Jesus is Risen, Alive, at Work in Our Lives

The story of Jesus rising from the dead to new life is told in different ways by the four gospel writers. Matthew (28:1–8), Mark (16:1–8, 9–19), Luke (24:1–12), and John (20:1–13) each proclaim the wonderful news in their own personal and individual way. Mark’s gospel even includes a brief retelling of the story, presumed to have been written years later by early Christians, to emphasize the importance of what had taken place.

But one of the similarities in all four gospels, including the later addition to Mark’s gospel, is Mary Magdalene a faithful follower of Jesus. Each story describes Mary overwhelmed with sadness, coming first to the tomb early in the morning. As readers today, we might explain, that Mary was not able to sleep. Mary was just getting an early start. Maybe, Mary was a morning person. Perhaps she preferred to work alone.

But Mary’s early appearance is not by chance. Because of her faithfulness, Mary went to the tomb alone. Because of Mary’s faithfulness, Jesus called her by name and gave her the responsibility to bring the good news of His resurrection to the other disciples.

It is unlikely that Mary Magdalene saw herself as an essential voice in making known the resurrection of Jesus. She saw herself as a faithful follower, a loyal friend. But Mary, distraught and afraid, going early to the tomb showed that the words, ministry, passion, and death of Jesus confirmed who He was and what He had done. His resurrection showed Mary then and us today how essential we are in continuing His ministry.

When asked, each of us can retell the Easter story but not as an event in history or as a piece of biblical literature. Like Mary, our purpose is to show the affect Jesus has on our lives and how He continues to be alive and at work in and throughout us. While people everywhere are distraught, afraid, and overwhelmed with sadness because of the Coronavirus, we, like Mary Magdalene, share the good news—Jesus is risen, alive, at work in our lives.

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

Fr. Bob Kelly, OP

UPDATES ON COVID-19

MANY MINISTRIES, ONE PURPOSE
TO SERVE ALL PEOPLE

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