains faithful to us?

3. I find in my own life my careless denials of the Savior.

   a. I deny Him when I selfishly pursue my agenda rather than His.

   b. I deny Him when I allow the cares and pleasures of this life to take precedence over my relationship to God.

   c. I deny Him when I allow selfishness rather than sacrifice to control my behavior.

   d. If the angel had spoken today would he have said, “Go, tell his disciples and
…” put your name there?
D. The resurrection message is a message worth repeating to those who have sinned.

III. TO THOSE WHO ARE SKEPTICS
A. Not only were the disciples bereaved. They were also skeptical.
   1. Verse 11 says, “they did not believe.”
   2. Verse 14 goes on to say that Jesus ate with the apostles and rebuked them because of their lack of faith and stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him.
B. Jesus was not afraid to challenge people’s doubts. There are many who doubt today.
   1. In our age of science and technology many people have doubts about the validity of the Bible. Is it really true? Is it inerrant? Is it in fact inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
   2. What about the problem of pain and suffering? How can a God who is good and loving and all powerful allow so much hurt and trouble and violence in the world? Skeptics see this as a glaring inconsistency in our theology.
C. Whenever the message is repeated it always bears up under scrutiny. In the eighteenth century British empire were two highly esteemed lawyers, Lord Lytton and Gilbert West. Neither of them believed in Christ. They agreed that there were two events in the New Testament that, if disproven, would lead to the collapse of Christianity. The first was the resurrection and the second was the conversion of Saul. They decided that one would write a book disproving one. The other would seek to disprove the other. After months working apart they came back together and both confessed that not only had they been unable to disprove the accounts but they had come to believe them. They both wrote books – West’s, The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and Lytton’s Conversion of Paul.
D. I know a man who spent his career working for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Some people thought the Gospel was worth repeating and shared it with him. He did not believe it. He was a skeptic. He determined to prove that the Bible was full of inconsistencies. As he would read he would write down inconsistencies in a notebook. As he read further he would read something that would explain what he thought had been an inconsistency. By the time he finished he had come to faith. His name was Durley McLarty – the father of Bruce and Karl McLarty.
E. When Paul wrote those in Corinth who doubted the resurrection he said, “Consider the evidence.” In chapter 15:5-8 he wrote, “and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”
F. Even the skeptic when all is considered will many times agree that the resurrection is a message worth repeating.
IV. TO THE WORLD
A. In verses 15-16 Jesus says the Gospel is worthy of repeating to every person in the world. In the words of J.M. McCaleb, “The Gospel Is For All.”
B. What responsibility does this great commission carry?
   1. It carries responsibility for those who are disciples to repeat the message.
      a. In Matthew’s account Jesus said, “Go, teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and, lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:19-20).
      b. Luke records the risen Jesus commanding that “repentance unto the remission of sins should be preached to the whole world beginning at Jerusalem” (Lk. 24:47).
   2. The commission carries responsibility on those who hear it.
      a. The message to be shared is to be believed and obeyed through baptism.
      b. Those who will not believe and obey will be condemned.
C. Is this command still valid?
   1. There are many ways available for us to share the message.
      a. Some have the ability to go to places like Ghana, Cambodia, French speaking Europe and other parts of the world.
      b. Others do a splendid job teaching the gospel from their living room through World Bible School. Several of you are actively involved in this effort.
      c. Others are involved in the ministry at the Nursing Home. Some are involved in the Jail ministry.
   2. There are so many ways for us to fulfill Christ’s command. Why do we make so many excuses?
      a. We are not reluctant to share good news about things important to us?
      b. If your team wins final four tomorrow night you’ll tell everyone you know.
      c. If a new grandbaby is born you’ll carry their picture.
   3. A Savior has died for you. He’s opened the door for you to live eternally.
      Have you told anyone lately?

CONCLUSION:
A. There are many messages you could share with me that would bright happiness and delight. There is only one that can stir my soul and provide me with the information I need to be set free from the bondage of sin and to live eternally. The Gospel of Jesus Christ – the “power of God unto Salvation” (Rom. 1:16).
B. I challenge us to renew our efforts to share the message in our homes, at school, where we work, with our families and friends.