

into a living, vibrant, relationship of love and affection with their heavenly Father, through their brother; Jesus, lived out in the presence of the Spirit. We're inviting people into a living, vibrant, personal relationship of love.

Rebekah was invited into a relationship of love; and she risked everything, going to a foreign land, to wed a stranger. Why? The text would suggest that her act was an act of trust in the God she worshipped.

Jesus has invited you into a living, vibrant, personal relationship of affectionate love. What beautiful detail. He's also invited you to risk joining him in seeking Father's lost children so that they too might come to live this wonderful relationship, discovering Father,

personally. Knowing in their heart and soul that he's worth loving for himself.

This great love story needs the detail of you sharing this relationship with the people the Spirit will bring you into contact with this week. Walking with him, talking with him, being open to his lead, because it's you Jesus has given the privilege of sharing Father's love with these people. You're the detail in their lives this week; what a wonderful privilege, what a risk. Let's be like Rebekah and risk it all. Risk it all trusting Jesus to guide us. Trusting Spirit to inspire us. Knowing all the time Father loves us, loves us most affectionately, loves us more than his own life. Let's risk it all knowing we can trust this God with our lives, with the very minute details of

our lives, for we know Father is in all the details, seeking to love his lost children. Seeking to live daily with them in a bond of affectionate love.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for making our heavenly Father know to us. Thank you that his love for us is lived out in every detail of life. We invite you to send the Spirit to lead us so that in every detail of life we might be living out Father's great plan of seeking and saving his lost children. Lead us that the details of our lives open the eyes and hearts of Father's lost children to his love for them, that they might come to know him and love him for who he is. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

9 July 2017

A WIFE FOR ISAAC

Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67



Who's ever heard the phrase; 'The devil's in the detail'? Isn't that so true. I've had great ideas, but the detail needed to see them happen was the making or breaking of those ideas.

God has this great idea; he's going to save the world. Great idea, the world does need saving, just watch the news. Or I just have to hear myself when I get cranky! Great idea; world peace. Of course for this to happen God has so much detail to look after.

Abraham and Sarah have a son, Isaac. What an important detail. Now for the promise to continue there is the important detail of Isaac having a wife to carry on the promise.

Today we have this detailed account of Abraham's servant finding a wife for Isaac.

We have the detail of God leading him to the exact place, to Abraham's extended family, that he might encounter Rebekah. What amazing detail. This isn't left to chance, as we read the story we can see God's hand in it.

Do you think Abraham, his servant, Isaac, Rebekah or her relatives were aware of God's hand at work all through this?

Of course you are part of God's detail when it comes to saving the world. The same God who was at work in the birth of Isaac, and in finding Rebekah, is at work in your life, right down to the smallest detail.

In Jesus you have been invited into Father's plan to save his lost children. What a great plan. I love knowing that God's plan is to

save, to heal, to redeem, so that all people might share life with him in a healthy and whole relationship. I'm glad that this is God's plan. I'm also glad that God has not only let us in on the details of his plan, but he's invited us to be part of that plan. In Jesus, God has invited you to be an integral part of the detail in finding his lost children.

Isn't that an important part of the detail; we're seeking Father's lost children, because he loves them.

That reminds me of a scene from the film 'The Shack' which some of us saw recently. There was a scene where the main character was talking with 'Wisdom'. They got talking about judgment. He wanted to condemn to hell the person who had killed

his little girl. Then 'Wisdom' puts up individual pictures of his two remaining children invites him to judge; 'Which one do you want to go to hell?'

As a parent, what would have been your response? Who of your children would you want to go to hell?

I know my answer; none! I don't want any of my children, actually I don't want any of my family and friends to go to hell. I want them to have life. I want them to know God's love for them in Jesus. I want them to be living life to the full as Father's loved children who he is over the moon with. I want them living in the freedom of the forgiveness that Jesus won through his death on the cross.

In Jesus you have been invited into Father's plan to save his lost children. For the sad reality is that lost children die, they don't discover life in all Father's fullness. And that breaks his heart;

but he knows he can't force them to love him. That is an important part of the detail, isn't it.

Notice in the story for today, Rebekah could have refused. The servant could have refused; he could have been thinking, if Isaac doesn't have an heir them it all could be

Father invites you into his plan to save his lost children.

mine. Rebekah could have responded to her fears of going to a strange land for the rest of her life.

Part of Father's detail is that he doesn't force people to trust him. Actually you can't force trust. You definitely can't force people to love you, to trust you because they love you.

Part of Father's detail is that he seeks to create love person to person. In Jesus, God reveals his heart and soul,

personally, so that we get to know him personally. Then the door is opened for a personal relationship of love. You can't have a loving relationship with someone you don't know, or are scared of. So Jesus comes in person, that we might know him and not be scared but wooed into a loving relationship; an open, honest relationship of trust and affection.

That's also an important part of Father's detail. He's not simply

after people doing the right thing. He's after a loving relationship; an open honest relationship of trust and affection.

I could get you to do what I want using many different techniques. Just the other day, in jest, it was said to me that a sure way to fill the church is to put on a keg and a free BBQ! Do you recon that offer might attract a few people?

Sure could. I could also give each person a

cheque for \$1000. Would that attract a crowd? I recon I'd have plenty of takers; but would that result in a loving relationship; an open honest relationship of trust and affection? No.

Our Father isn't after a crowd; actually one of the places I feel the most lost is in a crowd, where I'm just one of the crowd and don't know anyone there. Father is out to find his lost children, that together, in a bond of love and trust they might share the adventure of life together.

In our story for today Rebekah's grandfather, Nahor, only seems interested in the gold, and wealth that this stranger has to offer. Interested enough to take what he can at the expense of his granddaughter. What sort of relationship has Jesus come to create for us to live in with Father?

That's an important part of the detail. Jesus isn't a slick salesman

bribing us into a deal, because of all the add-ons. Jesus doesn't have a set of steak knives to go with the deal. All he offers is himself; 'Trust me, I've given my life out of love for you. Trust me'.

Our lostness is that we don't trust God as our heavenly Father. He is a stranger to us, our

Our heavenly Father is in all the details of our life.

first response is that of fear; stranger danger. Our lostness is that we seek to free ourselves; we trust our own judgement and expect god to fall into line with us. We seek to free ourselves all the time becoming more and more a prisoner to what we think will free us.

That's part of the tragedy; outside of our heavenly Father, all we look to robs us of the life he so dearly wants us to have. Outside of our heavenly Father we become slaves to our

perceived freedom; slaves to success, slaves to opinion, slaves to fun. We become more and more lost, till we don't know who we really are. We become slaves to our passions that we expect to save the world; and our passions so easily become the baton we beat others into submission with. After all, if they just did what we know is right then everything would be fine; so they're the problem and we're the solution.

Actually Jesus does want you to be part of his solution, imparting the freedom that he brings. The freedom to know his Father for who he really is. The freedom to love Father simply for who he is. That's an important part of the detail.

We're not peddling eternal life, we're seeking to bring people into a relationship of love and trust with their heavenly Father. We're not offering escape from hell, we're seeking to woo people