

The Good News For You Through *Horton Hears A Who*

Horton Hears A Who is the story of a lovable elephant, Horton, who has keen ears and a big heart. One day his ears enable him to hear something none of the other jungle animals can hear or see. It's the tiny, frightened voice of the Mayor of *Who*-ville, who is shaking with fear because he's afraid his entire microscopic town is going to end up in the pool of water Horton is splashing around in. Convinced that his ears know what they're hearing, Horton's big heart then takes over and he becomes determined to protect this whole world of the *Whos*, mayor and all. Horton is faithful when he says he is going to do something.

Watch the video of the reading of *Horton Hears A Who* by Linda Crownover.

Overview of the story:

- Horton hears the mayor's voice on a speck of dust.
- He places the speck on a clover and vows to protect them.
- Like our previous Horton story, Horton is faithful when he says he is going to do something.
- "A person's a person, no matter how small."
- The other jungle animals are enraged, make fun of him, run him off, take the clover to hide it.
- But Horton is not going to let that happen to his new friends.
- Mayor has the whole town shouting so the animals could hear except for one person.
 - When the "very small shirker" joins in it is enough noise to get the message through.

Two elephantine lessons can be taken from this story.

Lesson number one:

- Their whole world was saved by the "smallest of all!"
- Another way to say that is the Savior saved their world.

Horton says: their world was saved, not will be saved, or can be saved, but was saved.

- The salvation of Christ brought to this world is finished, completed – it is an already accomplished fact!
- Read 1 John 4:14
 - The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.
 - That is exactly what happened and that is exactly who Christ is – the Savior.
 - The *Who*'s are simply the ones who have already recognized this, but at the end of the story, everyone else (other jungle animals) will know as well.
 - In the end, Horton has help in protecting *Who*-ville.

Christ identified himself with the smallest of all. He identified himself with all people regardless of where they were in their life and in the faith.

- Read Matthew 25:34-40
 - Sometimes, we don't know where we will see or hear Christ in the people we encounter but according to the passage, we need to help those who are in need.

Lesson number two:

“A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

- But what is a person?
- To say a “person’s a person” doesn’t really define what a person is. What is a person’s final goal?
- *Per* is a Latin prefix that often means “for.”
 - For instance, *per annum* or *per diem*, we mean “for the year” or “for the day.”
- So, let’s take a little Seussian playing with the flexible English language.
 - *Person* can mean: for the Son.
- That is what all of us have been made for.
- We have all been created in the image of God.
 - Which means we have been created for Jesus Christ/ the Son.

We’re only complete when Christ is completely within us. So, for John, a person is either a totally *full* or totally *empty* “God container.”

- Read 1 John 4:12.
 - A person is a God container. That is what a person is.
 - And all of us, no matter how small are God containers.
 - To be created in God’s image means that God’s image is in all of us; we are created with a Christ-shaped image at our center or our hearts, making us all fulfilled “God containers.”

Some good news for us:

- Through Christ, we have been saved
- Are we free to get away with anything since we have been assured that God has already forgiven us?
 - Two-part answer to that question:
 - Yes, we have been forgiven but...
 - No, we aren’t free to still sin, to live in a way that is not being a “God container.”
 - We still need to continue to obey Jesus as Lord and live our lives accordingly.
 - In whatever we do, do it as for the Lord giving God the praise and glory.
- The assurance of God’s unconditional love for all persons has been given to us once and for all.
 - If we don’t show God’s love, we won’t know God’s love.
 - Read 1 John 4:8.
- We can’t keep God’s love inside us, we can’t hoard it, we can’t hide it – we have to share it!

We may be the smallest Who, we may have the smallest gift but our smallest actions is always hugely important.

And that is the good news for you through Horton Hears a Who!