

The Drama of Easter

From the heart stopping roar of John the Baptist's REPENT! to Marcus the Soldier's quiet confession from the foot of the cross, the drama of God's work in Jesus Christ played out before us this Lent. Now we have arrived to the end of the story, to Easter. It's time to rest and recharge, to look forward to summer and the lazy hazy days of ordinary time (aka the Season after Pentecost).

Or is it? It's said that one learns more by teaching than being a student and I see the truth of that statement more and more each day. A few weeks ago, I was teaching the catechism students about Peter and the Early Church. One of the suggestions from the Faith Inkubators curriculum was to concentrate on the words, "and Peter." Why? Because Peter bailed, Peter let Jesus down at his lowest hour. Peter denied Jesus three times; said he didn't even know the man. Yet, when Jesus told the women at the tomb to go and tell he said to tell the disciples *and Peter*.

The drama of Lent and Easter has come and gone but we too are commanded to go and tell the disciples and Peter. To go and remind those who already know the story and have stuck with Jesus about his love and grace. AND to go and tell the Peters of the world who have bailed out, who left when the going got tough and remind them to that the Easter message is for them.

Maybe you have heard about "The Blasphemy Challenge." A group of atheists in the Philadelphia area have challenged people, especially young people to deny that God exists and upload their denials to YouTube. They think that denying God is to commit an unpardonable sin. I guess atheists don't read the Bible. Because if they did, they would see that Jesus said go and tell the disciples AND PETER (that no good, denying, can't get it right rock head) that I'm alive, I'm God, and I'm here for him, for you, and all people (even those who deny him).

Pastor Matt