

# Marist Minute

I'm captivated by the idea of 'reading someone like a book', describing them as 'an open book' and the warning to not 'judge a book by its cover'. I've smugly thought that I knew where 'the story' was going, only to be completely shocked within the turn of a page. It's important to read a book from the beginning, to know the backstory, the character development and to even consider the previous volumes in the series.

Sometimes we want to skip ahead, we desperately want to flip through the hard parts of the story and move to the next chapter where the plot is brighter. Jonathan Browning suggests some people need to completely rewrite their past to help make sense of the here and now. In his book, titled 'Do you SEE me?' Jonathan explains, "the way we tell our stories not only reveal our identity but also how we feel about ourselves".

It takes time to sit and listen to someone, to genuinely know and love the person. The stories we choose to share about ourselves (particularly online) can be reduced to curated quotes, a brief synopsis that reveals very little of our identity. Are we curious enough to click the 'See more' button or do we just scroll past people in our lives?

Jesus loved getting to know the stories of people. He helped them to share their stories, creating safe places like Zacchaeus' table, where his whole story could be revealed. In many cases we know Jesus had already 'read the book'. He understood the importance of encouraging people to own their story and invited them to rewrite their narrative with a pen of love.



## Journal Questions:

*Do you take the time to click the 'See more' button or do you just scroll past people?*

*Where do you notice God's presence in the twists and turns, the opening and closing of doors and the golden threads that weave through the paragraphs of your story?*