

## I'M IN THE BIBLE!

John 20: 24-30

When I was a kid, my father read the end of John 20 at the dinner table one night for our family devotions. After he read the part about Jesus' telling Thomas that there would be lots of people who would not see him but who would still believe in him anyway, my mother commented, "Jesus means us. He's talking about us. We've never seen him the way the disciples did, but he is our Savior, and we believe in him. Jesus is talking about us."

All these years later, I can still remember marveling a bit over a thought that tantalized my young heart: I am in the Bible! Little Scott Hoezee of Ada, Michigan, is in the Bible!

How cool is that?

A few years later when I ran across that same passage in high school, I realized that my mom might have been guilty of a little rhetorical excess. No, I am not in the Bible. Not specifically, not personally, not really. That's the kind of thing a naïve kid thinks. And when I was a child, I thought like a child and reasoned like a child but now...

Then a few more years passed. I entered Seminary and began to understand a few things about the divine inspiration of Scripture, about how the Word of God is alive, living, vibrant, sharper than a two-edged sword and cutting clean to the bone of those who read that Word. I began to understand that the living God really can and does encounter his people through his Word and that he'd been doing just that to countless millions of people across the millennia. And so when the evangelist John turns to the reader to say, "These are written that *you* may believe," by the Holy Spirit, that is a direct and living address to me as the reader. Maybe all of us are, maybe each of us is, really in the Bible after all. I am in the Bible. This is my story.

And all God's people said, "How cool is that?"

Jesus came into the world so that all people throughout the centuries might come to know the love of God and have life in Jesus' name. As followers of Christ we need to live Jesus' command to make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus came the word made flesh just for you, but we in turn need to share the love of Christ with others. We need to let others know they too are in the Bible. How Cool is that?

God bless,  
Pastor Barbara