

of the fullness of life
 you gave your life for
 us to have, to enjoy,
 to share with you.
 Jesus we invite you in
 to grow in us your
 fierce intention as
 part of our
 personality.

19 March 2017

FIERCE INTENTION

Beautiful Outlaw



Have you pictured Jesus as a person of 'fierce intention'? The same man who could be so playful is also a man on fire. If you would know Jesus, you must know that this – his fierce intentionality – is essential to his personality.

Why would this quality – his fierce intention – be essential to his personality?

Where else is this quality expressed in Jesus' life?

When he raises Lazarus from the tomb; Jesus is focused, and commands Lazarus to come out of the grave. Jesus stares death in the face and commands life. Jesus stares death in the

face and isn't stared down. That's his fierce intention. Jesus is even revealed as being extremely angry; 'he is deeply moved in spirit'. The root of this word means 'to snort in anger' like a warhorse. The 'Message' paraphrases it; 'a deep anger welled up within him.' Jesus' fierce intentionality comes to the surface; he's here ready to fight for his friend. Death will not win. Death does not win.

Where else is to you see this quality expressed in Jesus' life?

One Jesus way to his crucifixion we are told that he set his face toward Jerusalem. And this was recognized by

the Samaritan towns he was passing through; he was focused, he was determined, he wasn't going to be put off course. He walked forward with fierce intention.

Why would this quality – his fierce intention – be essential to his personality?

It's probably one of the reasons I didn't excel at sport; I didn't come with a fierce intention. I came with more of a survival attitude; I wasn't out to win as much as not suffer pain! Those who had fierce intention went for the ball; their focus was on winning, not surviving.

Jesus has come into a world at war. By the

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

way, that's where we live, a world at war. We're not playing games; this is for keeps, and you're the target.

This is far more important than any game, and simply having a survival attitude leaves you a sitting duck. Jesus was born into a world at war; and straight away his life was under threat. Remember; Herod couldn't have another king to threaten his rule. So what did Herod do? He ordered the death of every boy in the Bethlehem area up to two years of age. Horrific!

I thank God that neither God the Father, nor God the Son shirked the issue. They set their focus on winning life; they came with fierce intent. They came prepared to fight; to fight for your life.

Jesus' death on the cross was no Sunday School picnic or pleasant Sunday afternoon. Jesus death on the cross took resolve, it took focus, it took his fierce intention. Anything less and he would have wavered; and we would have been lost, for all eternity.

They set their focus on winning life

Remember we're not talking about some minor insignificant pain; we're talking about the agony of life lost, opposed to the ecstasy of life lived to the full in Father's love.

Eternity left to regret, left to agonise over what you want but can never get will be excruciatingly painful whichever way you look at it; physically, emotionally,

spiritually, relationally. The stakes are high; we're not talking about a few moments of discomfort.

Jesus didn't go to the extreme of the cross just for the fun of it. Remember Jesus' prayer in the garden as he was preparing

for his crucifixion; "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." (Matt. 26:39)

Jesus' fierce intention to trust his Father was needed right here, otherwise he could have folded. We could have listened to the lies being whispered in his ear; 'It doesn't feel right, you shouldn't have to suffer such pain'. 'Do what makes you feel good, avoid this pain.' 'You can't trust someone who'd

make you go through such pain.' I can imagine so many thoughts going through Jesus' brain trying to convince him to save himself; to do what would make him happy, to trust his feelings.

What did Jesus do?

With fierce intention Jesus trusts his Father. Jesus walks the way of the cross. Jesus suffers the pain and humiliation. Jesus with fierce intention isn't pushed off course, and he wins life for us. He wins forgiveness for us. He wins a new and open relationship with Father for us; that we now might be living and growing as Father's loved children in whom he seeks to pour his life. That they, that we, might grow to ever greater maturity, just like Jesus.

Grow to ever greater maturity to be just like Jesus. Father is seeking to grow the same fierce intent in you, so that you are not knocked off course. So that you are not played the fool, losing out on the life he is so focused on giving to you.

With fierce intention Jesus trusts his Father

We're in a battle. We're all in a battle. A battle for life; we're in a life and death struggle.

When you're in a life or death struggle, what attitude, what personality trait is needed; a survival instinct where you avoid and hide and try not to get involved, or fierce intention. Where you take on the fight, and stare down the enemy.

Jesus has defeated the enemy, and in him we have life, life to the full. Outside of Jesus what do we have?

Jesus wants to bless us with the same fierce intent that he has so that we too can fight; not just for ourselves but also for

those we love, for those we meet who are lost and drowning, who are losing the fight.

Let us pray. Jesus we thank you for your fierce intent. We invite you to grow that same personality trait within us. Fill us with the Spirit that we to have the fierce intent needed to fight this fight for life; not just for ourselves but for all the people you bring into our lives. Fill us with your fierce intent that we purse life in your truth, exposing all the lies that would rob us