

you live in his kingdom.

We live in Jesus' kingdom by mourning, not by trying to beat the hell out of each other. For as we mourn, we are comforted, and that's a far better motivator for life.

Today take a few moments and discuss with a few others how the rest of Jesus' blessings help shape the way we live. Take a few moments and reflect, am I seeking to live where Jesus is blessing.

At times I live the opposite, asking Jesus to bless what I'm doing, rather than asking Jesus to lead me into what he is already blessing.

Let us pray.  
Jesus, lead me this week to do what you're blessing.  
Forgive me for telling you want to do and where you should be blessing. Help me to be living out those areas you've promised to bless, as you've revealed to us through the Sermon on the Mount. Thank you Jesus for not leaving us in the dark, or simply doing the best we can. Thank you that we can live truly blessed lives as we do your will.  
Jesus we trust you with our lives, both as individuals and as your community.  
Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

29 January 2017

## LIVING IN JESUS' KINGDOM—1

Matthew 5:1-12



What do you think is harder; becoming a citizen or living as a citizen? What do you think is harder; being born or living? What do you think is harder; getting married or living as a married couple? What do you think is harder; getting a job or for the next forty plus years working?

Sometimes I think becoming a Christian is easy, living it is the challenge.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus doesn't teach us how to become Christians, but rather how to be living as a child of God, our Father. How to live as a citizen of heaven.

If you were teaching someone how to live here in Australia what

would be the first ten things you'd want them to know?

The other day I heard a story about someone who had sponsored a new arrival to Australia. One of the questions they asked was; 'do you have a driver's licence?' And they did. A few days later they received a phone call from the police to come and pick up this chap. They'd pulled him over doing forty down the freeway.

When trucks came up behind him he was sticking his hand out the window waving them past. Thankfully they called the police. After discussion it was discovered they'd asked the wrong question. He had a drivers licence, he brought it in his country of origin,

he'd just never learnt to drive!

I'm a legal citizen of heaven, but that doesn't mean I automatically know how to drive this life. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus taking me for my first driving lessons. Otherwise what a pile up there could be once I make it to the freeway of life!

Lesson One: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Or as the Message paraphrase puts it: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule." (Matthew 5:3) Which reminds me of a saying I once heard: 'If you're full

of yourself, there's no room for God'.

This reminds me of the First Commandment: "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

Not even the god of retail therapy.

Step one in living in Jesus' kingdom, allow him to be king. The poor in spirit are those who know they don't have all the answers, and if it was left up to them they'd crash and burn. Without Jesus I just simply don't have what it takes to develop and grow a healthy society, where there is justice, where there is respect for all, where sacrificial love is the air we breathe.

History tells me again and again and again that as humans we

don't have what it takes to make this world the place we know it should be. We all want world peace, but there are wars all over the place. Even in our own homes at times as we struggle, living together, each with our different dreams, our different hopes

If you were to teach someone to live in Australia...

and expectations. Sadly we often end up shooting the people we love, over a principle that doesn't care about us.

Step one; be filled with Jesus' hopes and dreams. Step one; let Jesus love you, so that your life is a loving response. Step one; live from Jesus' wisdom, strength and love. Mine runs out, and then what?

Step two; "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." The Message paraphrase puts it this way; "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you." (Matthew 5:4)

Have you ever noticed that people who believe they never make a mistake, keep on repeating them?

Blessed are those who can admit that they were wrong, then you have the wonderful opportunity of growth, of change. Have you ever noticed that Jesus is keen to see us change? 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.' Repent means change. Repenting opens us up to new wonderful

opportunities and growth. Even when I'm making the right choices, I've still, wonderfully, got room for growth. I don't know it all, yet!

Blessed are those who mourn, who are secure enough in Jesus' love of them to admit when they are hurting. They don't have to put on a brave face and hide behind a pleasant smile. Then we have the beautiful opportunity of being embraced in Jesus' love.

If I don't mourn, I simply hang on to my hurt, and then what?

The Message has this interesting paraphrase; "Jesus repeated his greeting; 'Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.' Then Jesus took a deep breath and breathed on them. 'Receive the Holy Spirit,' he said,

'If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?'" (John 20:23) If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them? Keep them. Store them. Drown your relationships in

Jesus teaches us to live in his Kingdom.

them.

Blessed are those who mourn, who don't hold onto their hurts, who don't harbour resentment, who don't catalogue life's disappointments, and people's thoughtless words and actions. Blessed are those who mourn, for then Jesus' love, his grace and mercy are able to comfort them, and their life will flourish and reflect Jesus'

love, his grace and mercy.

If I store my hurts what will happen to me? As a society if we live from what other people do wrong, what sort of society will we be?

Each Sunday we are given an opportunity to mourn as we confess our sin, and then we are comforted by Jesus' words of forgiveness. The time of confession reminds me to mourn and not to hang onto life's hurts, disappointments, frustrations, failures. Jesus certainly doesn't want that rubbish trashing your living. Jesus wants us to be living life in all his fullness, living from his words of hope, his word of life, you're forgiven. You're precious to God, and he wants you to share life with him, discovering his hopes and dreams as