

"The Bible is full of interesting caricatures." I'm quoting from student bloopers on history papers collected by a teacher in New Hampshire. "In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked, 'Am I my brother's son?' God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought up his 12 sons to be patriarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites. Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada."

It goes on if you want to know more about world history: "The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth. Then came the Middle Ages, when everyone was middle aged. During this time, people put on morality plays about ghosts, goblins, virgins, and other mythical creatures. Another story was about William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head. Benjamin Franklin invented electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, 'A horse divided against itself cannot stand.' Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead."

It's funny when people get the story wrong. But sometimes when you get the story right, people don't believe you. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women learned this the hard way. St. Luke tells the embarrassing truth, "The words of these women seemed to the apostles an idle tale, and they did not believe them." The apostles assumed the message was a blooper. It's funny when the message is wrong, but it hurts when the message is right.

Imagine how God feels when people don't believe the good news, when we doubt God, when we say God doesn't listen to us, when we lose our conviction that God can change things. Sometimes we get God's story wrong. We think Easter is just another piece of history, over and gone. But Easter is not dead. It's living history. Not just in the past, it proclaims God in the present and the future. It announces that God heals the world today and redeems the world tomorrow. You can see it in every baptism; God is at work, calling people, shaping believers, strengthening faith, holding the community, and redeeming the church. The news of Easter is too good to be true; it sounds like a blooper. So we proclaim it again and again. Jesus is risen from the dead! And God is at work in the world! Amen? Amen!