

Who are You in the Story?

Easter Sunday - 2019 - John 20: 1-9

Easter morning has arrived! You've probably been to Mass, sat down with your family for a wonderful meal, spent time with the kids or grandkids searching for eggs hidden by that cute (but sneaky) Easter Bunny. The question I have for you today (as well as for myself) is: Who are you in the story? Who are you in the story of Easter?

Are you Mary of Magdala who comes to the tomb early in the morning before the light of day to find that the tomb had been opened? Are you Simon Peter who hears Mary's message **"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."**? And with that message ringing in your ears, do you, like Peter, run with all your hope to the grave only to find it vacant? Or are you the other disciple who outruns Peter to be the first to arrive at the tomb to find Jesus gone and the burial cloths still there?

Scripture scholars tell us that each of these characters provides us insight into the resurrection story and the call of each disciple to believe in the Risen Christ. Mary's initial reaction is disbelief. It will take her more time and a different encounter to believe. Peter comes to the tomb with hope but he is bewildered with what he does not find. The other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, arrives at the same empty tomb. He encounters the same burial cloths that are rolled up and left behind. With little evidence this disciple **"saw and believed."**

So as you gather with family to celebrate this most important day in the Christian faith, take time to reflect on who you are in the story. Are you the one filled with doubt, the one standing at the empty tomb baffled by what is not there? Or are you the one that sees (the empty tomb) and believes?

Happy Easter!


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