

chase 'fun' it becomes more and more elusive. And what used to be fun, isn't fun anymore; I need to ramp it up, or I just can't do it anymore.

Do you remember these words of Jesus; "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." (Matthew 10:39) Or in the Gospel of John; "Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity." (Jn 12:25) Or in the Gospel of Mark; "If you hang on to your life, you will lose it. but if you give up your life for my (Jesus) sake, you will save it." (Mk 8:35)

Who wants life, comes down to who do you trust? There are two options; Jesus or something else. Jesus will give you life, for

he is life. Invest yourself in anything else and death will welcome you. Welcome you in ways you haven't even thought of.

Adam and Eve had no idea; but they died. They died to each other, to their Heavenly Father, who became one to be feared and not love. The greatest death of all.

We live on a battle field with two kingdoms at war; the Kingdom of God versus the kingdom of darkness. Jesus is inviting you to daily trust him. To be like Rebekah; who when she didn't understand what was going on, asked God. Jesus is inviting you to walk with him into life; walking and talking with him all the time. For this relationship that Jesus creates is life.

Let us pray.  
Jesus I invite you to send the Spirit that I am aware of the battle that surrounds me. I want to walk with you, trusting you in all I do. I invite you to expose the devil's lies and deception that I might walk and grow in my birth right as Father's dearly loved child, who brings him great joy. Jesus grow me to maturity in you. Amen.

16 July 2017  
**ESAU & JACOB**  
Genesis 25:19-34



Reading this story I was first struck by the fact Rebekah gives birth to twins, who would grow into two nations. And the two nations would be rivals.

This struck me because that's the background to the whole story of the bible. Actually the whole story of the world. We have two kingdoms at war. The kingdom of God, at war with the kingdom of darkness. That is the background to our life.

We like Esau and Jacob are born into a conflict; like it or not. That is the reality of our existence. We are born into a conflict between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. And it is a life or death conflict; like it or not.

The good news in the 'Esau-Jacob' story is that God is at work bringing about his

victory. God skilfully is at work, for through Jacob we ultimately have the birth of Jesus.

Jesus, our king. Jesus, our saviour. Jesus, the one who sets us free from the lies and deception of the kingdom of darkness. And that is something we could never have done; we were trapped. The biggest part of the trap is that humanity believes they have what it takes to find freedom, to find life in all its fullness.

But our human history tells a very different tale. Time and time again we crash and burn. Left to ourselves we believe the lies and deceptions that surround us. We believe we only have to work harder, we only have to love everyone – but we don't know what love is. Most people face life with a sense of not being

loved, not being worthwhile, not having a secure place.

Humanity left to itself is barking up the wrong tree!

Did you notice in this story, Jacob lies and deceives, to get his brothers birth right. He must think that this is how he can win. But he creates an enemy of his brother, living for many years in fear.

Esau grasps at survival; food, but loses life. Both Esau and Jacob miss the mark. Left to themselves they've made a real mess. A divided family, and things only go from bad to worse.

This story reminds me that we live in the midst of conflict; and the stakes are high. It's life or death. Your life or death. The life or death of those you love. The stakes are high, and the

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

enemy has you in their sights.

Esau is a real warning for me. He gives up his birth right for what? A meal; bread and lentil stew. Not even a decent Sunday roast lamb! Esau was stressed to the max and crumbled. Who here has ever been stressed out?

That reminds me of Jesus being tempted by the devil. Jesus had fasted for 40 days at which point he is hungry. Food is now a huge temptation, so where does the devil level his first attack?

“The devil came and said to Jesus, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.’” (Matthew 4:3) Jesus is assaulted where he is stressed; but unlike Esau, Jesus doesn’t give up his birth right.

Immediately before this account Jesus’ Father had said; “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” (Matthew 3:17)

And as Father’s son he stands in line to inherit the world. Which is the last thing the devil wants to see happen.

What do you think the devil wants? The world. For himself. The devil like Jacob tries to steal the birth right for himself. Rightly or wrongly he’s thinking if you can destroy Jesus

**We’re at war, and the devil has you in his sights.**

trust in his Father, then it all could be his.

Notice how Jesus describes the devil; “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.” (John 10:10) This is not your friend. This isn’t someone to trust; so why do so many people trust the devil with their lives?

When you look at the way he operates he always makes what is destructive of us look appealing, and at the same time he makes God look bad.

In the Garden of Eden the devil comes up to Eve; “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” (Genesis 3:1) The first line of attack, make God look mean. Throw the thought that God is holding back on you into the mix.

Next line of attack; “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be

like God, knowing both good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4)

Notice carefully what comes next. “The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it.” (Genesis 3:6)

The next line of attack is to make it all look beautiful, desirable, you’ve got to have it, it’ll make your life rich

and fulfilling. God obviously doesn’t know what he’s talking about.

The devil is still whispering in our ears; ‘take it, eat it, it won’t do you any harm, you’ll have fun, you’ll succeed, you know you want it.’ The devil hasn’t changed, he’s still spinning the same old lines; because they work. Humanity, left to their own devices, bits every time.

God says it’ll kill you, don’t do it. The devil says

you’ll have fun. So we go for the fun, and discover many deaths we hadn’t even dreamed of. Death of relationships, death of trust, death of enthusiasm, death of hope, death of self-respect, death of community.

We’re at war, and the devil has you in his sights!

Of course the Esau-Jacob story also reminds me that God is at work, seeking to breathe his life into us.

God is at work keeping faithful to his promise. Through all this mess God is at work keeping his word, always staying true to his loving nature.

Thankfully God doesn’t give us what we deserve but what we need. I love the way our reading from Romans for today puts it; “With

**God is at work keeping faithful to his promise.**

the arrival of Jesus the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ’s being-there-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death... When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in

Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life.” (Romans 8:1,2,11)

Who wants life?

Here is Jesus’ stated purpose; “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (John 10:10)

So like the Esau-Jacob story we are presented with two options; who will you trust? We have a picture of two nations at war; like it or not, that is the reality we live in.

The devil is more than happy for you to reject this idea; that just makes his job all the easier. You’re a sitting duck, and he’ll have you biting into a nice, attractive, delicious lie in no time at all. Like, life is all about having fun, I just want my children to be happy. And by happy we mean well off, plenty of everything, having fun. Bit that apple, and you will die; for life isn’t about having fun, as appealing as that sounds. For when I