

## Children's Message 6/14/09

Show the children the Dr. Seuss book *Horton Hears a Who!* Tell them the story of how Horton the elephant hears a cry for help coming from a speck of dust, and even though he can't see anyone on the speck, he decides to help. Explain that **the speck of dust is home to the Whos, who live in their city of Whoville**. Ask the children if they think Horton's friends agree with his decision. No! Tell them that the friends don't believe that anything could survive on a speck of dust, but Horton stands by his motto, "A person is a person, no matter how small." Show them the Bible, and say that God agrees with Horton, because he picks David to be the king, even though he is the youngest of Jesse's sons. Stress that most people "look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Ask the children to name some of the qualities of the heart that are important to God: love, honesty, faithfulness, courage, generosity. Tell them that God has special jobs for people with good hearts, even children like themselves because "A person is a person, no matter how small."

## Not From A Human Point Of View 2 Pentecost B

Today's location for our service reminds me of the parable in the gospel. Like the mustard tree whose branches can hold the birds of the air and their nests, today this pavilion can hold all of Trinity! It did a great job last year and it is again. Perhaps we can understand the kingdom of heaven to be a place like our pavilion here. It shades us and provides a place where we can eat and play and fill our plates of food when we are done with the Great Thanksgiving. It is a place that gives us a different perspective on God working in our lives because it brings us closer together.

Having church picnics here at the pavilion are similar in some ways to the parables of Jesus. The mustard tree providing shade and a place to nest reminds us of this place God has given us to experience His kingdom here on earth.

Stories are important ways to share God's truth. Like the crowds that Jesus spoke of, we may not always understand His point. He needed to make sure His disciples understood at least a little of His message so He also spoke to them in private. Why did Jesus speak in parables? Could it be because He wanted us to learn to search our hearts for truth?

Samuel didn't quite understand what God was after when He told Samuel to look for a new king for His people. Samuel looked at the appearance of the seven sons of Jesse, but we are told that God looked at their hearts. It just so happened that the writer of the first lesson described the eighth and youngest son as a handsome fellow, ruddy with girl eyes. But David's heart was different from the others, and he was the one that was anointed as king.

The appearance of things is sometimes deceiving. The kingdom of heaven appears out of no where, according to the parables in the gospel. Before one is quite aware of its presence, heaven is there in front of us. God chose as a leader for His people, a sapling that tended sheep and not some strapping man at arms. It was not apparent the kind of man that would be suitable to be head of a kingdom. The way God sees heaven is different from a human point of view. God sees differently than we do. He looks into the human heart and what does He find?

The children's story, "Horton Hears a Who," by Dr. Seuss, is a delightful yarn about an elephant who knows he has heard a cry for

help - but from where? Despite the disbelief of his friends Horton must set about convincing them the cries are real people called "Who" that live in "Whoville" living on a speck of dust. Efforts are made to have the mayor of "Whoville" lead the residents to yell and make noise until they are heard. With the last yell of a shirking youngster Horton's friends finally hear and they realize that Horton was right all along. "A person is a person no matter how small."

What's in your heart? What does God see there? From what view do we see Christ who was once rejected though He too tried to get people to believe that He truly knew the heavenly Father?

Recently on a British television show, "Britain's Got Talent," 44 yr old Susan Boyle from the Scottish Highland during her audition fooled two of the toughest judges. She was dressed in a rather frumpy old lady dress, no makeup, hair that had not ever seen a professional. The reaction from the judges was one of "Oh my God here we go again." They bade her sing, and when she opened her mouth, gold dripped from her tongue and her heart. The audience stood in applause along with the judges.

God does not judge by appearance. God who sees the heart knows what He looks for and He looks for gold in our hearts. *What's in your heart? Amen!*