

Today Jesus invites you to risk trusting him; to take him at his word. Jesus invites you to risk trusting his worth of you, the identity you have in him, the life he dreams possible, living in that wonderful relationship of love and affection with Father.

I think I'll follow Max's example, trusting Jesus with my life, and not seek to live as if I'm God. I'll follow Max's example and take Jesus at his word, risking my all in him. I'm going to risk that he'll deliver what he promises because he has the power and

authority to do what he say. At least that's what his life, death and resurrection prove.

What about you? Jesus invites you to be living in that wonderful relationship of love and affection that he has created, looking forward to that great day of his return as the fullness of that relationship becomes your living reality.

That's my hope. What about you?

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## Zion Monarto Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am or 10.30am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

8 August 2019

**Max Paech**

**2 February 1943—1 August 2019**



The first reading for today contained Max's confirmation text: Jesus said, "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown."

I think Max definitely held onto what he had; his faith in Jesus. The Max I knew was definitely a man of faith; faith in Jesus.

So hearing Jesus say; 'I'm coming soon', would have been words that brought joy to Max's heart. Not because Max was perfect, but because he knew he could trust Jesus perfectly.

What Jesus promises, Jesus delivers. You can risk your life on that.

When I wrote that phrase the thought came to me that actually all people are risking their lives; some by taking Jesus at his word. Others risk their lives by rejecting what Jesus says; by believing Jesus won't return and do what he says.

I know Max risked trusting that Jesus would keep his word. Trusting that Jesus will return and usher in a new life where all the effects of sin are gone, and the atmosphere we breathe will be God's amazing loving nature; his amazing love for us.

I'm looking forward to that day, though at the present time I'm faced with a turbulent life. A life that has challenges, injustice, hurt, pain, it can be so unfair at times. I'm

challenged to hang in there and trust Jesus with my life.

I think that is what it means to have childlike faith. I take Jesus at his word, believing he'll do what he says. Just like a child, at least initially, trusts their parents, finds comfort and security in their parents presence.

Max was a man who 'received the Kingdom of God like a child'. He took Jesus at his word, and walked through life with Jesus, trusting Jesus.

The Max I came to know wasn't a person who trusted in his own perfection. Quite the opposite; I'm sure Max knew he wasn't God.

That by the way is the essence of sin;

living as though I'm god. Living as though I control life, and whatever I say will happen.

One of the things that gets me to believe I'm in control can be my wealth. That's why Jesus said to the man wanting life; "Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Luke 18:22)

Actually I think that is how Max lived. Max didn't define himself by what he had. He used what he had to love his family, his friends, the people around him. He used what he had to give living expression to the love he found in Jesus.

Max's treasure wasn't his possessions. Max's treasure was being forgiven and loved by Jesus, letting that identity find living expression in his

daily life. Max followed Jesus.

So Jesus saying; 'I'm coming back', could only be good news.

The one who loves Max more than his own life is coming to share that life with Max. Coming to raise Max to new life, where the new

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Max followed Jesus.

identity he has in Jesus will finally find its full expression. I think that will be an exciting day, a day to look forward to.

If Max had sought life in his possessions, they've let him down. I'm sure we all believe that Max is way more valuable than his net worth.

Notice I said is, not was. Jesus is coming back, the story of Max Paech hasn't finished. There are still many more

chapters to write. Jesus is coming back, and when he comes he's going to raise Max to new life. That's a promise. A promise Jesus has guaranteed with his own life.

At the end of the text for Max's confirmation it said; 'no one will take away your crown'. Have you ever wondered what that might mean; a crown.

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Who usually wears a crown?

At a coronation one of the key symbols is a crown. At Jesus coronation he was crowned, with a crown of thorns. That was an interesting crown, which tells us so much about our King, Jesus.

Jesus isn't the sort of King who exploits for his own gain, rather he sacrifices that we might become all that his heavenly Father has dreamed possible.

In Jesus, Father's dream becomes a reality. In Jesus Max received the crown of sonship. In Jesus, at Max's baptism, he became Father's son, a member of the royal family, in the line of David.

What an amazing identity we have in Jesus. What a unity we have with Father, in Jesus. We're not strangers, not mere acquaintances,

we're Father and child. We have such depth of intimacy to explore and grow into.

When Jesus returns, Max's true identity, as Father's son, will be on display for all the world to see. Father will declare to all the world that Max is his son, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

I'm looking forward to that great day of declaration.

Max didn't exchange his crown for some passing wealth. You won't hear; Max is equal to his net worth, of things. Wouldn't that be truly depressing if that was all that could be said about you at your funeral?

No hope for the

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The best is yet to be written on Max's life.

future. No worth that can't be taken from you. It would be totally depressing if all I had to look forward to was a grave and a few nice; but not true, words.

Thank God, he walked daily with Max, so that Max knew his Father's love. So that Max knew the hope Jesus offers, and lived in that wonderful forgiveness and love.

Thank God Max walked through life with the Spirit, talking

with him, relying on him in every situation.

Thank God, Max doesn't depend on himself, or us right now, but Jesus is faithful and will do what he promises. Jesus is returning, there's nothing more certain. And he has the power and authority to do what he says. After all he's God; I'm not, and neither are you.

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Max lived risking his life taking Jesus at his word. That's where Max is right now, risking taking Jesus at his word, to raise Max to a wonderful new life, lived in the intimacy of a relationship of love and affection with Father, Son, Spirit. Max is now in their loving embrace; his future is secure, his identity as Father's loved child hasn't altered. The best is yet to be written on Max's life.