

July 15, 2007

**God's Continuing Story**  
**Mark 12:1-12**

Did you ever wonder if there was more to your story? And there was more to Jesus' story than even His enemies realized.

He quotes Psalm 118, which is a psalm of deliverance. The particular passage in the Psalms is followed by the familiar invitation of worship: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

The rejoicing comes because of a twist in the writer's experience – a prophetic twist Jesus uses to describe the playing out of His life in spite of the fact that He will soon die.

Verses 10-11 – "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

On the surface this is a story of judgment – and it is that – but the judgment is really only a chapter that gives way to a deeper one – a continuing story – the story God tells of Himself, and the one He has written us into through Jesus.

So there **is** more to your story.

"It means that though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and the darkness before

Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation.”

C.S. Lewis – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

If you are a Christian then the Gospel brings certain assurances to the table under the heading of one big truth:

### **I have been written into God’s Story**

The events of my life don’t stand by themselves – Every experience is part of a larger fabric into which God has woven me. Nothing is random and nothing is wasted.

**1 Peter 2:4-5** - “As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

We have been written into God’s Story – If no one ever knows my name on earth, God in heaven has loved me and found me in time and eternity. He has provided a Community in which I can bear my sorrows, carry my burdens, and together walk hand in hand, sharing the Love He has poured into us – with a hurting world.

**Ephesians 2:10** – “... created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

The Gospel compels me to look past myself – past my own interests – past my comforts – if I have truly been Redeemed then I am called to share in the work of Redemption.

**Hebrews 10:23-24** – “Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

And so the question we have to answer is, do we believe the Gospel? Is our Christianity real or is it cultural – true Christianity always manifests itself in an observable love.

**C.S. Lewis** – The Weight of Glory – (“There are no ordinary people.”) “The load, or weight or burden of my neighbour’s glory should be laid on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it.”

So what will you do with Jesus?

**Acts 4:11** – “He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Unbelief is not a matter of not understanding – it is a matter of clearly understanding, but not accepting what is there.

What will you do with Jesus?

I suspect that if you take the sum total of the events of your life – particularly the bad ones – the ones that are filled with regret and sin and sorrow – the events you wish you could undo, and the ones you live with every day – it would be easy to assume that it is too late because my guess is that what you struggle with most is the forgiveness of God – that deep down, the reason you don’t move forward is because you don’t believe that forgiveness is remotely possible, when in fact Grace is the core operating system of our entire faith.

The Gospel teaches that God did something magnificent in His work of Redemption – in order for us to be able to enter into His Story, He stepped into **ours** by sending **His** Son – Jesus – to bear the most horrid and unspeakable of offenses – our sin – that by looking to Him in faith, we will live.