

living and growing in Jesus' kingdom.

And Jesus kingdom exists where people allow him to be king; allow Jesus to define who they are and what they do, because they love and trust him. For our king has shown through his life that he is trustworthy, for he lives the truth, he is the truth.

The devil is the other option. He comes in many guises but he wants to be king; the prince of this world. He comes sounding right, looking good, as if doing what he says would be the way to go. But as we see with Adam and Eve, lies end in death, your death. Worse, they end in hell.

The devil is going there. He doesn't want to, but he has no choice, so he is out to take as many as he can with him. That's his true vindictive, spoilt nature.

Today I thank Father for sending Jesus into the world to be our king, that we might live under his truth. Today I thank Father that Jesus always speaks the truth as he fights to save us; to save us for life lived up close and personal with our heavenly Father as his loved precious children.

If I listen to the devil and follow him, no matter how appealing his lies, where will that leave me?

If I listen to Jesus and follow him, even when his truth makes

no sense to me, where will that leave me?

Let us pray. Jesus, my desire is to know you, to know the truth about you. To discover myself in your truth; as I daily listen to you. Jesus I invite you to expose the lies around me, for I only want to walk with you, becoming a living expression of you; a living expression of truth. Jesus flood my mind and soul with the Spirit that I live your truth courageously, wisely, and for the good of those you bring into my life, that they might grow in knowing you.

9 April 2017
DISRUPTIVE HONESTY
Beautiful Outlaw



No Friday I read this devotion entitled: The Final Act of Self-Centeredness. Many awful things have been done with the doctrine of hell. "You'll go to hell for that" has been used to condemn all sorts of things that God does not condemn. You know... "Don't smoke, don't chew, don't go with girls (or guys) who do." Furthermore, those who have swung the idea of hell around like a club give you the impression that they'll be glad to see you sent there.

But not our God, who "is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). The Lover of our souls, the One who has pursued us

down through space and time, who gave his own life to rescue us from the Kingdom of Darkness, has made it clear: He does not want to lose us. He longs for us to be with him forever.

Nonetheless, simply because certain people have abused the concept of hell doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

First, you must understand that hell was created not for mankind, but for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). I'm sure you'll remember with relish the stories where the evil one is destroyed in the end. The movie *Gladiator* being slain with his own knife in the arena. *Star Wars* with Darth Maul falling to

the sabre of Obi-Wan Kenobi. Or Lord of the Rings with a great chasm opening in the earth to swallow Sauron and his army of Orcs so that Middle Earth might be free at last.

Hell is not God's intention for mankind.

But remember—he gave us free will.

He gave us a choice.

We seem to forget—perhaps more truthfully, we refuse to remember—that we are the ones who betrayed him, not vice versa. We are the ones who listened to the lies of the Evil One in the Garden; we chose to mistrust the heart of God. In breaking the one command he gave us,

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

we set in motion a life of breaking his commands. The final act of self-centeredness is seen in those who refuse to come to the wedding banquet of God (Matthew 22:2-3). They do not want God. They reject his offer of forgiveness and reconciliation through Jesus.

What is he to do? The universe has only two options. If they insist, God will grant to them what they have wanted—to be left to themselves.

That final thought had me reflecting on how well we have done with this earth when left to ourselves? Actually we only get a taste of what could be, because in this world we're not left entirely to ourselves. We just get a taste.

What does the world of selfishness taste like? What does the

world left to itself taste like?

But we don't only get a taste of hell, we also get a taste of heaven.

Today we celebrate Jesus riding into Jerusalem as king.

And what a unique

Jesus is King; who do you trust?

and wonderful king he is. Jesus rides in to be crowned king by Father. A taste of heaven begins when we live with Jesus as king. The king we trust because he has shown himself to be totally trustworthy. Totally honest. Jesus does what he says; you can risk your life on him.

Jesus is King; who do you trust?

One character trait of our king is that he is honest; disruptively honest. Jesus always speaks the truth, he doesn't listen to the crowd. Jesus always stays true to himself, for Jesus is the truth. And the truth isn't always what we want to hear. It isn't always what I want to hear.

But whether I want to hear it, or whether I like it, that doesn't change the fact that the truth is the truth. And remember Jesus said; "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) The truth is a person, not a statement of opinions. Jesus is the truth in person.

Of course what is the devil?

Here's how Jesus describes the devil in an example of his

disruptive honesty. "Jesus told them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies'" (John 8:42-44)

Would you say Jesus is being judgemental here? The Pharisees certainly take offence at what Jesus is saying; to the point they pick up rocks to stone him to death. I

think he must have offended them.

Did you notice the wonderful good news in that story; Jesus fights for us, for you, and isn't controlled or shaped by the crowd. Jesus isn't intimidated into watering things down, he speaks the

Jesus is the truth.

truth, because our king has come to fight for us.

He wants each of us to be living expressions of the truth, of him. Jesus seeks to grow us that we too act like he does, that part of our personality trait is that we are disruptively honest.

Not just saying what people want to hear because we don't want to make waves.

Jesus breathes his life into us so that we have the backbone to stand up to the crowd and live true to who we are in him. Because in Jesus, we know who we are. We are defined by Jesus. He is the one who shapes us, who shapes our choices and our actions.

Jesus is our king, the one who fights for us. The one who breathes the Spirit into us that we to can fight for one another. That we might have the courage, love and wisdom to do what is right, because we trust Jesus. Because we know the devil's lies kill, steal and destroy true life.

Today we celebrate Jesus riding into town as king. Today I celebrate Jesus riding into my life as king. Jesus is the one I trust with my life. Jesus is the one I seek to listen to. I want to be