



# **Miracle of Easter**

**Matthew 27:50-51, 54-66; John 20:1-9; 3:16**

**"Ahoy, Mumsy! What are you doing?" Pepper squawked as he swooped down over Mumsy's head. Seated on a large, moss covered rock, just a few feet from the crashing waves of the ocean, Mumsy was searching through her enormous, bright pink bag.**

**Mumsy looked up as Pepper settled down on the rock beside her. "Oh, hullo Pepper, I was looking for something that is very valuable to me," she replied with a smile and went back to digging through her bag.**

**Pepper tried to peer over her shoulder into the bag. "Is it gold?" He asked.**

**"Even better, it's a miracle! Ah, here it is!" She said excitedly as she pulled out a bright blue plastic egg and held it up in the sunlight.**

**Pepper looked hard at the egg, trying to figure out why it looked so familiar, yet so different. "What's that?"**

**Mumsy smiled. "It's a miracle!" She exclaimed again.**

**"It's an egg! That *is* a miracle!" Pepper agreed. "I used to live in one of those little things."**

**"Well, this one is very special on the inside! Let me show you!" She began to press on the seam of the plastic egg to pop it open.**

**"No!" Pepper yelled as he tried to snatch the egg from Mumsy with his big beak. "Stop!!! What are you doing? Don't open that! That could be my niece or nephew in there!"**

**Mumsy laughed and covered the egg with the fold of her dress to keep it away from Pepper. "Oh, don't worry, Pepper. This isn't a real egg. It's a miracle egg. Inside this egg are all the miracles of Easter! Look!" Mumsy finished popping the egg open and removed a little silver cross from the egg. She held it up so that Pepper could see it. "See, here is the miracle!"**

**Pepper looked at the cross, but was still confused. "I know what that is, that's a cross. But how is a cross a miracle?"**

**Mumsy explained, "The cross isn't the miracle, but what Jesus did on a cross for us...now that's a miracle! The cross is a symbol of God's forgiveness. You see, Pepper, we all have sin in our life."**

**"I know what sin is! Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes," Pepper replied.**



**Mumsy nodded. "Exactly! Sin isn't allowed into heaven because heaven is a perfect place."**

**"Well, then how do we get there?"**

**"That's where the miracle comes in! Even though Jesus had never sinned, He took the punishment for the sins of the world. Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and erased forever!"**

**"Wow! That *is* a miracle!" Pepper replied as he danced around on the rock. "What else have you got in that egg?" he asked after noticing its large size. The egg surely contained more surprises!**

**Mumsy opened the egg again and pulled out another item. She held it up for Pepper to see. "Well, there's this," she said.**

**"A piece of dark red cloth?" Pepper asked. He wondered how a boring, old piece of ripped cloth could have anything to do with a miracle.**

**Mumsy gave the cloth a little shake and replied, "Not just any cloth. This cloth represents the temple curtain!"**

**"What temple curtain?" Pepper asked. He didn't remember seeing any red curtains on the island. He especially didn't remember any curtains with a section of cloth torn out of them.**

**Mumsy explained, "In Bible times, there was a large thick purple-red curtain in the Jewish temple that separated the people from the holiest room. People weren't allowed to go on the holy side because that was where God stayed."**

**Pepper thought this sounded very strange. How could anyone not be able to be with God? The Bonzai Brothers had taught him that God wanted to spend time with him. "Wait a minute," he said out loud. "You mean the people were separated from God? That's so sad."**

**Mumsy smiled and answered, "Not anymore! At the moment that Jesus died the curtain was torn from the top to the bottom! It was sign showing us that now we can step right into God's presence!"**

**"Wow! It's like God reached down from heaven and tore it Himself! That's a miracle!"**

**Mumsy playfully shook her finger at the pelican. "I told you so!"**

**Pepper was ready to see what else Mumsy had hidden in the egg. "This is fun! What's next, what's next?!"**

**Mumsy pulled a small, tan beach pebble from the egg. "There is this stone," she said as she offered it to Pepper to hold.**

**Pepper rolled the stone around on the top of the rock with one of his webbed feet. The stone clicked against the rock. "Ooh, I know what that stands for! It represents the stone that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb!"**

**"And do you know what happened to that stone?" Mumsy asked.**



**Pepper demonstrated by pushing the stone so that it rolled off of the rock and into the sand. "It was rolled it away, just like that, and the tomb was empty! Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He said He would!"**

**"Just as He said He would!" Mumsy agreed. "He went to take his rightful place as the Lord of heaven! It was a miracle!"**

**"A miracle!" Pepper said in agreement. Then, still curious about the contents of the egg, he asked, "Hey, Mumsy, you got any other miracles in that egg?"**

**Mumsy pulled out a small strip of white cloth. "I do. I've got this."**

**Pepper looked confused. "Another curtain?" He asked.**

**"Oh no. This wasn't a curtain. This white cloth represents the white cloth used for Jesus' burial. Well, when Jesus was buried, they wrapped His body in linen cloth that was sprinkled with good smelling frankincense and myrrh. Then they sealed the tomb and rolled a large stone across its entrance. But when the stone was rolled away..."**

**"Jesus wasn't there!" Pepper finished.**

**"But the clothes were still there. In fact, they were folded neatly right where He had been," Mumsy said as she neatly folded the white cloth and laid it on the rock next to her.**

**"And that was more proof that Jesus was alive!" Pepper said thoughtfully. "Wow, Mumsy, you were right! That egg is full of miracles!"**

**Mumsy held up the egg again. "Oh, more than that, Pepper! This egg is a miracle!"**

**"A miracle!" Pepper agreed. Then, "A miracle! Wait a minute. It is? How is the egg a miracle, Mumsy?"**

**"You should know that more than anyone, Pepper. After all, you were hatched from an egg. The egg stands for new life."**

**Pepper flew up into the air and did an excited flip as he realized what Mumsy was saying. "I see, the egg reminds us that we can have new life in Jesus!"**

**"Pepper, it's not just any life, its eternal life – that is 'Forever life!' The Bible says, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'"**

**Pepper landed on the sand and folded his wings. "So, if we believe in Jesus, we can live forever in heaven with Him?"**

**Mumsy nodded. "That's the Miracle of Easter."**

**"That's incredible!" said Pepper. "Just like the Bonzai Brothers like to say, 'It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!'" Then Pepper thought of an idea. "Hey Mumsy, can I take that egg and show 800 Pound Gorilla about the miracles of Easter?"**



**"Why of course, Pepper! Splendid idea!" Mumsy exclaimed. She carefully returned each item, the cross, the red cloth, and the white cloth into the egg. Pepper picked up the stone from where it had landed in the sand and dropped it into Mumsy's outstretched hand. After depositing it into the egg, she snapped it closed and hung it tied it carefully to Pepper's wing.**

**Pepper soared into the air and headed towards the rainforest. "Thanks, Mumsy!" he called back behind him. "Oh 800 Pound Gorilla, where are you? I've got something incredible to show you!" he yelled. He couldn't wait to show the egg and tell his gorilla friend all about the Miracle of Easter.**