

**“And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.””**

In this high technology world, we are bombarded by information. We can read, but we skim. We scroll through our feeds and we learn to filter out ads and clickbait.

A cherished moment from my vacation earlier this month was when my daughter sat down with her 90 year old great grandparents and she read *We are in a Book* by Mo Willems to them. The beloved characters Elephant and Piggie realize they are in a book and are being read and realize they can make the reader say funny words like banana. Now, she can't read exactly. However, we read that book to her so many times that she knows it by heart.

Reading stories to your kids and grandkids is something you cherish doing. Soon enough, they start reading to you. Maybe you even read a story or book to your mom or dad, or grandma or grandpa as they were on their deathbeds.

The Passion reading from Mark's Gospel is something we are gathering around to listen to this morning. It is a chance to slow down and become a child again, listening and following along as we hear this good news of Jesus Christ for you yet again.

Mark's Gospel is more than a story. It is history. **“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”** Mark's Gospel is more than a story, but it's not less than a story. Why do we go to Netflix and Hollywood to provide us stories that in many cases subtly undermine our faith foundation?

We gather to listen to this story again and again so we can learn it by heart. We gather to listen to this story so that we can tell it to others. We gather to listen to this story because the events in the last days and hours of Jesus' life have an impact not just only in the lives of His disciples, but in the lives of all people in the whole world as Jesus came to redeem all people.

You don't need to be literate. You don't need to be Biblically literate or know the major points of doctrine. I'm glad you're here. Listen to this story and learn what it means to you because in hearing you are welcomed into the family.

But as we reflect on the story of Mark's Gospel, we realize just like Elephant and Piggie, we are in a book. We relate to the witness of the woman with the alabaster flask who anointed Jesus whose deeds are recounted to this day. We identify with the betrayal of the chief priests, Judas, and even Peter's denial. We are in a book. Our sins are in that book as Jesus hung there on the cross for you. Our sins are blotted out of the book as Jesus forgave them. Reading this story, the Holy Spirit reads us. Come and listen. We are in a book. By faith all Christians have their name written in the Lamb's book of life.