



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

An Easter Story

Based on John 20:1-18

Narrator: *Mattias (Offstage)*

Mother: *Kelly (Apron)*

Father: *Austin (Coat, Paper)*

Aunt Clara: *Alleah (Bunny)*

Ralphie: *Michael (Hat, Basket)*

Randy: *Toby (Hat, Basket)*

Setting: *Parody of "A Christmas Story." Mother (apron) sets table, father reads newspaper, two brothers running around collecting eggs.*

Narrator: **It was an Easter to remember. Every Christian can identify an Easter when they first became aware of exactly what it's all about. Mine was 1960. I was about 10 years old. My little brother Randy was about 5. We'd just arrived home from the Easter church service. Mom prepared an Easter Lunch, Dad read the paper, I methodically uncovered the location of the hidden Easter eggs, and my little brother, Randy, did what he did best...annoy me.**

Randy: *(Randy & Ralphie fighting over an egg.) That's my egg! I saw it first! That's my egg!*

Mother: **Ralphie, you're letting Randy have some of the eggs too, aren't you?**

Narrator: **Let him have it? I'll let him have it all right. It was just another typical little brother episode. Now I'd found probably 95 percent of the**

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eggs—fair and square—only to have my little brother, the pirate, rob me of all my chocolate booty. While my basket had a grand total of 3 eggs, my little brother could have supplied candy to the entire Fanny Farmer Chocolate conglomerate.

- Ralphie:** *(Gives in.)* Okay, here, you have the egg.
- Randy:** Another egg. Oh boy, oh boy! Mom, I found another egg! *(Boys sit at table and paw through their baskets.)*
- Mother:** Now don't you boys go eating any of that chocolate before lunch. Why I read in "Good Housekeeping" that if we keep going the way we are, childhood obesity is going to be a big problem someday.
- Father:** Obesity? What do they know about kids? You can't put weight on 'em fast enough.
- Mother:** They say kids are staying inside too much, exercising less and eating more of the wrong things.
- Father:** Nonsense! Are they gonna' outlaw baseballs, footballs, and basketballs in the future. You show me a kid who would stay inside when he could be out playing ball.
- Mother:** They say that someday kids will just sit at desks and stare at TVs all day?
- Father:** Now what would a kid do with a television on his desk? Change the channels, adjust the volume, adjust the horizontal and vertical controls? No, that'll never happen.
- Narrator:** My old man never did have gift for predicting the future, and he certainly wouldn't have seen or understood the electronic age with computers and video games.

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Mother: Well anyway, I've got a pork roast in the oven, and I don't want you boys (*looks sternly at father*)— BIG or small--filling yourselves up with that junk before Aunt Clara gets here.

Narrator: Aunt Clara! My Aunt Clara came over every Easter dressed in a mouse outfit that she insisted was an Easter bunny costume. Why'd she do that, you ask? Because my family just wasn't weird enough.

Mother: (*Sits down at table.*) So what did you get from the church service this morning, Ralphie?

Ralphie: I don't get it. The three people that ran to the grave.

Mother: Oh, in the Gospel text? John, Peter, and Mary Magdalene.

Ralphie: Yeah. What were they looking for?

Mother: Randy, what do you think they were looking for?

Randy: Chocolate Eggs! Chocolate Eggs!

Father: (*Looks from behind newspaper and laughs*). Hmm, maybe that magazine you were reading did know something about kids.

Mother: They were looking for Jesus.

Father: Ralphie, your Mother's right. (*Puts the paper down.*) But you know what I noticed today in that story?

Ralphie: That John was faster than Peter, just like I'm faster than Randy?

Randy: Am not!

Ralphie: Am so!

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- Randy:** Am not!
- Father:** Yeah, I guess John was a shortstop and Peter was more of a first baseman. Those disciples reacted to the Easter story the same way people react today. First they heard it. Mary told Peter & John. Then, they ran to find out more.
- Mother:** Yes, and then there were three different levels of understanding. John arrived at the grave site first and just stood outside and looked, thinking "this is interesting."
- Father:** That's kind of like the person who hears about the Easter story, but doesn't know what to think.
- Mother:** Second, Peter arrived at the tomb, and took a closer look, actually entering the tomb.
- Father:** Again, that's like the person who takes a closer look at the evidence of the Easter story.
- Mother:** Finally, John came alongside Peter in the tomb, and the scripture tells us he "saw and believed."
- Father:** That's like the person who hears the Easter Story, understands what it means, and then acts on that understanding.
- Ralphie:** He believes! Hmm, that's even better than a chocolate egg.
- Narrator:** Like I said before, my Dad wasn't one that always clearly saw the future, but he did understand a thing or two about human nature. That day...I decided I wanted to have John's reaction to the evidence of the empty tomb. I wanted to not just hear, not just see, but believe.

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(Knock on door.)

Randy: I'll get it. *(Opens door for Aunt Clara.)*

Clara: Happy Easter everyone!

Narrator: That Easter— although much like all the other Easters to most people—was the Easter that I came to understand the importance of the empty tomb. Now I still don't understand everything. I still don't know why my little brother stole my Easter eggs, or why Aunt Clara dressed like the Easter mouse. But I do know my Redeemer lives, and I believe he lives in me.