

Rita sought to trust Jesus, letting him determine her identity. She lived as a redeemed child of God. Rita sought to live out of the acceptance she had in Jesus; not trying to create such an engaging personality that everyone had to accept her. The Rita I knew, took Jesus at his word, and then sought to live life with him. Rita sought to live this relationship of trust, growing in maturity through the years.

Jesus' judgement day is there to reveal to the world Father's loved children. The children birthed through his word, feed through his

word, daily living in the power of his word. And today we were reminded; the word is Jesus.

Jesus' judgement day is to declare to the world that Rita is one of Father's loved children; chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

Jesus won't force anyone to trust him; then obviously it wouldn't be trust. Jesus simply invites us to trust him, to take him at his word. To place our lives in his hands, to place our lives into the palm of his hands,

letting him shape our lives.

I believe that's how Rita sought to live, so I have no doubt that that is how she exists now. Her life is in the palms of Jesus' hands, and he is shaping her, so that when he returns he will be able to declare to the whole world, the whole universe; 'This is Rita, Father's loved child, the delight of his life'.

And then Jesus will say; 'Let the celebration of life begin'.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

18 December 2017

Rita Mavis Shiller

16 May 1929—13 December 2017



The three readings for today, amongst other things, have a Christmas flavour. The first reading is one of many that prophesied Jesus birth.

The second reading shows how far God has gone to get through to us; actually being born a flesh and blood person. Just like you and me.

The last reading was that mind blowing declaration that the creator of the universe has come into his creation. Jesus is 'The Word' that existed before the world began. Jesus is 'The Word' by who's power this world exists. "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And

we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." (John 1:14)

What does this reveal to you about God, about Jesus?

In the church calendar we are in the season of Advent. The season of preparation. The season where we remember Jesus first coming to us, in person, to save us. To save people, for people are the object of God's love.

You see the bible reveals that we are in the midst of a huge conflict. To put it briefly; the devil, is out to destroy the object of God's love. Why?

We get hints in the bible that the devil at one stage was an angel, was loved by

God, but for whatever reason wanted more. Pride crept in. He wanted his own world where he could call the shots, take control, have people worship him. The devil rebelled.

So now the devil hates God. How could you hurt someone the most; by destroying what they love the most. What is the focus of God's love? Humanity. We were created in 'God's image'. In other words we were created to be loved and to love God in a wonderful, person to person relationship.

So the devil focused his attack on humanity, seeking to destroy this wonderful relationship that was created by Jesus. His strategy was simple;

get Adam and Eve to doubt God. In other words, destroy their relationship of trust.

Once trust has been removed from a relationship, what sort of relationship do you have?

Jesus is born to create a wonderful, personal, conversational, affectionate relationship.

Jesus is born to create a relationship of joy, where there is complete trust.

The reading from Isaiah finished with those wonderful words: "I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands." (Isa.49:16)

Notice God didn't write your name in a notebook, he gets personal. He writes your name on the palm of his hand, his hand. That's personal, for in Jesus, God seeks to

win our trust, as we recognise that he is trustworthy.

We can take God at his word. For what God says he does. When God makes a promise, what does he always do? He keeps it.

God promised to come to save us, to

God writes your name on the palm of His hand.

save us from a life outside of his personal love. God promised to send a saviour. Not just any saviour, but he comes himself, for he wants us to know him personally. He wants us to trust him implicitly.

When I think of Rita that's what comes to my mind; a person who trusted Jesus implicitly. Was Rita perfect? No. Did she always get everything right? No. Did she take God at his word

and seek to trust his love for her in Jesus? Without a shadow of doubt; yes.

In the season of Advent we don't only remember Jesus coming into the world at Christmas, but that he has promise to return. That was Jesus promise to his disciple; that he would return.

The focus of his return is to bring to completion what he started at Christmas. To

come and gather those who place their lives in his hands, simply taking him at his word; letting 'The Word' shape their identity, shape the very way they live.

At this time of year as we focus on Jesus promise to return, we are reminded that this is called 'Judgement Day'.

Now that sounds serious, doesn't it; 'Judgement Day'.

What images come to your mind when you hear that phrase; 'Judgement Day'.

One, among many thoughts, is that, like it or not, Jesus is returning to judge the world, to judge all people. Jesus return isn't dependent on whether I agree or disagree. Jesus has promised to return to judge the world, and when Jesus makes a promise, what does he always do?

I think lots of people, when they hear the phrase; 'Judgement Day', think of having to pass some sort of test. At least that's the impression I often get at a funeral. I hear how good the person was, how loved the person was, how special the person was. The implication being that such a nice person should surely pass the test and get into heaven.

If you lived your whole life trying to prove yourself; trying to prove your worth, trying to prove you're worth loving, trying to win acceptance, trying to shape an identity that says you're a valued person. If you lived your whole life trying to prove yourself; how would you

Jesus invites you to let him love you.

describe that life?

I'll let you in on a secret; Jesus isn't interested in you trying to prove yourself. That might be one of the greatest inhibitors to letting him love you. Jesus doesn't have an exam paper for you to pass. You don't have to prove yourself.

Rather Jesus invites you to let him love you. To let his love for you create your identity. So rather

than proving yourself, in Jesus you can be living true to who he has created you to be.

Rather than trying to prove your worth, Jesus invites you to join him in living out a life of amazing worth and purpose and together give Father's love expression in all that you do.

Jesus invites you to trust him; letting him determine your identity; in Father's love. Letting him give you acceptance, as he embraces you in Father's love. Letting Jesus flood your life with purpose, with worth as you daily live out Father's love; the love you have in Jesus. Living, daily, true to who you are, giving living expression to this amazing personal relationship. Not living trapped in uncertainties, in darkness as the apostle John describes it.