

live by the devil's lies. Jesus refuses to be anything other than the one you can trust with your life. You can trust this guy; he does what he says. You can trust this guy, he died for you, not deny you. You can trust this guy, his love for you has gone through the furnace of suffering and pain. He's no fair weather friend; he's one who'll never quit on you. Trust him!

Let us pray. Jesus, I want to trust you. I know I can trust you, for you have done what is best for me according to my needs at your expense. I know you have come searching for me; no matter the obstacle, no matter the suffering and pain. You have come for me, that I might

know you, that I might trust you with my life. Jesus I trust you, I trust your commitment to me, I trust your love; grow me daily to be just like you. Grow me daily that my life is an act of trust in Father, just like you.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

14 April 2017

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

Good Friday



Over the season of lent we looked at the theme; 'What kind of love is this?'

What kind of love do we see lived out on Good Friday?

I looked up the dictionary for love as a noun, here are some of the definitions:

passionate attraction and desire, very strong affection, romantic affair, something eliciting enthusiasm. Does this match your understanding of love?

What kind of love do we see being lived out on Good Friday?

I'm first struck by the courage, the strength of character that Jesus displays. His crucifixion is no romantic walk in the park; he's spat on, mocked, beaten, betrayed, denied justice, and finally

brutally killed. What kind of love is this?

This is a love which seeks to create trust, for that is what was lost when Adam and Eve betrayed their Father. Their Father said; 'Don't eat the fruit of that tree, it'll kill you.' The snake said; 'Eat it and you'll discover life. You'll be like God.'

Here we have a simple dilemma; who do you trust?

Trust Father who created you, or trust the snake who you don't know? Trust Father who gave you his very character, or trust the snake who is very smooth, but where did he come from? Trust Father who gives you purpose – he's placed you over all of creation, or trust the snake who in the end doesn't have a leg to stand on? Who do you trust?

I wonder why Adam and Eve went with the snake? I wonder why they chose not to trust Father? And I'm totally amazed that Father doesn't reject them out of hand but immediately sets about searching for them, to restore them. What kind of love is this?

Jesus is this searching love of Father, in person. Searching for the ones who turned their back on him because they thought they had a better deal. In essence Adam and Eve gave Father the flick, like; 'You're a bore, this looks so much more fun. See ya looser.'

I find it interesting that the devil is still using the same lie; 'God is boring, God doesn't know what he is doing. God's a kill-joy'. And people are still falling

for the same old lie. Why?

Following the devil didn't reap great joy for Adam and Eve. Following the devil hasn't produced a world at peace with justice for all. Following the devil hasn't brought great joy and happiness to everyone.

What has following the devil brought humanity? We see inhumanity being lived out in totally barbaric ways. In the killing fields of Cambodia 14,15 year old teenagers were lead to cut of people's heads using the hard barbed part of the palm tree because it was cheaper than using bullets. We see a divide between the rich and the poor around the world, with the rich never having enough. We are following the devil's lies, and what has it brought humanity?

Jesus is born our brother. Not to exploit us. Not to gain riches for himself; but that we

might benefit according to our needs at his expense. Jesus doesn't run from us or reject us; which is what I would have been tempted to do. 'So long, I'm through with you disloyal bunch.'

That's what sin is, isn't it. It is the rejection of God, as we go off after a better deal. The heart

Who do you trust?

of sin revolves around this relationship, where Father is rejected in favour of what looks more appealing. Adam and Eve are still tempted to turn their back on their Father, rejecting him, ridiculing him, as they join hands with the snake, trusting his seductive lies.

But Father, amazingly, keeps coming back, seeking to win our trust, to win our heart. Father, amazingly, sacrifices himself for those who couldn't care

less about him. What kind of love is this?

Jesus is born our brother. What an intimate, personal bond Jesus forms with humanity. He literally becomes one with us. And is still rejected!

Jesus doesn't turn and reject us, but he seeks to come closer. Jesus remains loyal; he never denies us. Jesus stays true and gives himself for us; taking the worst humanity can throw at him, all the time giving them his best, giving himself.

Being willing to be open and honest that we might know what is on his heart and soul. Jesus risks being vulnerable, that we might know without a shadow of a doubt, we can trust this guy.

For we face the same dilemma; who do we trust?

At the heart of love is trust. Obviously if you can't trust someone, love doesn't grow and flourish. If you don't

trust someone, love doesn't even begin.

Love is an act of trusting another person with what is most precious to you; yourself.

Have you noticed that by nature people are guarded? We don't tell strangers our most intimate details. This takes time. Over time we grow in trust and more is revealed and our relationship deepens. If that trust is betrayed, the relationship withers. If we don't feel we can trust that person we don't reveal ourselves or engage in difficult discussions. It's dangerous, for the person you trust the most can hurt you the most. There is real risk here.

And amazingly Jesus willingly takes the risk of revealing his heart and soul to us. Not because he knows we'll respect him. He knows he's going to be crucified; because people are envious,

because people feel threatened, because people will simply focus on their wants and Jesus is treated as expendable.

Just look at Pilate; he treats Jesus as expendable. Pilate measures his actions according to what will he feels is best for his career. A riot wouldn't

Jesus refuses to deny you.

look good on his CV. The death of some nobody, whose going to care. So Jesus is given over to quiet the blood thirsty crowd.

The crowd whipped up into a mindless frenzy because Jesus threatens peoples position and power. He threatens their influence, and the praise they receive. Jesus is crucified out of envy and spite.

If people treated you this way; as expendable, with envy and spite seeking to

destroy you, what might your response be to them?

Amazingly Jesus refuses to reject us. Jesus refuses to deny his unity with us. Jesus refuses to do anything other than trust his Father, giving his life for us that we might know without a shadow of doubt that we can trust this guy with our lives.

So Jesus hangs on the cross and cries out in the depth of anguish; 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me'. And then in an amazing act of trust, Jesus places his life into this God's hands. Trusting that on Sunday he'll be raised to life.

You know what, if you told me to be crucified and I'll raise you on the third day, I wouldn't trust you. Everything in my body would be telling me; this guy is nuts, get out of here, save yourself.

But Jesus refuses to deny you. Refuses to