

Easter Day

20 1-2 Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

3-10 Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

11-13 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

13-14 "They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

15 Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

16 Jesus said, "Mary."

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "*Rabboni!*" meaning "Teacher!"

17 Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

John 20. 1-18 from The Message

Have you ever been surprised?

How did you feel?

How do you think those three followers of Jesus responded to their discovery?

What challenge does Jesus give us in this passage?

How will you respond?

What picture of Jesus are you seeing in this reading?

You may want to write your thoughts about this down. It is called journal-ing and it is very 'in' at the moment; or you may well not. Either is fine, after all this is your journey.

There are other readings set for today if you want to read some more.
Jeremiah 31.1-6: Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24: Colossians 3.1-4.

A Prayer

It is not a race,
though we sometimes behave as if it is.

You make yourself known in different ways,
to different people, at different times.

Some have a confidence, a certainty,
which prompts them to jump straight in
and race to you,
never really looking back.

Bless them for their faith.

Some run ahead
with eagerness and passion,
but hesitate
when the realities of life loom real and large.

Bless them for their faith.

Some are overwhelmed -
wanting, needing and yearning for you -
not sure what to think,
how to make sense,
what to dare believe.

Bless them for their faith.

Whatever our path or experience
you call us all to you,
and give us each a message
to share with different people
in different ways.

It is a journey, not a race,
and we bless you for the gift of faith.

Karen Campbell

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