

them. Remember; 'I'm backing him to the hilt'.

Father is backing Jesus to the hilt and you and I are in Jesus. Father is backing you and I to the hilt. So I'm not a fraud when I make a mistake, in Jesus I'm just growing. I'm not a lot of waffle, I'm talking with Jesus and together we're living life in Father's loving; bathed with the Spirit, bathed in his *life*.

The devil is the one who is a lot of hot air, a fraud. In Jesus, I'm growing into my true nature, for God said; 'He's the one I chose,

and I couldn't be more pleased with him' (Isa. 42:1) This is true because Father's love isn't based on my ability but his personality. What a wonderful secure place to live; bathed in Father, who always lives true to his personality, and in him I discover my true personality.

Let us pray. Father, grow me daily as your child that I live true to who I am in you. Free me to grow more and more, not worrying about what's in it for me and simply living out who I am in you. Father, this week bathe

me in the Spirit that I live secure in you, secure because you're with me. Father let that security free me to show your love, to see people and not arguments to win. Free me to see people who I can show your love to and not a means to gain approval. You're all the approval I need; grow the truth of that statement in me this week. Jesus lead me this week, come and lead me so that together we might live life bathed in Father's love.

8 January 2017

JESUS' BAPTISM

Matthew 3:13-17



What did you hear God say to you today through the readings that you might live out this week? What impression did the Spirit make on you? What thought came to mind as you were listening to God speak through his word, to you, today.

We're not having a history lesson, are we? We're listening to God speak to us today, that we might be sharing life with him, personally, today.

I was reminded of Jesus nature; "He won't call attention to what he does with loud speeches and gaudy parades. He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won't disregard the small and insignificant, but he'll steadily and firmly set things right." (Isa. 42:2,3)

That reminds me that Jesus isn't some insecure bloke who has to get his own way at the expense of others. Rather Jesus is secure in himself, so secure in fact that he is able to take time to be with the 'bruised and the hurt'. Jesus doesn't 'disregard the small and insignificant'.

I love knowing that Jesus doesn't treat me as small and insignificant. I love knowing that Jesus doesn't push me aside as he blindly goes about getting what he wants. No, Jesus is concerned about me. Jesus takes the time to listen, to be there for me, that I might grow to be just like him.

I want to live life secure in my own skin. Not simply taking what I want regardless of others. I want to live secure in who I am, so

secure in who I am that just like Jesus I can stop and listen. I can let go of what I'm doing to be with other people; being secure enough to care, with nothing in it for me.

I must admit that this isn't always the case. It's the goal, but I do know at times my insecurities get the better of me and I go into competition mode to be better than others. Or my insecurities get the better of me I go into self-pity mode because others are better than me.

What's the secret of Jesus' security?

At the start of our reading from Isaiah God said; "Take a good look at my servant (that's an interesting word, servant, not superstar). I'm backing him to the hilt. He's the one I chose, and I

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

couldn't be more pleased with him. I've bathed him with my Spirit, my *life*." (Isa. 42:1)

I love that phrase: 'I'm backing him to the hilt'. Jesus stepped out into life backed 100% by Father. No if's or but's, Jesus is Father's Son, and they're in this together.

I love the extension of this truth; in Jesus, I'm Father's child, and he's behind me 100%. Father's passion is to see me, his child, grow to be all that he has dreamed possible, and he's 100% committed. In Jesus, God isn't half-hearted.

Did you notice this phrase; 'He won't tire out or quit. He won't be stopped until he's finished his work...' (Isa. 42:4) There's just no way that our heavenly Father will quit on his children. In Jesus we have 100% certainty. God's love never quits, because our heavenly Father

isn't a quitter, no matter how tough things get.

I know I'm often tempted to quit, and do take the odd time out! So I'm thankful Jesus never quits. I'm thankful Father never quits; he's invested himself in me. How does that make you feel, knowing that God, your heavenly Father, has invested

What's the secret to Jesus' security?

himself in you? That he never quits on you.

In Jesus he's invested himself in you. His passion is; 'opening blind eyes, releasing prisoners from dungeons, emptying the dark prisons.' (Isa. 42:7) And when I'm feeling insecure am I ever blind. When I think I know what is right and I go like a bull at a gate am I ever a prisoner to my own desires. When I feel let down and depressed I feel I'm in the darkest prison.

Thank God, in Jesus, none of those places are where I belong. None of those emotions are my true identity. In Jesus, I'm the one chosen, who Father couldn't be more pleased with and is bathing me with his Spirit, with his *life*. Thank God Jesus didn't come to be a superstar, but a servant, who daily

sets me free. Free to be what Father dreams possible; not what I can or can't achieve from my own attempts.

Am I just waffling on? Last year; doesn't that sound so long ago. Last year over a Christmas lunch I was making a point, I thought quit well, till the other person responded; 'that's just a lot of words to me'.

That set me back a bit, but it did get me thinking, am I just waffling on, or does this really affect how I live. Living life is the goal. Living life with God, in Jesus, through the Spirit, Father's loved child, is the goal. I don't

want to just be waffling on, trying to impress, trying to win the argument. Which is what I was doing over that Christmas lunch, trying to win the argument, and in the process gain approval.

Isn't the devil subtle, playing on our insecurity, so that we play games; winning the argument, gaining approval, all the while totally missing the point of life. No matter how good the logic; life isn't a logical debate, but people to love.

While I'm seeking to win approval; which is a result of what is called sin. Please note that sin isn't evil deeds, sin is a condition. The condition of being insecure, not knowing who you are, why you're here and are you loved and valued? This condition blinds us to God and to our true nature; I've got to prove myself otherwise my life counts for nothing. This condition imprisons me in the darkest

dungeons; despair, completion to see who's the best, endless activity to show I'm worthwhile, wanting to be loved but not liking myself, just to mention a few ways I'm tempted to imprison myself.

So how will what I've heard God say to me through Isaiah play out in my life, this week?

Am I just waffling on?

How will what you've heard God say to you this morning play out in your life this week? God doesn't want to be a lot of waffle. He's come this morning that we might share life together, his week.

So I thank God that in Jesus I find my identity. For when Jesus was baptised so was I. In Jesus, the Father declared you and I to be his child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. And the Spirit came and rested on Jesus,

on you and I – Jesus was bathed with God's Spirit; God's very presence, in a wonderful bond of love; that's *life* (Matthew 3:16,17). This is who you are; it is who our heavenly Father has declared you to be in Jesus.

So this week I'm going to be asking Jesus to grow me to be true to who I am in him. I'm going to be asking and looking for his lead, being open to what he says, so that I can be living and growing in the light of his presence; bathed with the Spirit.

I'm sure the devil will seek to tempt me. And when I make a mistake, I'm sure the devil will accuse me as a fraud. Accuse me of being just a lot of waffle. He can accuse me all he likes because Jesus isn't a fraud and Jesus isn't a lot of waffle. In fact because of who Jesus is his words create what he says; they have Father's power and authority behind