



Title: "Go"

Date: 10.25.09

Series: Matthew

Text: Matthew 28

Synopsis: It's the last two minutes of the game. The season is on the line. The home team is behind and is in the two-minute drill. The visiting team is ahead and is in a prevent defense. The home team quarterback had appeared to have everything in control. His passes were crisp and on target. His audibles were clear and accurate. His clock management was superb.

But now everything seems to have spun out of control. He has been sacked, controlled and contained. Defeat is inevitable. The final whistle blows. The home fans collectively moan their disappointment. The team dejectedly goes into their locker room. The game, and the season, is over.

So it is as Matthew's great gospel draws to a close. Nothing, it seems, goes right. There is no great victory, no great comeback, and no great kingdom. The hero is captured, humiliated and ultimately killed. His followers profoundly disappointed. All is lost.

Or is it? Unlike the football game, what appears to have ended in failure is really the beginning of victory. When Jesus cries, "It is finished!" his mission is complete. The Law is satisfied. The Prophecies are fulfilled. The Kingdom has come.

But most people didn't see it. They just saw failure. They just saw loss. They just left that stadium. But the few that did see were left shouting, "Hey, don't leave. We didn't really lose. We just didn't understand victory." Do you understand victory?