

off on us? So that we are his living and breathing holy ground, there in person to bring his presence to all the people we meet. Inviting them to come and see for themselves; that Jesus has won forgiveness, that Jesus has come to be their king that they might live and grow and flourish as citizens of his kingdom, that they might mature as Father's loved children, the pride of his life.

What do you think Jesus is after? The best way to know would be to ask him yourself, and thankfully that is possible. For Philip's words still ring true; 'come and see for yourself'.

This year Jesus again invites you to daily; come and see for yourself. After all another person can't live your life for you, and Jesus wants to share his life with you. This year why not begin each day accepting Jesus invitation and inviting him into your day so that together you might discover the rich and full life the Father has for you.

Talk, Ask, Share and then go taking Jesus at his word grabbing life with both hands, grabbing Jesus with both hands.

Let us pray. Jesus, thank you for inviting us to come and see you for ourselves. Thank you that you want to be living up close and personal with us in a loving, affectionate relationship. Jesus,

we want to know you for ourselves, we want to know you personally, sharing each and every day with you. We invite you to come in and be at home in our hearts. Jesus, we invite you to send the Spirit that we might hear your voice and follow you.

There is no other place I'd rather be than with you; sharing life with you, living daily with you. Jesus I invite you to send the Spirit that I hear you today and see you active in my life today. I want to come and see you for myself and not live off hear say, or other people's opinions. Jesus, come into my heart and soul today.



Christ Church Lutheran

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

Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

14 January 2018

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

John 1:43-53



Today Jesus invites us to follow him. It is a daily invitation; to follow Jesus. To follow him through the day and into this New Year. This invitation is a daily one, for each day is a new adventure, an adventure to be lived with Jesus.

Have you noticed that when it comes to relationships that they are lived, in a sense, a new each day? So Jesus invites us to follow him, to walk and talk with him through life, every day.

In the Gospel reading for today did you notice that Philip doesn't recommend a book for Nathanael to read. Philip hasn't got some new program to follow; 10 ways to a better life. What did Philip invite Nathanael to do?

Philip invites Nathanael to meet Jesus. And when Nathanael is sceptical Philip simply says; 'come and see for yourself'. Philip doesn't try and argue his point, he simply invites Nathanael to come and meet Jesus for himself.

I think that is Jesus' goal for all of us; to come and see for ourselves. To come and talk with him, to spend time getting to know him, that we might follow him throughout the day, throughout our lives. Come and see for yourself.

And when Nathanael meets Jesus the most natural thing happens; they have a conversation. There is a too and fro of thoughts and ideas.

Nathanael engages with Jesus, and in the process he gets to know more about this person.

If Philip had given Nathanael a book, even a very good book, the outcome would have been very different. I've read some really good books; all of which lie closed on my book self. And I'd say that for the most part I couldn't tell you what is in them; some great ideas, but largely forgotten.

Is that what Jesus is after; being a great idea that is largely forgotten; hence playing little part in who I am or how I live. Is that what Jesus is after?

Jesus in the Gospel reading for today makes a staggering claim about himself.

He say; "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth." (John 1:51)

When we follow Jesus, we follow the one who knows the way to heaven, who knows the way into God's heart. I believe that's heaven; knowing God, heart to heart.

For many of Jesus' fellow countrymen there was a belief that the temple was built on the very spot where Jacob had his vision of angels ascending and descending between heaven and earth. For them this represented the very place heaven and earth touched. That made it the most holy place in all the earth; here is where God touches the earth.

But did this tradition draw people and God

into a living, vibrant relationship; let alone a loving, affectionate relationship?

By the time Jesus comes along you have the opposite; the holy of holies, the place God touched the earth, is off limits to everyone.

Everyone except the High Priest who only

Jesus invites you to come and see for yourself.

went there once a year.

Now I don't think this is what God was after; only seeing his kids once a year!

In Paul's letter to the community at Corinth he reminds them of a very significant development created by Jesus. Jesus is the place heaven and earth meet, and now Jesus has created us to be his body.

Heaven and earth don't meet in some inaccessible place;

but in Jesus the place God seeks to live is in us. Not just with us, but in us, for the relationship he is after is one of intimacy, love and affection. One that is shared daily, that is lived daily.

Paul writes; "didn't you realise that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit?" (1 Cor. 6:19 Message).

Jesus shapes who we are.

Jesus gives direction to the way we live. For in a wonderful way, we share life together. In Jesus, God doesn't only love us but he allows us to be the living expression of his love. We get to be the living expression of God because the Spirit dwells within us.

Jesus didn't give his life so that we might share a few moments with him. Jesus is born that we might live all of live in, with

and through him. Jesus gives his life on the cross that we might be drawn into a truly intimate, loving relationship. A relationship based on trust; because we can trust this guy with our lives. His life shows that he is trustworthy.

What a high price Jesus has paid that we might learn to trust him. That we might spend life walking and talking with him, seeking to

follow him, seeking to grow more and more like him. Not because we fear him, but because we trust him with our lives; with the very way we live our lives.

So today Jesus is inviting us to follow him; to come and see him for ourselves. Jesus doesn't want us living off of another person's opinion. Jesus invites us to know him personally, individually, as we follow him.

Jesus invites us to follow, but with any invitation a response is sought.

Acceptance of the invitation is what Jesus seeks.

Nathanael didn't live off Philips words, but came and saw for himself, and then he accepted Jesus'

Does Jesus want to be aloof or up close and personal?

invitation and followed him.

That's how relationships work, they are a two way thing, with each person inviting the other person in, with each person accepting the other's invitation. And this is continuous, not just a once off, not a yearly thing; like the High Priest who only went into the Holy of Holies once a year. He represented the people, they didn't

get to go and see for themselves.

What an amazing change Jesus ushers in; now we all get to come and see for ourselves. We don't live off hear say, we live walking and talking daily with Jesus; about everything and anything. We daily

live this wonderfully intimate relationship of love and affection.

I don't think Jesus wants us to be like the days of Samuel where; 'in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon' (1 Sam. 3:1). In other words there was little intimacy.

What do you think; Jesus wants to remain aloof so he doesn't lose his holiness, or that he wants to be up close and personal so that his very character and personality rub