

There are three people mentioned in this part of John's story of the resurrection: Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They each had three different experiences of the empty tomb. Mary only saw the outside of the tomb. She took one look, saw the stone had been removed, and ran to tell the others. She actually jumped to conclusions about what happened. She immediately thought someone took Jesus' body. It is not until later when Jesus appears to her that she learns the truth.

When the disciple whom Jesus loved reached the empty tomb before Simon Peter, he just looks in. He doesn't go in, not yet. He sees the linen wrappings, but from the outside viewpoint. Perhaps he was too fearful to go all the way in. He doesn't enter the tomb until Simon Peter arrives, and they enter it together.

Simon Peter enters the empty tomb as soon as he arrives. No hesitation. He goes straight in. When the other disciple joins him, it is then that he believes. He doesn't quite understand it all, but he believes.

It seems as if once the disciples found what they were looking for, they returned to the place they were staying. Mary Magdalene wasn't quite satisfied, so she lingered a little longer at the tomb.

Three different experiences from three different people, yet they all respond in the same way when they first hear the news. They ran. Mary ran to tell the others. Simon Peter and the other disciple ran together until one out ran the other. When they heard the news, there was an urgency that compelled them to run.

This reminds me of the preschool children who come upstairs to the sanctuary for Chapel Time. I'm always announcing,

"Walking Feet" as they come through the doors. They are just so excited to be in the sanctuary, because it's new, it's different, that they are running to get there. They can't contain their excitement. Children often run because they are so full of life and excitement. They sense the urgency to get there faster, that it often overtakes them, and they can't control their feet.

I personally don't run. I know a lot of people get satisfaction from running, but I am not one of those people. I like a good walk, but not a run. I always joke that I'm saving my running for the zombie apocalypse, which I know will never happen. I just prefer my chill, "walking feet." However, when I truly experienced the empty tomb, the power of Christ, living within and around me, I felt the urgency too. I could not contain my "walking feet" and was compelled to run to Christ. (albeit metaphorically)

I was like the disciple whom Jesus loved. I did not fully understand it at the time, but I was compelled to believe, to take action. I sensed the urgency that they all felt in this story. My time of waiting and thinking and debating were over. My longing overpowered my thinking. I was compelled to replace my "walking feet" with "running feet."

I have been running to Christ ever since. I may not have the best time as many avid runners, but I am still in the marathon at a good, steady pace. I'm not outrunning others, like the other disciple, but I strive to be like Simon Peter -- to go all in without hesitation.

On this Easter morning, Christ is calling to us beyond the tomb. The Risen Christ beckons us to come. Run, don't walk, to Christ. Feel the urgency that we

Run, Don't Walk
John 20:1-10
Rev. Kristie Grimaud
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can't put this off any longer. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us run to the empty tomb and receive the Risen Lord.