

Lives intimately interwoven; because we've risked revealing our heart and soul with each other.

As we live this way Jesus promise was; 'I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.' It is in the living that we grow closer, that we reveal ourselves to each other.

Jesus today is inviting you to ask; to ask him into your life; into your everyday life, in all its ups and downs. Ask and he will send the Spirit to be with you. You won't be orphaned but you will grow together, as you live out this wonderful interwoven relationship which Jesus has made possible.

Jesus invitation to you today is; 'ask for the Spirit and he'll be there.' He'll be there so that you might share life together, for it is in the sharing of life that we grow in intimacy, that we grow in love, that we grow together.

So Jesus invites you to wrestle with him; being open and honest about your struggles, your temptations, your failures. For as you're open and honest, as you invite Jesus to send the Spirit, then you can grow as best friends, as people who share an intimate, interwoven life, knowing each other at a depth only shared life can bring.

Let us pray.

Jesus I invite you to send the Spirit to be with me in these areas, these wrestles (I invite you to take a few moments to invite Jesus into the areas of life you are wrestling with at the present.) Jesus I invite you to send the Spirit that I might know you, that we might be sharing life intimately, living interwoven lives and in the process getting to know each other more deeply. Jesus send the Spirit for my greatest desire is to know you, to know the real you, and to learn how to share the real me with you. Amen.

21 May 2017
THE HOLY SPIRIT
John 14:15-21



Last week we hear these words from Jesus; "Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!" (John 14:14 NLT) What an amazing offer, but we might get our wires cross if we assume this means we can be self-indulgent. So today's gospel reading helps put these words into a healthy context.

In our gospel reading for today Jesus promises to 'give us an Advocate (meaning someone to be with us in all the ups and downs of life) who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.' (John 14:16,17 NLT)

Yes, ask Jesus for the Holy Spirit and he's yours. He's your best

friend. There to walk with you in all the hurly burly of life. And life can get wild at times; emotional overload, stressed to the max, just can't seem to figure a way out. Have you ever experienced anything like this? Has your life ever felt out of control, or at least leaving you feeling anxious?

Good News, you never have to face these times alone. Simply ask; and Jesus will give you the Holy Spirit.

Now that doesn't mean the Holy Spirit isn't with you always, just that sometimes we lose focus. Sometimes life just gets hectic and we need to call out for help; HELP!!! Have

you ever felt like that?

Good News, the Holy Spirit specialises in being there with you in the hard times of life. When the going gets tough, the Spirit doesn't go, he stays. He stays and fights for you when you don't know what to do.

That reminds me of this wonderful passage from Paul's letter to the church in Rome: "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father, who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying,

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." (Romans 8:26,27 NLT)

There are plenty of times I'm lost for the right word, just not knowing what to say. So I take comfort in knowing that the Spirit can translate those feelings and emotions as he brings them before Father. My being confused doesn't limit God; thank God for that.

Jesus invites us to ask him for the Holy Spirit, not because the Spirit isn't there, but because the Spirit isn't a bully. The Spirit doesn't force his way in, but waits for us to invite him to be part of what we are going through.

Not because he doesn't want to be part of it, but because he doesn't want to steamroll us. Have

you ever had people simple come in and start telling you what you need to do? Start telling you what to say, how to feel, how to act. How does that make you feel toward that person?

I invite you to reflect on that though for a moment? How does it

Ask Jesus and he'll send the Holy Spirit

make you feel when a person steamrolls you, doesn't take the time to listen or understand, just starts telling you. How does that make you feel? What thoughts are coming to your mind? Here are some of my thoughts; I don't listen, actually I like to tell them where to go. I'm definitely not draw closer to them, quite the opposite. And that isn't where Jesus wants to be.

Jesus gave his life so that we might share life in a close, personal bond of love; his sacrificial love.

Which is what we have reflected in our gospel reading for today; "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and

reveal myself to each of them." (John 14:21 NLT)

This passage could easily be read out of context implying that we have to obey what Jesus says before he'll love us. Which is quite the opposite of the truth; it is only because Jesus has given his life for us that we are in anyway able to obey. It is because we trust Jesus. It is because we know he has

given his life for us that we trust him; that we accept his commandments and obey them.

Jesus isn't here forcing himself upon us, but we have an invitation; an invitation to accept what Jesus says. We have an invitation to live out what Jesus says, and in that life shared with Jesus we discover him more and more.

Of course if I don't listen and just go off and do my own thing, disregarding what Jesus has said, disregarding Jesus, then what is the outcome? Will this grow me closer to Jesus, which is his wish, or will we over time become more and more distant to each other?

Jesus has invited us to share a living relationship with him, that's how he acts, he

acts relationally. He won't steamroll you but waits for you to share your thoughts and feeling with him. For as you open up to him about what you are going through you're inviting him in, your revealing yourself.

Which is the reversal

Jesus has invited us to share

of the original sin, where we sewed fig leaves together to hide. Here, as we hear Jesus, as we trust him, the one who has died for us, and not denied us, we risk being open and honest. Sharing our thoughts, our hopes and dreams, sharing our hurts, our frustration, our mistakes, sharing our resentment and anger. For it is in the sharing that we are inviting Jesus in.

Here Jesus invites us to ask for the Spirit, so that he might walk with us smack bang in the middle of all our turmoil. But if I keep silent, if I keep things to myself and don't share, don't risk revealing myself, what happens?

I've noticed that when I don't share with another person, our relationship doesn't grow to any great depth.

That's not because they don't want to love me, but if I don't let someone in, I'll always be a stranger, or at best an acquaintance.

Jesus doesn't want to be an acquaintance, he wants us to know him. To know deep in our heart and soul the depth, the height, the breath, the width of his amazing sacrificial love for us. He wants us to be the closest of friends.