

Jesus has put his whole heart and soul into you, loving you, dying for you, so that you might live life, life in all its fullness.

May we all be living life; loving as we are loved by Jesus. Living with integrity, integrating Jesus love into all we do. Seeking to forgive people as we are forgiven by Jesus. Living with Jesus' enthusiasm.

Let us pray. Jesus, thank you that we can live life to the full. Thank you that we can live from the love we have, your love for us. Thank you that we can live life integrated into your life in all areas. Thank you that we are forgiven and so in your strength we can always be forgiven. Thank you that we can live together with you, in your love,

from the amazing passion you have. Jesus help us daily to live a no-regrets life because we're sharing your life with you, in your passion. Amen.

29 March 2009

LIVING A NO-REGRETS LIFE.

One Month to Live—6



Today's theme in our 'One Month to Live' challenge is to 'Living a no-regrets life'. The whole point of this series was not so much to prepare you to die as it was to prepare you to live!

Jesus said; "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." Jesus purpose is to give you life, life in all its fullness.

Satan has a purpose too; to steal, kill and destroy that his plan. He wants to steal away your passion for life. He wants to kill your dreams and he wants to destroy your love in your relationships. Thank

God, Jesus' purpose is that you have life, life lived to the full, to live passionately. Let's look at four pieces to a no-regrets life, a passion filled life.

The first piece is Love. The fuel that fires passion in our lives is love. In Revelation Jesus said; "...you have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first." (Rev. 2:4,5)

Here Jesus reminds me that love is a choice, love is action, much more than a nice feeling. You can't command feelings, but Jesus

does call us to make the choice to love one another with our actions. Love is a choice, love is an action that produces powerful feeling, but it is not a feeling.

Many people today think love is a feeling and when the feelings are gone they think, I feel out of love. That's not love at all. Love is an action, love is a choice. Love isn't a like a pit that in fall in and out of.

Jesus chose to love you, and that resulted in action. That resulted in his birth, his crucifixion, which we will soon celebrate. Love fuelled his passion for us and shaped his action, actions that

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

benefited us, for our good.

The second piece of the passion puzzle if I want a no-regrets life, is integrity.

Integrity is simply integrating what I say I believe into my daily actions.

Integrity is integrating what I say I believe into my daily walk.

The opposite of integrity is

compartmentalizing your life. God certainly doesn't want to be just one little slice in your pie of life. God wants to be involved in all your life, because he's passionate about loving you, not just the supposedly nice pieces.

So Jesus says; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your

mind and with all your strength." If you want to have integrity you have to integrate God into all areas of your life, you live out your relationship with God into all areas of your life; the way you play sport, the way you treat your family, the way you spend

Live Passionately

your money, the way you speak to others. Our relationship with God and his love for us in Jesus shapes all we do; in heart, soul, mind and strength. Nothing is left out.

The third piece to the passion puzzle is forgiveness. Have you ever been having a good day? Things are going well.

Feeling good. You have a bounce in your step and then you

have a conflict with someone. Let's say you get into conflict with someone at work. Or, let's say you have an argument with your spouse. Nothing drains passion quicker than unresolved conflict.

In Job we read; "Surely resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple." (Job 5:2) Notice the

words resentment and jealousy. Resentment is the great passion stealer. Resentment is the great passion killer. Jesus wants you to have life, life in all it's fullness and so he gave his life that we might learn to forgive others, because we are so freely forgiven by him.

If I want to get, keep my passion for life, I've got to learn to

forgive, and keep forgiving other people. That's not the same as letting them off the hook pretending it didn't hurt me, or I wasn't disappointed, but forgiveness means I don't live or shape my response by this hurt.

Jesus didn't let the hurt of pain of the cross shape him, but he lived life to the full

keeping his focus on his Father and the love he had for him, and it was from that passion that Jesus died on the cross winning forgiveness for us, so that we too could live forgiveness into our lives, living life in all Jesus' fullness. Resentment, bitterness, wanting to get even, to get back and make those who hurt us feel pain too, just steals our passion for life. It kills the joy

of life. It destroys our relationships. Which is the devil's plan, not Jesus plan for you. Jesus plan is for us to have a passion and to live it out in our lives. The fourth piece of the passion puzzle is enthusiasm.

Jesus is Passionate about you

Emerson said nothing great ever happens without enthusiasm in life. This week I also learnt that enthusiasm comes from two Greek words; en which simply means in. And 'theos' which means God. It literally means; God within.

As a follower of Jesus my enthusiasm for life comes from having God within my life, or maybe

better, that I now live within God's life, that I now live within his passion, within his love, within his amazing forgiveness. My passion grows the more time I spend with God. Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it

with all your heart, as working for the Lord..." Existing by what's in it for me kills your passion.

Only moving if there is profit in it destroys passion. Live as a person who is giving their all out of love for Jesus, in all you do, and them every act takes on a new look.

I remember this quote from Mother Teresa; "It's not what you do that counts but how much love you put into it."