

Very early in the morning one Easter Sunday an old man was driving his 1953 Ford pickup over a hill and down a deserted country road. Suddenly, without warning, a rabbit hopped from the brush into his path, and try as he did to hit the brakes and swerve from the animal, the old man heard a dull thud and his heart sank. He stepped out of the truck, bent over the lifeless form lying in the road, and swallowed hard. "God, help me," he prayed, "I just killed the Easter Bunny." Then from the other side of the road appeared a woman dressed in white, carrying a tall, narrow bottle. Her garments billowed in the breeze as she approached the scene. Kneeling down in the road she lifted the head of the rabbit and poured the contents of the bottle into its mouth. Immediately, the rabbit sprang to life, waved at the old man, ran up the road, turned and waved again, raced to the top of the hill, waved again and disappeared. Bewildered, the old man asked the woman, "What did you have in that bottle?" She replied, "An instant hare restorer with a permanent wave."

Like this old man, we often find ourselves in situations we misunderstand. Sometimes what looks hopeless suddenly springs to new life. It happened to Mary Magdalene on the first Easter. She saw the empty tomb and misunderstood its meaning. She thought thieves had stolen the body; she couldn't have been more wrong. Jesus rose from the dead.

By rising to new life, Jesus put an end to confusion, brought light to darkness, and forever robbed death of its power. It was not death who robbed him, it was he who robbed death. The resurrection of Jesus brings the good news that nothing has power over Christ, the resurrection has once and for all given hope to every bad situation.

If, like Mary Magdalen, you awoke early this morning with any bad news, look again. You have misunderstood. What you saw was an empty tomb. There is no sorrow strong enough to overcome this joyful news: Christ is risen from the dead! Nothing on earth is more powerful than the One who has already conquered death and gives us a share in his life.

Rejoice, then, and believe the good news, Jesus is risen, truly he is risen!